



CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



St. Edmund Campion Pray for Us

Dear Parents and Carers

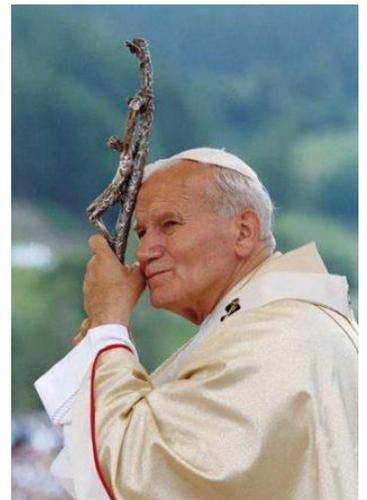
The remarkable story of Pope John Paul II continued beyond his death. He was canonised as a saint by Pope Francis on the 27th April 2014 in a historical ceremony that not only included the canonisation of another great Pope – John XXIII – but was also attended by the Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Two living successors of St. Peter bestowing on two of the most loved and respected men to have been elected to the papacy the ultimate recognition of sainthood.

It is difficult to explain the impact that the election of Karol Wojtyla in 1978 had not only on the Church but on the world. First of all, his election marked a distinct change from what had happened before. It had been 455 years since there had been a non-Italian pope.

Secondly, here was a Polish Cardinal suddenly elevated to be the successor of St. Peter at a time in the world where political tensions between East and West in the world were high. The Holy Spirit was at work in bringing this man with a great understanding of these tensions to the position of Pope, where he could and did influence and participate in the struggles that took place in the latter part of the 20th century with the dismantling of the Soviet Union, which culminated in the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. He did this not as a political person but a person of conscience.

Aged 58 when he elected, he would be Pope until his death nearly 27 years later at the age of 84 in 2005. Those who worked with him say that he was the greatest example of servant leadership that they had ever encountered.

John Paul II saw it as his mission to open up the Church and the Vatican to the world and he began visiting countries all over the world, making the papacy visible and accessible to everyone. He felt it was important to be present to the people who are the Church and so he regarded his travels to 129 countries as pilgrimages. Those of us who can remember these visits





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– and particularly to our country in 1982 – the sign of pilgrimage that he showed was to fall to his knees as he left the plane and kissed the ground of the country he was visiting.

One of the defining moments of his papacy came after there was an attempt to assassinate him in 1981. It was only a few days after this near-death experience that Pope John Paul II publicly forgave the man who shot him in St. Peter's Square and then visited him in prison. This act of forgiveness was that of witness to the enduring love of God for everyone, and had a profound effect on the man himself who is reported to have said; "A thousand thanks holiness. This is a miracle that goes on."

Pope John Paul II had been a strong and robust man but when he became ill, weak and frail towards the end of his life he saw it as his calling to be visible to the world for as long as he could, demonstrating that suffering is a part of our human experience that should not be hidden. In 1984 he had written about his belief that our human suffering is a share in the suffering of Jesus in his Apostolic Letter, *Salvifici Doloris*:



"Those who share the sufferings of Christ preserve in their own sufferings a very special particle of the infinite treasure of the world's redemption, and can share this treasure with others."

The feast day of St. John Paul II is celebrated on 22nd October.

As part of the St. John Paul II Multi-Academy we ask for his blessing on our school.

The Rosary

The month of October in the Church's year is one with special devotion to Our Lady. In Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter, *Virginis Mariae*, he asked us to think about the importance of praying the rosary. As part of this he instituted a new set of mysteries of the rosary, which he called 'The Mysteries of Light' with a focus on the public ministry of Jesus. These five mysteries are:

1. The Baptism of Jesus
2. The Wedding Feast of Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration of Our Lord
5. The Institution of the Eucharist





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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

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

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/2020/10/Bulletin-29th-Sunday-in-Ordinary-Time-2020.pdf>

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

<https://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/uploads/6/2/5/9/62597781/29.pdf>

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

<https://www.stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk/newsletters/parish201018.pdf>

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



Christ the King
Newsletter.pdf

Here is a link to the parish newsletter of Holy Cross & St. Francis Church in Walmley:

<https://www.hcsf.org.uk/bulletin-for-the-week-beginning-18th-october-the-twenty-ninth-sunday-in-ordinary-time/>



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Gospel Reflection – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time– Matthew 22:34-40



Questioning Jesus on the Law of Moses is something that we have heard a lot as we have listened to Matthew’s gospel over the last few weeks.

Always trying to catch Jesus off guard this time the authorities ask him which is the greatest commandment of the law. Jesus is unequivocal in his response:

“ You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

And just for good measure he adds by the way that the second resembles it – “loving your neighbour as yourself.” The message of Jesus to us today is that as God is in each person then to show love and respect to them shows this to God.

The opening prayer of our mass today sums it up very well:

‘ Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise.’

St. John Paul II Academy Prayer

*Loving Father,
We praise you for the gift of our unique
academy family.
We ask for your guidance and wisdom to proclaim
the Gospel.
Support us, in the challenges we face.
Inspire us, as we live out our vocation.
Guide us, to make wise and faithful decisions.
Let us not be afraid.
Open the doors for Christ.
In Jesus’ loving name we pray. Amen.*



*St John Paul II, pray for us.
St Edmund Campion, pray for us.*