

12th October 2025 • 28th Sunday (C)

# Newsletter Online

from Cannock & Hednesford

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## This Week ...

Newsletter • Weekly Activities • Journey of Faith  
Gospel Reflection • Gratitude • Call of Creation  
Afternoon Tea • Bingo!

Giving (C) • 2nd Collections (C) • Rota for Readers, Ministers & Stewards(C)

(C) indicates pages mainly for, or about, activities at St Mary's Cannock.

If you are viewing a pdf of the Newsletter, tap the underlined link to go to the page

# *Afternoon Tea*

Thursday 16th

October

2pm-4pm



£15 per person

*Purchase tickets in advance*

St Mary's Community Centre

Cannock WS11 0AE

# Gratitude

“Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and persons to one another.” – St Vincent de Paul

“We cannot all do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” – St Teresa of Calcutta, *A Gift for*

“The measure of love is to love without measure.” – St Augustine, *De Catechizandis Rudibus*

“Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. – St Paul

“A Christian is never in a state of completion but always in a process of becoming.” – St John Henry Newman

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.” – St John Paul II, *Homily*, 1979

# Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford Parish & Diocesan Shrine St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock

**Parish Priest** Father Peter Weatherby 07766 335591  
fr.peter.weatherby@rcaob.org.uk

Websites: [ololhednesford.org](http://ololhednesford.org) & [stmcancock.org](http://stmcancock.org)

Hednesford Parish Office 01543 422576 [olol.hednesford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:olol.hednesford@rcaob.org.uk)


The Office in Hednesford is open Monday & Wednesday 9 am – 1 pm

Cannock Parish Office 07362 418105 [stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk)

A more detailed parish directory and guide to activities is here: [bit.ly/M-Directory](http://bit.ly/M-Directory)

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN OUR PARISHES

*At a glance*

	<b>Masses in Church</b> <i>and other activities before and after mass</i>		<b>Other Activities</b> <i>Times may change, please consult weekly newsletter</i>
	<b>Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford, WS12 1DB</b>	<b>St Mary &amp; St Thomas More, Cannock WS11 0AA</b>	
<b>Day</b>			(H) - Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford (C) - St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock
<b>Saturday</b> <i>fulfils Sunday Obligation</i>	<b>12 noon</b>		Exposition and Confessions from 11am (H)
		<b>6pm</b>	Confessions from 5:15pm (C)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:30am</b>		Children's Liturgy 1st Sunday (H)
		<b>11am</b>	Children's Liturgy term time (C)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>9:30am</b> <i>Winter Months in the Presbytery</i>		2nd Monday 7pm Come Sit with Jesus (H) Last Monday Men's Group (H)
<b>Tuesday</b>			No Masses this day
<b>Wednesday</b>		<i>9am Rosary</i> <b>9:30am</b> <i>St Mary's School Mass in Church</i>	11:30am Centenary Hall (H) Mass on 2nd Wednesday and when announced 12 noon Forget-me-nots Luncheon Club (H) 1st & 3rd Wednesday 2:30pm Mass at St Thomas More School, Great Wyrley
<b>Thursday</b>		<i>9am Rosary</i> <b>9:30am</b> <i>Chaplet of the Divine Mercy after mass</i>	2nd & 4th Thursday 2:15pm Mass at St Josephs School, Hednesford Journey in Faith: October to Easter 7pm - in the Presbytery at Hednesford
<b>Friday</b>		<i>9am Rosary</i> <b>9:30am</b>	First Friday devotions during mass



**THE NEWSLETTER (AS PRINTED)  
FOLLOWS IN THE TWO NEXT PAGES**





**Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford Parish & Diocesan Shrine  
St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock**

Parish Priest Father Peter Weatherby **07766 335591** [fr.peter.weatherby@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.peter.weatherby@rcaob.org.uk)

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## Sunday 12th October 2025 – 28th Sunday (C)

**Calendar of Masses** H = Hednesford C = Cannock. A fuller calendar is here: [bit.ly/M-Masscalendar](http://bit.ly/M-Masscalendar)

