

# Saint John Henry Newman

Parish: Latchford, Grappenhall & Thelwall.

☎ Presbytery 01925 634849 Office 01925 242474

EMAIL: [bjhnwarrington@gmail.com](mailto:bjhnwarrington@gmail.com)



*where heart speaks to heart*

WEBSITE: [www.newmanparishwarrington.com](http://www.newmanparishwarrington.com)

**11/12 January 2025 – BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**(Year C) p 118**



Jesus' own example reminds us that the first fruit of our baptism is our relationship as God's children, sisters and brothers in prayer:



*It is a great lesson for us: we are all immersed in the problems of life and in many complicated situations, called upon to face difficult moments and choices that get us down. But if we do not want to be crushed, we need to raise everything upwards. And this is exactly what prayer does. It is not an escape route; prayer is not a magic ritual or a repetition of memorized refrains. No. To pray is the way to let God act within us, to understand what he wants to communicate to us even in the most difficult situations, to pray to have the strength to go forward.*

*Many people feel they cannot go on, and they pray: "Lord, give me the strength to continue." We too, very often, have done this. Prayer helps us because it unites us to God, it opens us up to the encounter with him. Yes, prayer is the key that opens our heart to the Lord. It is dialoguing with God, it is listening to his Word, it is worshipping, remaining in silence, entrusting what we are experiencing to him. And sometimes it is also crying out to him like Job, venting with him. ... He is the father; he understands well. He never gets angry with us. And Jesus prays.*

Pope Francis - Angelus for Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jan 9, 2022

\*\*\*\*\*



**Sacramental Preparation** for children attending non-Catholic schools begins with an introductory meeting this Thursday 16th January at 4.30 pm. Regular attendance will be required so that our children can come to appreciate just how wonderful is the gift they receive in the Eucharist.

I would also like to invite any adults who has been considering becoming a Catholic or refreshing their own faith life to come together for some **Conversations on Catholic life and practice**, perhaps leading up to being formally received or recommitted to their Catholic faith at Easter. If this would interest you, please do let me know.

Anyone with ideas about **social activities** or **fundraising events** are encouraged to chat them through with Fr Peter, to see if they might help us deepen the bonds of connection within and beyond the parish community.

\*\*\*\*\*



## The Space between Grief and Grace

After my son died, people tried to rush me through my grief. I felt pushed into stories that made others more comfortable, like the one about God having a plan, or my son being in

a better place.

His death devastated me, and I wasn't ready for those stories. I felt isolated and resented those well-meaning friends and neighbours who preferred my experience of grief to be tidy and swift.

My son died many years ago, and I have gone through seasons of graced acceptance of his loss. I joined communities that have a more mature understanding of the Divine and are less threatened by complexity and the shadow side of spirituality. Such communities can cope with my approach in refusing to be rushed through that space between grief and grace. Stephanie Peirolo

\*\*\*\*\*



# Saint Anthony of the Desert

Having heard how Jesus went into the wilderness to pray it is worth noting the feast of an early pioneer of desert monasticism, whose feast we celebrate on Friday.

Anthony was born into a family of wealthy farmers. In Egypt in 251. He was attending Mass aged 18 or 19 years old, when he was captivated by the words of Jesus: “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all that you have and give to the poor” (Mt 19:21). He decided to put this into practice and aged 20 he distributed his inheritance among the poor and went into the desert where he lived as a hermit, in complete solitude, dedicated to penance and a life of prayer.

For many years he lived in a hermitage that he himself built in a pit next to a cemetery. Where, perhaps unsurprisingly, he often contemplated the truth about Jesus, the conqueror of death. Some of these reflections were put down in writing and providentially have survived the passage of time.

Saint Athanasius tells us: “He prayed very often, since he had learned that it is necessary to withdraw in order to be constant in praying: and all the inhabitants of the place, seeing his conduct, called him ‘friend of God’; and all loved him as a son or as a brother.”

St. Anthony died in 356, on Mount Colzim, near the Red Sea, at the age of 105. He is venerated as the patron saint of basket weavers, brush makers, and butchers as well as of cemeteries. He is also known as the “co-patron” of animals, sharing the title with St. Francis of Assisi. For a long time at the Vatican, a blessing of animals has been celebrated on Anthony’s feast day of Jan. 17.

Two stories support this patronage: the first was being assisted by animals, including lions, when burying in the middle of the desert. The second story has to do with a wild pig that he found near his hermitage whose offspring were all born blind. After St. Anthony took pity and cured them, the mother pig followed him everywhere as a faithful guardian and never left his side.

# PARISH LITURGICAL AND EVENTS CALENDAR

## 11/12 -JANUARY – THE BATISIM OF THE LORD (YEAR c) Page 118

Sat 11 January	5.30 pm	George Eakin RIP
Sunday 12 January	9.00 am 11.00 am	Michael Cafferkey RIP Grace Burke RIP
Monday 13 January	9.40 am 10.00 am 7.00 pm	Morning Prayers Miriam Jones RIP (Tea and toast) Warrington Prayer Group
Tues 14 January		No Service
Wed 15 Jan	2.30pm	Enrolment of First Communion Candidates
Thursday 16 January	6.30 pm 7.00 am	Quiet Time Liam O’Callaghan RIP
Friday 17 January	10.00 am	Funeral Service for John McDonnell RIP



## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) Page 127

Sat 18 January	5.30 pm	Vincent Bretherton RIP
Sunday 19 January	9.00 am 11.00 am	Frances Quigley (Anniversary RIP) Kath Airey RIP



**Kindly Remember in your Prayers:** All those requesting our prayers, including Barry Bennett, Derek Boyd, Harry Challoner, Marie Clowes, Peter Cornelia, David Cripps, Mary Dunning, Margaret Daintith, Patricia Ditchfield, Harold Entwistle, Mary Finn, Tony Graham, Graham Higham, Rita Hutson, Josie Johnson, Betty Leigh, Barbara Lynskey, Rita Mahon, Kathleen Mannion, Roger Maxwell, Marcos Sala, Vaughan Stone, Linda Thorley and Gordon Whittaker.

**FUNERAL MASSES** have been arranged for:

-  **John Daintith – Tuesday 28 January 9.45 am**
-  **Lilian White – Thursday 30 January 10 am**



**Hospitality** will be provided by **Team C** following the Masses next weekend Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 5.30pm. Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 9.00am and 11.00am.