



CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



St. Edmund Campion Pray for Us

Dear Parents and Carers

On October 16th we celebrate the feast of one of the great Redemptorist saints of the Church.

St. Gerard Majella was born in Italy in 1726 and it was from his parents that he learned the love of prayer and sacrifice.

When he was 14 years he asked to join the Franciscan Capuchin Friars but was unsuccessful due to his ill health. However, undeterred by this setback after attending a mission given by the Redemptorists he successfully achieved his ambition to enter the religious life.

He served as a lay brother in the Redemptorist congregation before his death in 1755 at the age of only 29. During his short life he demonstrated a great empathy for the poor and the sick as well as obedience to the Redemptorist way of life and a great devotion to prayer.

He was beatified by Pope Leo XII in 1893 and canonised as a saint by Pope Pius X in 1904. He is the patron saint of mothers especially expectant mothers



October is a month when there is a focus on Our Lady and praying the rosary as a form of devotion and asking for her intercession. We are grateful to Mrs. Glogowska for providing us this week with a resource to pray this great prayer in Polish, which you can find below.



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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-28th-Sunday-in-Ordinary-Time-11-Oct-2020.pdf>

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

<https://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/uploads/6/2/5/9/62597781/28.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-11th-october-the-twenty-eighth-sunday-in-ordinary-time/>



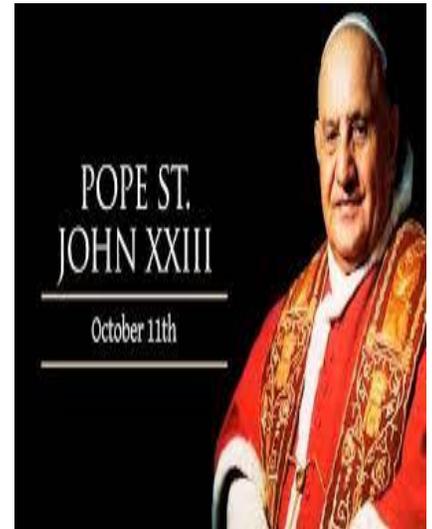
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Pope John XXIII

If there was ever any doubt that the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church the election of Angelo Roncalli as Pope in 1958 at the age of 76 most certainly removes that doubt.

Ordained a priest in 1904 he was the secretary to the Bishop of Bergamo as well as teaching Church History amongst other subjects in the seminary. When Italy entered World War 1 he served in the military as a chaplain. After the war he continued to work and teach in the formation of priests and found himself over the coming years reorganising the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome, and being appointed to various roles as a representative of the Church before being appointed Cardinal-Patriarch of Venice in 1953.



On his election as Pope he made it clear that high in his thoughts and concerns was Christian Unity and world peace. These issues that he wanted to tackle were informed by his experiences, particularly in the two world wars of the last century, which also included improving relations between the Church and the Jewish faith.

He set out that he wanted to be a 'pastoral pope' since "all other human gifts and accomplishments – learning, practical experience, diplomatic finesse – can broaden and enrich pastoral work but they cannot replace it."

Given his age when he became Pope many thought that he was going to be more of a 'caretaker'. However, he then announced something that would revolutionise the Church – that there would be a Diocesan Synod of Rome and ordered that an Ecumenical Council for the Universal Church be convened and that the Code of Canon Law be revised.

These were major events that shook the Church to its very foundation. Almost 60 years later what became known as the Second Vatican Council that Pope John XXIII set in motion is still at the heart of the constant renewal of the Church and its place in the world today.

Towards the end of his life Pope John XXIII said something quite profound and something for us to remember as we try to lead our lives by the values of the gospel:

"...it is not that the Gospel has changed; it is that we have begun to understand it better."

Many people in the world at that time, whether Catholic or not, were drawn to the personality of Pope John XXIII. He influenced many political leaders offering his services to be a broker of peace in the world.

He is remembered fondly as 'El Papa Bueno' – 'The Good Pope' - and his feast day is on the 11th October.



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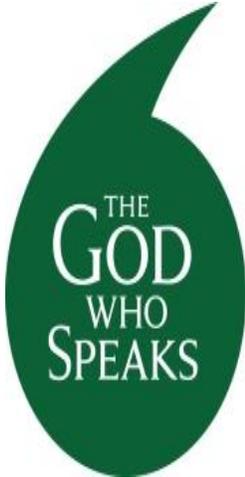
Gospel Reflection – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time– Matthew 22:15-21

The passages of the gospel that we have been listening to over the last few weeks have seen Jesus challenging the religious authorities and their implementation of the Law as they saw it.

In this week's gospel reading the Pharisees decide to push back. They try to set Jesus up to declare who he has the greater allegiance to – is it to God or to an earthly kingdom in the form of the Roman Empire. For the Pharisees paying taxes to Caesar was to deny God.

For Jesus there is no conflict, and aware of the trap being set for him by the Pharisees responds by telling them:

'...give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar to God what belongs to God.'



A Prayer to Saint Gerard

*Almighty and Eternal God, we thank you
for the gift of Saint Gerard, and the example of his life.*

*Because Saint Gerard always had complete faith and trust
in you, you blessed him with great powers of help and
healing. Through him, you showed your loving concern for
all those who suffered or were in need.*

*You never failed to hear his prayer on their behalf.
Today, through Saint Gerard's powerful intercession,
you continue to show your love for all those who place
trust in you.*

*And so, Father, full of faith and confidence, and in thanksgiving for all the
wonderful things you have done for us, we place ourselves before you today.
Through the intercession of Saint Gerard, hear our prayers and petitions, and if it
is your holy will, grant them. Amen*