Sat	11 Oct	12 noon	H	<b>28th Sunday</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: Church Maintenance (H) Car Park (C)	Costello Family Intentions
Sat	11 Oct	6 pm	C		Derek Jones RIP
Sun	12 Oct	9.30 am	H		Noreen Hyden (died 17 August 25)
	12 Oct	11 am	C		RIP Peter Garnett RIP
Mon	13 Oct	9.30 am	H**	Week 28	RIP John Duffy
Wed	15 Oct	9.30 am	C	St Teresa of Jesus	RIP Terry Groves (anniversary)
Wed	15 Oct	2.30pm		St Thomas More School Mass	
Thu	16 Oct	9.30 am	C	Week 28	RIP Anne Nelson
Fri	17 Oct	9.30 am	C	St Ignatius of Antioch	Ray Bishop (90th birthday) Thanksgiving
Sat	18 Oct	12 noon	H	<b>29th Sunday</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: APF World Missions <i>Envelopes available</i>	RIP John Brannigan Anniversary 15/10
Sat	18 Oct	6 pm	C		RIP Pat McDonnell RIP
Sun	19 Oct	9.30 am	H		RIP Gordon Davies (First Anniv)
	19 Oct	11 am	C		Thanks: Frances McCarty 70th Bday

**\*\* Midweek Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes now take place in the Presbytery**

**School Masses** usually anticipate the following Sunday; Masses at St Joseph's and St Thomas More are in school. Wednesday Mass (C) is in Church and includes children from St Mary's School.

**Come Sit with Jesus** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm in Church (H) *a holy hour of prayer, adoration and inspiration.*

**Confessions during Exposition** Saturday 11am (H), 5:15pm (C)

**Rosary** 9am (C) Wed, Thu, Fri before Mass; **Divine Mercy Chaplet** (C) Thursdays after Mass

### Social & Fundraising activities

**AFTERNOON TEA Thursday 16 October** 2pm to 4pm St Mary's Centre. Some tickets **are still available** (C) £15 each. All welcome (of course!). Hurry now to get yours. Funds raised are for the Car Park.

**(H) BINGO EVENING– Friday 7th November 2025**, 6 30 pm to raise money for the Church. We need donations of bottles, confectionery and cosmetics to act as raffle and bingo prizes. If you can help with donations it would be greatly appreciated.

**Christmas Fairs/Markets:** Cannock: December 6<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon in the Centre;  
Hednesford December 14<sup>th</sup> 10:15am in the Hall (after the Bambinielli Mass).

**Janitor post at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Hednesford!** (tel. 01543 227225)

Apply by 12 noon, Friday 17th October 2025. Job link: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/152007/EDV-2025-SJCPS-38505>

**Journey in Faith** a course of discovery in the Catholic Faith. Thursday evenings at 7pm most weeks, in Hednesford Presbytery (H), leading up to Easter. Especially for anyone who is exploring becoming Catholic. All others are especially welcome. For more information, please speak to Fr Peter, The programme of the course in the online newsletter: [bit.ly/M-Latest](http://bit.ly/M-Latest)

**Confirmation**, by Bishop Timothy Menezes on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 6:30pm at St Mary's. A course for candidates not in Catholic schools and under the age of 16 will begin from November: please ask Fr Peter for details. Older candidates should attend the Journey in Faith Course. For more information ask Fr Peter, Deacon Michael, or Deacon Peter.

**Finance Committee (Cannock)** will meet next in the Presbytery (C) on Monday 20th September at 7pm.

## Please Pray for ...

*For Cafod and its work in the developing world*

*Peace and Justice: in Gaza and the Middle East, Sudan, Ukraine and all places beset by war*

*Our Parishes, and the work of evangelisation and teaching the faith, especially through the Shrine*

