



ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CHURCH WARRINGTON

Saint John Henry Newman

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where heart speaks to heart

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24/25 February 2024

Second Sunday of Lent (Page 151)



Sacrifice of Abraham - Carravaggio

What is our first impulse when we are given a gift? Our instinctual response is: “I can’t take this! I don’t deserve this!” In essence, that gesture, that healthy instinctual response, is an attempt to give the gift back to its giver.

But, of course, the giver refuses to take the gift back and re-gives it to us with the assurance: “but I want you to have this!” When we receive it the second time, it is now more properly ours because, by trying to give it back, we healthily recognized that it was a gift, unmerited, undeserved. And a gift is, something not deserved but given freely.

These are dynamics at play in the story of Abraham offering to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Isaac is the greatest, most-undeserved, gift of his life. His willingness to sacrifice him parallels the instinctual gesture: “I don’t deserve this! I cannot accept!” He offers the gift back to its giver. But the giver, Love itself, intervenes to give the gift a second time. Now Abraham can receive Isaac, freely and wholly, as gift. When they walk home, Isaac is Abraham’s son in a way that he never was before.

Ronald Rolheiser OMI

At times we go through moments of darkness in our personal, family or social life, and we fear there is no way out. We feel frightened before great enigmas such as illness, innocent pain or the mystery of death. ... We too are called to climb up the mountain, to contemplate the beauty of the Risen One that enkindles glimmers of light in every fragment of our life and helps us to interpret history beginning with the paschal victory.



Let us be careful, however: that feeling of Peter that “it is well that we are here” must not become *spiritual laziness*. We cannot remain on the mountain and enjoy the bliss of this encounter on our own. Jesus himself brings us back to the valley, among our brothers and sisters and into daily life. We must beware of spiritual laziness: we are fine, with our prayers and liturgies, and this is enough for us. No! Going up the mountain does not mean forgetting reality; praying never means avoiding the difficulties of life; the light of faith is not meant to provide beautiful spiritual feelings. No, this is not Jesus’ message. We are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere. Igniting little lights in people’s hearts; being little lamps of the Gospel that bear a bit of love and hope: this is the mission of a Christian.

Pope Francis Angelus Second Sun. of Lent Feb. 28, 2021

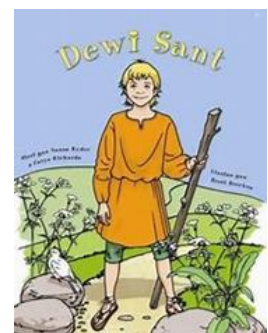


Lent Retreat: The materials appear day by day on a dedicated website: <https://finding-god-in-all-things.gator.site/>



Envelopes will be available throughout Lent so that we can contribute our Lenten Alms for this cause.

Saint David’s last words to his followers are recorded as: **"Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do."** “Do the little things” is a well-known phrase in Wales. It suggests that the small actions we take in life can be just as significant for ourselves and others as the big ones. Feast Day 1 March



24 -25 FEB – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – PAGE 151

Sat 24 Sat	5.30 pm	Josie Hall RIP
Sunday 25 February	9.00 am 11.00 am	Mary Kathleen McCarthy RIP Liam O’Callaghan RIP (Birthday Remembrance).
Mon 26 Feb	10.00 am 11.30 am	Seamus Sharkey RIP Funeral Service for Kevin Wightman RIP
Tues 27 Feb	No Services Today	
Wed 28 Feb	10.00 am 4.00 pm	Creighton Morley RIP First Reconciliation Service (Schools)
29 Thursday	6.30pm 7.00 am	Quiet Time Frederico Daiwey RIP
Friday 1 March	10.00 am	Louis and Joan Vansteenwinkel RIP

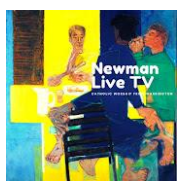
2 - 3 MARCH – THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – PAGE 154

Sat 2 March	5.30 pm	Bridie Delooze (Anniversary) RIP
Sunday 3 March	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.00 pm	Johana Ryan RIP Henry McNicholas RIP Lent Holy Hour - Retreat



KINDLY REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: those requesting our prayers including **Miriam Jones who died this week: John & Marie Clowes, Harry Challoner, Margaret Daintith, Harold Entwistle, Mary Finn, Tony Graham, Rita Hutson, Joan Johnson, Barbara Lynskey, Rita Mahon, Kathleen Mannion, Roger Maxwell, Gerard Moulding, Christine Moores, Marcos Sala, Meryl & Tony Wernham, Tony Wright, Gordon Whittaker, & Carol Worsley.**

Kevin James Wightman’s funeral is on Monday 26th Feb at 11.30am
The Funeral Mass for **Miriam Jones** will be on Friday 15 March at 12 noon.



A reminder that some of our services are broadcast and recorded on the Newman Warrington Live YouTube site. Usually, the 11 am Sunday Mass. If you wish to minimise your appearances on screen, please bear this in mind.



Teas and Coffees will be served by Team C after the 5.30pm Mass on 2nd March
