



CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



St. Edmund Campion Pray for Us

Dear Parents and Carers

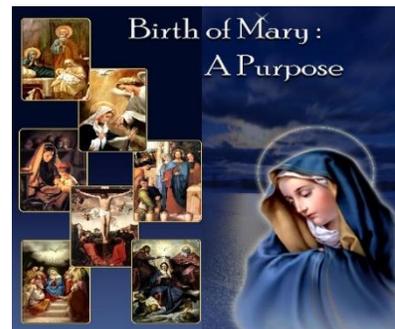
Mary, the Mother of God, has many feast days throughout the year when we celebrate and remember her role in the history of salvation. She also has many titles that she is known by and many people pray novenas and devotions to her asking for her intercession.

We do this because we also see her as our Mother. On September 8th we celebrated the Nativity of Mary. This is one of the three birthdays that are remembered in the Church's calendar, the other two being the birth of Jesus and the birth of John the Baptist. All other saint's feast days are generally held on the day of their death marking out the significance of Jesus, Mary and John the Baptist in the life of the Church.

The importance of us remembering the birth of Mary is that she came into this world to bring us salvation in the form of Jesus the Son of God. This teaching of the Church was compounded at the Second Vatican Council in 1964 in the document 'Lumen Gentium' – 'The Light of the Nations':

" She stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord, who confidently hope for and receive salvation from Him."

(Lumen Gentium, 55)



As if we did not already know the pandemic that has changed how we go about our daily lives has shown us that the world has become a small place. Journeys to what were far off places are now fast and getting faster. News of events in countries in every part of the world is at our fingertips – literally through the internet – and 24-hour news channels.

The Church is no different. We are more aware than ever before of the difficulties faced by our sisters and brothers all over the world. The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales have shared a pastoral letter written by their counterparts in Zimbabwe. In that letter they



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address the current struggle in their country, with particular reference to deepening poverty, food insecurity, corruption and human rights abuses. Also, in the letter they speak of the example given by the prophet Micah in the Old Testament on the importance of leadership:

“ In Micah 7:1-6 the prophet is miserable over the state of his nation. Nobody can be trusted, and people wait in ambush to do violence to each other. This sad and sorry state, Micah says is because leaders could not be trusted, they used their power for personal gain. Micah was from the countryside, a prophet who proclaimed God’s reproofs to the rich and ungodly leaders of Judah. Micah, like many of the prophets, champions the poor and oppressed. With brutal honesty, he communicated a message of justice and mercy. He cared for God’s people with profound compassion. Micah graphically condemns Israel’s corrupt leaders and exposes their hypocrisy. God, the prophet says, is not fooled when leaders mouth the right words but have corrupt hearts. Political corruption, greed, arrogance was common amongst the leaders of his time. They didn’t care about the corporate or common good.

Micah says that when leaders lose their way, it is because they no longer see themselves as servant leaders. They endanger everyone in the organisation or nation. Servant leaders place the interests and needs of their followers ahead of their self-interests and needs. Generally, they value the well-being and development of their followers, building their communities, acting authentically, and sharing power.

The premise of servant leadership is that the most effective and influential leaders are those who strive to serve others rather than take control or be in charge. The servant leader will continually think about what involves the least damage or pain for the people over whose lives they have power. Servant leaders will value the worth of every person. The organisation or nation they build will honour the importance of every individual. The prophet Micah proclaims a message that is especially relevant to the conditions we face in our society and country.”

(The March Is Not Ended, Pastoral Letter of the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishop’s Conference, 14th August, 2020)

If you would like to read the full pastoral letter it is available below:



[zimbabwe-bishops-pastoral-letter-1408](#)





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Although churches are now open for public worship, mass each day and every Sunday continue to be streamed live from St. Chad's Cathedral and here is the link to access these:

www.stchadscathedral.org.uk

Redemptorist Publications also continue to make Sunday mass available online after 12 midday every Saturday. Mass is celebrated by Fr. Denis McBride C.Ss.R from the Redemptorist community in Chawton, Hampshire.

www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online

For information on what's going on in our local parish community in Erdington here is a link to the Erdington Abbey newsletter:

<http://www.erdingtonabbey.co.uk/eacontent/uploads/2020/09/Bulletin-23rd-Sunday-in-Ordinary-Time-6-Sept-2020.pdf>

Gospel Reflection – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time– Matthew 18:21-35



As always Peter goes straight to the point and asks 'how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times.' Jesus responds by saying not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

This is Jesus telling us that there is no limit to how often we must forgive. Asking for forgiveness is never easy. Forgiving someone might be just as difficult. However, we cannot go through life without doing either of these things.

How we deal with forgiving and being forgiven brings us closer to each other and to God the forgiving Father.





*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

*My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
He looks on his servant in her lowliness,
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.*

*The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.*

*He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the almighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.*

*He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.*

*He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.*

*The Magnificat – Mary's Song of Praise
(Luke 1:46-55)*