**All who are sick:** Fr Simon Hall, James Hunt, A young woman, Alan C, Alan White, Alice, Allan Weatherby, Allison, Angela Freary, Anna Bayliss, Anne Conway-Jones, Anthony, Bernard, Bernard Beeson, Bert Dodd, Bert Mears, Bill, Carol, Catherine Baker, Charley, Christopher Allan, Clare Murphy, David K, Deborah Woollaston, Den Owens, Dominic Mulchrone, Don Hinton, Eileen H, Emilia, Frank Heaton, Frank Taylor, Gerard, Gerry, Gerry Myles, Gina Jaworski, Gino Memoli, Gladys Chmielewski, Glenda, Greg, Helen C, Henry, HR, Iris, Ivan Molyneaux, Jack Kennedy, Jane Morecroft, Jane Seal, Janet Barker, Jasper, Jean Nycz, Jerry, Jo Reading, Joan O'Sullivan, John, John Dewhurst, John Martin, Josephine Kafwembe, Josie Morris, Julie, June, June W, Kath Poole, Kathleen Mongon, Kathy Dodd, Katie, Keith Davies, Kyriese, Layla, Louise, Maggie Dale, Margaret B, Margaret Brown, Margaret Phipps, Margaret Reynolds, Marie, Marion, Mark Duffy, Mary D, Mary Klek, Mary Philpott, Mary Turvey, Matt G, Matt Twohig, Maureen, , Michael Liddy, Michael M, Mick Flynn, Mick Jobburns, Mike Baldwin, Nicola Avery, Nicola McCulloch, Norah Perry, Oscar Wordsworth, Pat & Wilf Palmer, Pat Lester, Pat Seery, Pat W, Patricia, Patrick, Pauline March, Peer Mohammed, Peggy, Peter Dunton, Peter H, Peter Hawthorne, Peter Maciejewski, Peter Woollaston, Phyllis Michael, Rajinder, Ray, Ray Bishop, Rev Ned Kelly, Richard Sharp, Robert, Russell Mackuin, Sophie King, Sue Atkinson, Sue Green, Sue Titley, Sylvia Hale, Tess Dudley, Tim Wright, Tom Poxon, Tony Bullivant, Val B, Vincent Dockery, Zorah McQuillan

*Please let us know of names to add or remove. Petitions are added with consent of the persons concerned. FrP*

### The Holy Souls

Recently departed (*date indicates funeral*): Michael Carter, Paul Martin Hale (13 October at Cannock Chase Crematorium); Peter Vince,

### Anniversaries

- 12/10** Patrick Keary 1977, Esther Sleeth 1994, Katarzyna Bula 2014, Michael Girvan 2014, Ann Sprigg 2020  
**13/10** Winifred Harvey 1976, Florence Smith 1980, Bridget Kavanagh 2009, Terry Groves, Robert (Bobby) Vickery  
**14/10** Violet Davis 1974, Iwona Schab 2022, John Fox, Valerie Morgan  
**15/10** Arthur Bannister 1989, John Abbott 2016, John Branagan 2017, Nucia O'Sullivan  
**16/10** Connie Clark 2010, Mary Booth 2011, Anne Crump 2021, Teresa Radcliffe, Jim Wilson, Mary Grace Smith, Fr Charles Friel  
**17/10** Pauline Davis 1984, Albert Philips 2002

### Financial Report

**Second Collections:** 12 October Church Maintenance (H), Car Park (C), 19 October APF World Missions; *Cannock Second Collections are for Car Park when there is no other 2nd Collection.*

**Our Lady of Lourdes:** 5/10/2025 Standing Orders £149. Gift Aid £91 other £173.04, Second Collection CAFOD £135.48, Coffee Morning £40.02

**St Mary & St Thomas More** 5/10/25 Standing Orders £439 Car Park £43, Gift Aid £76. Other £266; CAFOD £61;

**Foodbank** from Hednesford and Cannock: Donations to the Foodbank this week from St. Mary's & Our Lady of Lourdes amounted to 29.4 kg this week. Thank you for your support.

**APF (Missio) Red Boxes** are being collected for both parishes. Please hand in your box at either Church.

**Cannock rotas:** printed copies are now available in Church (C)

Cool links	Calendar of Mass intentions <i>Updated!</i>	Newsletter Online <i>most recent edition of Newsletter</i>	Live Stream of Masses (C) <i>Watch Now, Watch Later</i>
	bit.ly/M-Masscalendar	bit.ly/M-Latest	bit.ly/cannock-live

Send items for the Newsletter to Anne Walker [lol.hednesford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:lol.hednesford@rcaob.org.uk) or Fr Peter [stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk).

**SAFEGUARDING NOTICE** The Parishes operate in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and National and Archdiocese's policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Bernadette Corbett [sg.lol.hednesford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.lol.hednesford@rcaob.org.uk) and Stephanie Hewitt [sg.stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk) and. Alternatively, contact the Diocesan Safeguarding team on 0121 230 6240 or at [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

# Giving for the Future

## Planned Giving

Planned giving means making regular donations to the parish. You can set this up as you like - it does not need to be weekly - it could be monthly for example.

We recommend **Standing Orders**, at intervals of your choice, from your Bank to the Parish. Please ask for a form from Church.

