

Saint John Henry Newman

Parish: Latchford, Grappenhall & Thelwall.

☎ Presbytery 01925 634849 Office 01925 242474

EMAIL: bjhnwarrington@gmail.com



where heart speaks to heart

WEBSITE: www.newmanparishwarrington.com



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Good Shepherd fresco Catacombs of St Priscilla, Rome

The **sheep** of Christ's flock are those who hear and who discover they are known, **follow** they **listen**, they feel they **are known** to the Lord, and they follow the Lord who is their shepherd. What do those who follow Christ do?

They go where he goes, along the same path, in the same direction. They go to seek those who are lost (cf. [Lk 15:4](#)), they take an interest in those who are far away, take to heart the situation of those who suffer, know how to weep with

those who weep, they reach out their hands to their neighbours, carrying them on their shoulders.

And me? Do I let Jesus love me, and from allowing him to love me, do I begin to love him, to imitate him? ... Hearing him, knowing him, following him. (Pope Francis)



As successor of Saint Peter Our New Pope Leo XIV will have read the gospel scene in which Jesus asked him three times, "Do you love me?" And each time Peter answered "yes", Jesus, the Good

Shepherd, entrusted Pete with a different aspect of care for the flock. And so, as we give thanks for his appointment, we also pray with all our hearts that our new Pope will be guided by that same mission.

Discerning God's Call in Your Life



It what turned out to be his final letter for Good Shepherd Sunday, Pope Francis encourages young people to do themselves a great favour by inviting God's help in discerning the paths they follow, especially when it comes to the big decisions in life, relationships, faith, education, career, home making etc.

Discernment is an important word for Jesuits like Pope Francis. Their founder Saint Ignatius put it at the heart of his approach to life. It's a very helpful principle and can help reassure us that we are not cast adrift in this life if we can develop our relationship with Jesus.

The young of today face a myriad of challenges and a bewildering array of options, so to know that Christ is there to accompany them in a real way can be a great blessing. (For those interested in what Pope Francis himself has to say about this there are copies of his Letter available)

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s and 30s) 23rd - 25th May,
This weekend in Liverpool is organised by the Faithful Companions of Jesus Sisters (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend is an opportunity for women to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne FCJ
at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our
website www.fcjsisters.org

To register: <https://bit.ly/FCJVocationWeekend>



Redeemed but not Rescued

Ronald Rolheiser OMI

It took the early Christians some time to grasp that Jesus doesn't ordinarily give special exemptions to his friends, no more than God gave special exemptions to Jesus. So, like us, they struggled with the fact that someone can have a deep, genuine faith, be deeply loved by God, and still suffer humiliation, pain, and death like everyone else. God didn't spare Jesus from suffering and death, and Jesus doesn't spare us from them.

That is one of the key revelations inside of the resurrection and is the one we perhaps most misunderstand. We are forever predicating our faith on, and preaching a rescuing God, a God who promises special exemptions to those of genuine faith: have a genuine faith in Jesus, and you will be spared from life's humiliations and pains! Have a genuine faith in Jesus, and prosperity will come your way! Believe in the resurrection, and rainbows will surround your life!

Would it were so! But Jesus never promised us rescue, exemptions, immunity from cancer, or escape from death. His promise, on which we can rely is that our faith will ultimately be vindicated, that there will be redemption. For our baptism planted deep within us the gift of eternal life.

But that's in the end; meantime, in the early and intermediate chapters of our lives, there will be the same kinds of humiliation, pain, and death that everyone else suffers. This requires a realistic approach to faith, a willingness to live through whatever life presents us with in ways that strengthen our character and deepen our love mindful that death and resurrection of Jesus reveal a redeeming, not a rescuing, God.



This weekend we welcome with joy, those who are receiving **Holy Communion** for the first time. The Saturday morning Mass with children from our primary schools was a wonderful celebration and I am confident that the 11 Mass today will also create lifelong memories.

PARISH LITURGICAL AND EVENTS CALENDAR

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Sat 10 May	5.30 pm	Romeo Taay RIP
Sunday 11 May	9.00 am 11.00 am	Tony Nightingale RIP Eileen Allen Intentions
Monday 12 May	9.40 am 10.00 am 7.00 pm	Morning Prayer (Tea and Toast after Mass) Ints. Lore Omotoshoho Prayer Group
Tuesday 13 May		Sheelagh Cooper Anniversary RIP
Wed 14 May		No Service today
Thursday 15 May	6.30 pm 7.00 pm	Quiet Adoration Clowes Family Intentions
Friday 9 May	10.00 am	Ints Fr Richard

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Saturday 10 May	11 am 5.30 pm	Wedding Service Tony Muir & June Morris Intentions of Benedicta Montgomery
Sunday 11 May	9.00 am 11.00 am	Tony Whitefield RIP Ints. Theresa Olurin (90 th Birthday)



Kindly Remember in your Prayers: Julie McKinlay who died recently. All those requesting our prayers, including Barry Bennett, Derek Boyd, Miriam Boyle, Harry Challoner, Marie Clowes, David Cripps, Mary Dunning, Margaret Daintith, Patricia Ditchfield, Harold Entwistle, Mary Finn, Tony Graham, Maria Hibbert Graham Higham, Rita Huson, Josie Johnson, Emma Leigh, Rita Mahon, Kathleen Mannion, Roger Maxwell, Marcos Sala, Patrick Stokes, Vaughan Stone, Linda Thorley, and Gordon Whittaker.



Teas and Coffees will be served following the Masses Next weekend 17/18 Ma courtesy of - **Team A** we hope you will take the time to join us and perhaps speak to someone new.