



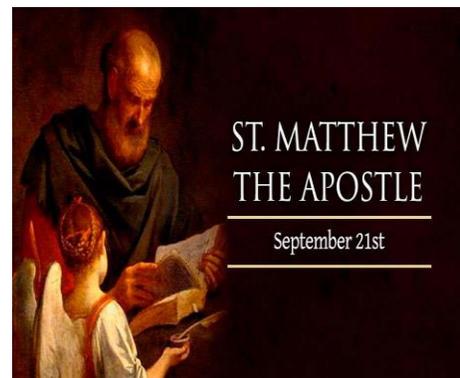
# CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



## St. Edmund Campion Pray for Us

Dear Parents and Carers

The feast of St. Matthew was this week on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Matthew was a tax collector – a profession not well liked at the time – when Jesus saw him working in his office. Jesus simply asked Matthew to follow him, which he did without hesitation. This encounter with Jesus is recorded in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. In Mark and Luke, he is known as Levi, son of Alphaeus. It is generally accepted that Jesus gave him the name Matthew, which means, ‘Gift of Yahweh.’ Matthew then became part of the inner circle of Jesus as one of the twelve apostles. Not a great deal is known about Matthew, however the first of the gospels in the New Testament is attributed to him. His gospel was aimed at a Jewish audience proclaiming that the teaching and message of Jesus was the fulfilment of the Old Testament. That it was the message of Jesus that gave new meaning to the Law of Moses. That Jesus was the Messiah that the people of Israel had been waiting for.



### Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham

Walsingham has been a place of pilgrimage in England since Saxon times and is known as ‘England’s Nazareth’. It dates back to 1061 and became a special place of devotion to Our Lady when Richeldis de Faverches was taken in spirit to Nazareth where she was asked to build a replica of the house where the Annunciation took place. It became known as the ‘Holy House’ as Our Lady had promised that “Whoever seeks my help there will not go away empty handed.” It became a popular place of pilgrimage in medieval times and was visited by King Henry VIII in 1511. However, this did not save the shrine when Henry VIII ordered the



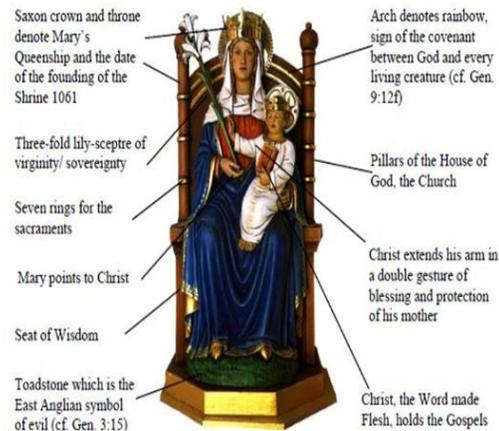
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dissolution of the monasteries. The 'Holy House' was destroyed by fire and it is believed that where it once stood is close to the ruin of the Priory Arch, which is all that is left of the priory that had been built in 1153 by the Augustinians to care for the spiritual needs of the pilgrims.

A chapel that became known as the 'Slipper Chapel' was one of the chapels that was visited by pilgrims en-route to the 'Holy House' and became the focal point for Catholics making the pilgrimage to Walsingham when these resumed again in 1897. However, it was not until a pilgrimage led by Cardinal Bourne in August 1934 that it was declared the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady.

The number of pilgrims that make the journey to Walsingham each year is c. 150,000, and many of these are from overseas. In 2015 on the feast of the Holy Family Pope Francis conferred the title of Minor Basilica on this famous shrine joining our own St. Chad's Cathedral and Downside Abbey Church as the only other churches to have that honour in England. The feast of Our Lady of Walsingham is celebrated on the 24<sup>th</sup> September.



Although churches are now open for public worship we are being encouraged where we can to consider going to mass on any day of the week as the Sunday obligation is suspended at the moment. This can give everyone a better chance of attending mass as seating capacities in our parishes are reduced to ensure social distancing. 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](http://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](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online)



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## What's Going On in our Local Parish Communities

Here is a link to the Erdington Abbey newsletter:

<http://www.erdingtonabbey.co.uk/eacontent/uploads/2020/09/Bulletin-24th-Sunday-in-Ordinary-Time-13-Sept-2020.pdf>

Here is a link to the parish newsletter of St. Nicholas Church in Boldmere:

<https://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/uploads/6/2/5/9/62597781/25.pdf>

Here is a link to the parish newsletter of St. Margaret Mary's Church in Perry Common:

<https://www.stmgmry.bham.sch.uk/newsletters/parish200920.pdf>

Here is a link to the parish newsletter of Christ the King Church in Kingstanding:



Christ the King  
Newsletter.pdf

## Gospel Reflection – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time– Matthew 21:28-32



Asking challenging questions to those in authority is something that Jesus did a lot of during his ministry on earth. In this case it leaves the chief priests and elders feeling uncomfortable.

In admonishing them for their disregard of John the Baptist who proclaimed the coming of the Messiah, he raises above them those seen as the lowest in society at that time. Those who the authorities saw as sinners with no value would enter the Kingdom of Heaven before them.

We should not be blinkered to the truth. Actions speak louder than words.





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## Prayer to Mary, Our Lady of Walsingham

*O Mary, recall the solemn moment when Jesus, your Divine son, dying on the cross, confided us to your maternal care.*

*You are our Mother, we desire ever to remain your devout children. Let us therefore feel the effects of your powerful intercession with Jesus Christ.*

*Make your name again glorious in this place once renowned throughout our land by your visits, favours and many miracles.*

*Pray, O holy Mother of God for the conversion of England, restoration of the sick, consolation for the afflicted, repentance of sinners, peace to the departed.*

*O Blessed Mary, Mother of God, Our Lady of Walsingham, intercede for us. Amen.*



Lord,  
Hear Our  
Prayer