## Occasional Giving

As well as planned giving, you may wish to give occasional amounts for special appeals and events, including second collections, to the parish and outside charities. Again, special envelopes can be used, but we recommend the Digital Collection Plate in Church and at [cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com) You can make donations in Church (by card, contactless or chip and pin) or online, wherever you may be.

## Gift Aid

If you are a tax payer you can Gift Aid the tax you have paid, back to the parish. This means that for every £10 you give, the government will add a further £2.50. Only a small amount of paperwork is necessary. You can register for Gift Aid when you make a donation at [cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com), or with a form available from Church.

## Cashless collections

It would be a great help to the Parish if most parishioners paid your collection money by Standing Order. The Bank now charges us for paying in cash, while standing orders, especially with Gift Aid, bring extra, and regular, money into the parish.

Please pick up a copy of a form from church and return it complete with your details.

## Please register your card for Gift Aid

Go to [cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com) on your Internet connected device, (phone, tablet, laptop etc) and make a donation. Choose to Gift Aid it, and fill in the short form. The card you use will then be registered for gift aid, and all future donations to the parish using this card (online or in Church) will be increased by 25% by the taxman.



St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock

Support our Parish

[cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com)

## Mass intentions.

If you want a particular date, please consider requesting a mass about 3 months in advance. Check for dates at: [bit.ly/c-mass-calendar](http://bit.ly/c-mass-calendar)  
To request a date for a mass go here: [bit.ly/C-MassIntention](http://bit.ly/C-MassIntention)



Online Newsletter [bit.ly/C-Latest](http://bit.ly/C-Latest)

Use the camera of your smartphone or a tablet to scan this QR code and read the full and most recent Parish newsletter.

## General Information (C)

### Every Week at Cannock(usually!)

**Children's Liturgy** Sundays at 10:30 Mass

**Confessions** Saturday 10:30am, 6pm

**Rosary** 9am before Mass on Wed, Thu, Fri

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** Thursdays after Mass

## Useful Links

**Latest Newsletter:** [bit.ly/M-Latest](http://bit.ly/M-Latest)

**Live-stream (Live and Recordings)**  
[bit.ly/cannock-live](http://bit.ly/cannock-live)

**Baptism Apply Form:** [bit.ly/C-BaptismForm](http://bit.ly/C-BaptismForm)

**Mass intention form:** [bit.ly/C-MassIntention](http://bit.ly/C-MassIntention)

**Mass intentions Calendar:**  
[bit.ly/M-Masscalendar](http://bit.ly/M-Masscalendar)

**Parish Memorial Book** (Anniversaries)  
[bit.ly/bjsc-Ann](http://bit.ly/bjsc-Ann)

**Add a Petition for Prayer (form):**  
[bit.ly/C-PleasePray](http://bit.ly/C-PleasePray)

## Recent Second Collections 2025

Date	Collection	Type	Amount
Sun, 11 May 2025	Clergy Training Fund Annual collection	Diocesan	£137.68
Sun, 1 Jun 2025	Catholic Communications	Diocesan	£41.00
Sun, 15 Jun 2025	Day for Life <a href="http://cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life">cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life</a>	Diocesan	£95.00
Sun, 29 Jun 2025	Peter's Pence	Diocesan	£35.00
Sun, 13 Jul 2025	Apostleship of the Sea [Direct]	Direct to Charity	£43.00
Sun, 13 Jul 2025	Apostleship of the Sea [Direct]	Direct to Charity	£43.00

# Reflection on the Sunday Gospel (28 C)

*Jesus said to him, 'Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.'"  
(Luke 17:19)*

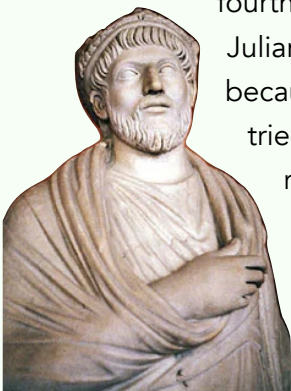
At first reading, today's Gospel may seem like a simple children's story, with a very obvious lesson: *always remember to say thank you!* Ten lepers are healed, but only one – the Samaritan, the outsider – comes back

to give thanks. Jesus praises him: *"Your faith has made you well."* (Luke 17:19).

But when we look more closely, things are not so simple. The other nine lepers – who do not return to thank Jesus – are healed as well. Their ingratitude does not take away from the generosity of God. This detail, which seems at first to spoil the "moral of the story," may in fact be the most important part. God gives freely, to all – good and bad, Jew and Samaritan, grateful and ungrateful alike.

And that is the heart of Christian charity. We do not care for others because they are good, or faithful, or belong to our own group. We care because God cares. Our charity is for Christian and atheist, Muslim and Hindu, saint and sinner, neighbour and stranger. We do not give in order to convert, or to win favour, but because God's love has already been given to us in abundance.

There is a striking example from history. In the fourth century, the Roman emperor Julian – called "the Apostate" because he abandoned the faith – tried to revive the old pagan religion of Rome. He saw how the Church was thriving, and he thought he had discovered its secret. The Christians, he noticed, didn't just look after their



own poor; they cared for anyone in need. He famously complained: "These impious Galileans not only feed their own poor, but ours also." So Julian tried to copy this. He set up a system of welfare and charity, hoping to match the Church. But his project failed.

Why? Because Christians were not running soup kitchens as a recruitment campaign, or giving alms as a publicity stunt. Their charity sprang from the love of Christ, who gave himself for all. Christian love is not a tool of conversion – it is the natural fruit of gratitude to God.

That is why our giving must be generous and unconditional. We do not help the hungry only if they share our faith. We do not send aid to the suffering only if they belong to our nation. We help because Christ has helped us. We give because we have received.



St John Henry Newman, who will be proclaimed a Doctor of the Church next month, gives us a more recent example. Newman was a great scholar, a thinker and a preacher, but he also spent forty years as a parish priest in Birmingham. He worked

in the slums, visited the sick during outbreaks of cholera, defended workers who were about to lose their jobs because of their faith, and paid for medicine and coal for the poor. When he died, a Protestant writer described him as "a Roman Cardinal in title, but the light and guide of a multitude of grateful hearts outside his own communion." Newman's charity did not discriminate. He served because Christ had first served him.

So the lesson of today's Gospel is not only about gratitude – though gratitude is vital. It is about the way God gives, and the way we are called to give. God pours out blessings on the thankful and the thankless alike. He gives even when he is ignored or rejected. And we, too, must learn to give without counting the cost, and without demanding thanks in return.

*"No one has returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?"* (Luke 17:18).

In this foreigner, the Samaritan, we see the beauty of gratitude and the power of faith. But in the nine who walk away, still healed, we see something just as great – the endless mercy of God, who gives to all. May our lives of charity, generosity, and gratitude reflect that same mercy today.

# Journey of Faith 2025-26

This is a course for adults who want to learn more about the Catholic Faith, and runs weekly (with breaks) from October to Easter. The course is built around a resource called *Sycamore*, which is based on video, discussion, and the guidance of someone experienced in the teaching of the Faith. Those who are not already Catholics may be prepared through the course for reception into the Church at Easter, or subsequently. Other participants are very welcome too!

Watch and download the film for each session at : [www.sycamore.fm/videos/](http://www.sycamore.fm/videos/)  
You can click on the links below in the online (pdf) version of this page.

(1) THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS [["Film 1" in Series: click here to view](#)]

The impossibility of sitting still. What is happiness? How to press the pause button.

(2) THE EXISTENCE OF GOD [["Film 2" in Series: click here to view](#)]

Why bother thinking about religion? Five reasons not to believe in God. Arguments for the existence of God?

(3) A GOD WHO SPEAKS? [["Film 3" in Series: click here to view](#)]

The hiddenness of God. When God broke the silence. Discovering the face of God.

(4) WHO IS JESUS? [["Film 4" in Series: click here to view](#)]

He came to bring life to the world. The Saving Death of Jesus. The light of the Resurrection.

(5) THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH [["Film 5" in Series: click here to view](#)]

How the Holy Spirit can change your life. No one gets into heaven alone. Why we need signs, symbols and sacraments.

(6) THE BIBLE [["Film 6" in Series: click here to view](#)]

What is the bible? Can we trust the bible? How the bible can change your life.

(7) THE GIFT OF FAITH [["Film 7" in Series: click here to view](#)]

What is faith? Are Christians just stupid or are there good reasons to believe? How to take a step of faith.

(8) THE POWER OF PRAYER [["Film 8" in Series: click here to view](#)]

What is prayer? Does prayer make a difference? How to pray.

(9) FINDING TRUE FREEDOM [["Film 9" in Series: click here to view](#)]

Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Where can we find moral guidance? How do you discover your true identity?

(10) THE MEANING OF LOVE [["Film 10" in Series: click here to view](#)]

What is love? How to love your neighbour. Knowing the love of God.

# Journey of Faith Programme of Meetings 25-26

This is the plan ... sometimes circumstances force changes!

Meetings are at The Presbytery at Hednesford WS12 1DB or at Cannock WS11 0AB at 7pm on Thursday evenings, as set out below. There will be a WhatsApp group for participants to update you about activities, and notify of any changes in dates.

#	Date	Location	Session
1	Thu 2 Oct 25	Hednesford	(1) THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS
2	Thu 9 Oct 25	Hednesford	... continued
3	Thu 16 Oct 25	Hednesford	(2) THE EXISTENCE OF GOD
	Thu 23 Oct 25	Hednesford	(3) A GOD WHO SPEAKS?
4	Thu 30 Oct 25	<i>Half Term</i>	
5	Thu 6 Nov 25	Hednesford	... continued
6	Thu 13 Nov 25	Hednesford	(4) WHO IS JESUS?
7	Thu 20 Nov 25	Hednesford	... continued
8	Thu 27 Nov 25	Hednesford	(5) THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH
	Thu 4 Dec 25	<i>Christmas Break</i>	
9	Thu 8 Jan 26	Hednesford	... continued
10	Thu 15 Jan 26	Hednesford	(6) THE BIBLE
11	Thu 22 Jan 26	Hednesford	... continued
12	Thu 29 Jan 26	Hednesford	(7) THE GIFT OF FAITH
13	Thu 5 Feb 26	Hednesford	... continued
14	Thu 12 Feb 26	Hednesford	(8) THE POWER OF PRAYER
	Thu 19 Feb 26	<i>Half Term</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
	Sun 22 Feb 26	<i>3pm Cathedral</i>	<i>Rite of Election</i>
15	Thu 26 Feb 26	Hednesford	(8) ... continued
16	Thu 5 Mar 26	Hednesford	(9) FINDING TRUE FREEDOM
17	Thu 12 Mar 26	Hednesford	(10) THE MEANING OF LOVE
18	Thu 19 Mar 26	Hednesford	... continued
19	Thu 26 Mar 26	Hednesford	<i>Rehearsal</i>
20	Thu 2 Apr 26	Cannock	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
22	Sat 5 Apr 25	<i>Hednesford</i>	Easter Vigil!

# St John Henry Newman



Back in his days as an Anglican, when he was Vicar of St Mary's, the University Church in Oxford, John Henry Newman delivered a series of sermons. They still make excellent and inspirational reading. There is one in particular which comes to my mind, when he takes the

text which we find in this Gospel 'Mary pondered all these things in her heart'.

Mary pondered in her heart the great mystery of Christ's incarnation. She pondered in her heart the message of Simeon, that he would suffer and her own heart would suffer too. She pondered in her heart as she raised and taught her son, and as she watched him begin his ministry of teaching and preaching and healing. She pondered in her heart as he suffered on the cross and made her the mother of all Christians. She pondered in her heart as she prayed She could not have explained or predicted all that it meant or all that was to happen, but in her heart she knew. She knew it all.

This understanding, this idea of the Heart, is central to so much of Newman's thought.

At first, this may seem a little strange. Newman might have been Victorian, but he was hardly a romantic (at least not in the modern sense of the word). He was first and foremost an academic, and by all accounts a rather dry and formal person, measured in his writing. His great homilies, many of which have been handed down to us, were not proclaimed with oratory, but written and read.

The 1911 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica admits that Newman was 'no speaker'. His letters, countless hundreds of which survive - for he sent not only a letter to each recipient but made a handwritten copy for himself - cover many subjects, but rarely portray warmth or enthusiasm.

He certainly could become fired up with anger or bitterness or zeal: his tremendous autobiographical note, *Apologia pro vita Sua*, was written in a matter of days after the Revd Charles Kingsley (the author of *The Waterbabies*) has effectively accused him of deceit. But warmth and tenderness, those human qualities are less easy to find. There is nothing sentimental about Newman.

However, this cannot tell the whole story about Newman, and although we have so much of his writing, this does not mean we have too much of the Man. Although he was an exceptionally intelligent, well educated man with original thoughts and ideas, at the centre of his entire philosophy, his entire life, was the conviction that it is personal encounter, not argument, which makes all the difference.

As a young man he underwent an evangelical conversion, and the profound sense of meeting with Christ is something which is reflected in his thought and action throughout the rest of his life. His first Catholic home in England, after he returned from Rome, was at Old Oscott, on the outskirts of Birmingham. There he would have prayed in the oldest shrine to the Sacred Heart in the British Isles. He renamed the house Maryvale (Santa Maria in valle). Near the end of his life, when he was made a Cardinal, he chose the motto *Cor ad Cor loquitur* - Heart speaks to heart - for his coat of arms.

For Newman, it was never the argument which convinced, however forcefully or thoroughly it may be put. It was always the heart which embraced the truth. Anticipating many ideas which only took full shape in the next century, he developed the idea that Christian truth is not a list of ideas, but first and foremost a person, Christ himself, whose heart speaks to our heart, and calls us to love him and trust him and follow him. In most aspects of our lives, he argued, we do not wait to be convinced that something is so, we simply trust that it is. So much that we easily and without difficulty accept as true what has not been proved to us and perhaps could never be - but we know that it is so, because we trust that it is. This is what he called *The Grammar of Assent*, the process by which we commit ourselves to accepting and acknowledging the truth.

*Heart speaks to heart.* So as we come together we pray that this great and holy man may be recognised for what he truly is. A saint and patron, an acknowledgement that rightly awaits the full judgement of the Church, but which is truly and certainly already known in the heart of God.

A vibrant blue background featuring various bingo-related graphics. At the top, there are several circular bingo balls in blue, purple, and orange, some with numbers like 35, 7, 25, and 6. In the center, three bingo cards in blue, purple, and orange are displayed, some with red 'X' marks. A red ball with the number 19 and a blue ball with the number 35 are also visible. A large, orange, 3D ribbon banner with the text 'BINGO NIGHT' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters is the central focus. The banner has a slight shadow and a folded end.

# BINGO NIGHT

FRIDAY, 7 NOVEMBER, 2025 | 6:30PM

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH HALL,  
UXBRIDGE STREET,  
HEDNESFORD,  
WS12 1DB

Join us for a night of fun and games at our family Bingo Night! Get ready to shout "Bingo!" as we play for exciting prizes.

Children are welcome.

Refreshments on sale.

Catholic Parishes of Cannock & Hednesford

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

**DRAFT – Time and locations to be confirmed**

Your feedback is welcome to Fr Peter 07766 335591

## Advent 4

Sunday 20th December

4pm Carols by Candlelight in the Grotto (H)



## Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December

12noon Christmas Vigil Mass (H)



*Family Christmas Masses*

3pm at Cannock; 5pm at Hednesford

*Adults - wear your Christmas Jumpers!*



7:30pm Carols (C)

8pm Mass of Christmas Night (C)



## Christmas Day

Thursday 25th December

10am Mass of Christmas Day (H or C)

## St Stephen's Day

Friday December 26th 10am Mass (C or H)

**DRAFT – Time and locations to be confirmed**

# RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION - OCTOBER 2025

A NEWSLETTER INSPIRING AND ENABLING CLIMATE ACTION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

## ARE YOU CONVINCED?

A number of populist politicians have been making proclamations such as 'Net-zero is a hoax'; 'global warming is a con'; 'climate change is not man-made' etc. Two years ago this month, Pope Francis published *Laudate Deum*, which is a much more direct condemnation of the inactions of governments when considering climate change; a more direct appeal for us all to respond to the climate CRISIS, and especially world leaders, to take stronger action.

This appeal, repeated by Pope Leo, is based on science. Scientific observations, especially from the Mauna Loa observatory in Hawaii, clearly show how the world is warming because of carbon emissions. Please take the time to research the facts, and do not be taken in by lies and deceit.

The tragedy of today's world is inequality; the huge discrepancy between rich and poor; between countries and within countries. As Pope Francis explained and taught "Everything is connected". So, after researching further: **Are you convinced that you (and I) need to change?** "a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long-term impact." (*Laudate Deum* 72).

## NEWS AND EVENTS

**October 4th is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi** and marks the end of the Season of Creation. We hope you have learned something during this past month and ask that you continue to make the changes which you are able to make.

**Friday October 3rd: CAFOD Family Fast Day.** CAFOD does work with the most disadvantaged in the world. Please support this appeal; and can you give monthly? This is always a big help. Go to [cafod.org.uk](https://cafod.org.uk)

## LIVE SIMPLY

Take time to observe the changes in autumn; go for a walk and spend time looking, wondering, marvelling at biodiversity. Put up a bug-hotel in your garden.

## LIVE SUSTAINABLY

Recycle, re-use; repair. Buy locally grown food, give thanks for the harvest.

## LIVE IN SOLIDARITY

Observe CAFOD's Fast Day; organise a parish soup lunch; are there any refugee charities local to you which need support? Organise a collection for your local food bank.

## BECOME A LIVESIMPLY PARISH

Archbishop Bernard, and the Diocesan Care for Creation Committee, have called for parishes and schools to take on this Award. Our schools have responded, but not as many parishes have registered.

To achieve this award, administered by CAFOD, you will need a small planning group. You choose your own targets, three each under the headings of Living Simply, Living Sustainably and Living in Solidarity.

Register with CAFOD, who are very helpful with advice, keep records, and when you have completed your chosen actions CAFOD will check. Then celebrate the Award!

**<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award>**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED IN CLIMATE ACTION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM, PLEASE CONTACT **[CLIMATEACTION@RCAOB.ORG.UK](mailto:CLIMATEACTION@RCAOB.ORG.UK)**

## St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock • Readers and Ministers Rota

<b>Rota</b> <i>Date is of Sunday</i>	Saturday 6pm		Sunday 11:00am	
	Readers	Ministers	Readers	Ministers
Sep 14	Kay Rimmer Lindsay Rotchell	Clare Bridges Cath Hunt	Justine Lomas Miriam Gannon	Colman Whitelaw Gail Korzonek
Sep 21	Pat Wilson Wendy Owens	Lisa Gretton Sr Norbert	Colman Whitelaw Doug Bruce	Shirley Weatherby Cath Hunt
Sep 28	Amy Pritchard Margaret Tym	Lindsay Rotchell Grace Bishop	William Pearce, Dave Guy	Doug Bruce David Korzonek
Oct 5	Vikki Wilson Lynn Jones	Pat Wilson Wendy Owens	Shirley Weatherby Denisse Perks	Helen Land Sr Norbert
Oct 12	Alex & Tamsin Davis	Eileen Clancy Doug Bruce	Stephanie Hewitt Gerard Dillon	Sheila Houghton Carol Garnett
Oct 19	Patrick Warren Cath Hunt	Amy Pritchard Tony Gaughan	Mike Burrowes Liz Fraser	Brigid Rhodes Chris Hewitt
Oct 26	Kay Rimmer Lindsay Rotchell	Clare Bridges Cath Hunt	Justine Lomas Miriam Gannon	Colman Whitelaw Gail Korzonek
Nov 2	Pat Wilson Wendy Owens	Lisa Gretton Sr Norbert	Colman Whitelaw Doug Bruce	Shirley Weatherby Cath Hunt
Nov 9	Amy Pritchard Margaret Tym	Lindsay Rotchell Grace Bishop	William Pearce, Dave Guy	Doug Bruce David Korzonek
Nov 16	Vikki Wilson Lynn Jones	Pat Wilson Wendy Owens	Shirley Weatherby Denisse Perks	Helen Land Sr Norbert
Nov 23	Alex & Tamsin Davis	Eileen Clancy Doug Bruce	Stephanie Hewitt Gerard Dillon	Sheila Houghton Carol Garnett
Nov 30	Patrick Warren Cath Hunt	Amy Pritchard Tony Gaughan	Mike Burrowes Liz Fraser	Brigid Rhodes Chris Hewitt

### *Saturday 6pm Stewards Rota - by popular demand ...*

A	Sep 13	Oct 11	Nov 8	Dec 6	Jan 3	Jan 31	Feb 28	Patrick & Patsy Warren
B	Sep 20	Oct 18	Nov 15	Dec 13	Jan 10	Feb 7	Mar 7	Gerard Dillon & Kay Rimmer
C	Sep 27	Oct 25	Nov 22	Dec 20	Jan 17	Feb 14	Mar 14	Eileen Clancy
D	Oct 4	Nov 1	Nov 29	Dec 27	Jan 24	Feb 21	Mar 21	Ann Spencer & John Gay

*If you cannot do a duty on a particular day, please swap*