

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

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Live streaming: <https://www.churchservices.tv/enfield>



Our Lady of
The Rosary



October

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?"

'Good Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Man of desires, he expresses this perennial, deep-rooted hunger for life. Man without a name; he could be any one of us. His seeking for life inevitably brings him up against the question of God. 'No one is good but God alone.' To recall this truth is, for Jesus, a way of getting to the heart of the matter. For this man, it goes without saying that eternal life is the goal of virtuous living. He has always observed the commandments that Jesus enumerates – those commandments from the second tablet of the law, which deal with one's neighbour. Without realising it, this man is in a good state, not to secure his own salvation but to allow God to achieve it in him. For he still lacks something, and indeed he may be said to lack everything. We have given nothing to God until we have given him everything, and the love of Christ urges us to do just that: 'Love God to the exclusion of all idols. That is the essence of the first tablet of the law, and that is what you are still lacking.' The total gift of self, made concrete in the explicit call: 'Come, follow me!' What is involved here is no longer a question of morality or asceticism, but of attachment to Jesus who puts us on the road towards love of God alone. Teach us Lord no longer to see ourselves as the centre, but to choose life according to the Gospel in the following of Jesus.

Weekend Mass Intentions

Sat - 7.00am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – For a Private Intention (MC)

No Confessions this Morning

5.00pm – Eileen Lacey - Unwell

Sun – The church opens at 7.00pm

8.00am – Phyllis Robinson -- RIP

9.30am – Philomena Gomez - RIP

11.00am – Kathleen Fitzsimmons - RIP

5.00pm – Marilyn Theodore - Recovery

Mon – 8.15am - Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Kelly Corcoran - RIP

No Adoration this morning

Tues – 8.15am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Leonie Gomes - RIP

Wed - 8.15am – Church Opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Ints of George & Daphne Sullivan

Thu – 8.15am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – For the Repose of the Holy Souls

Adoration until 11.00am

Fri 5.00pm – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

6.30pm – Evening Prayer & Rosary

7.30pm – Rose Tonkin - RIP

Followed by Novena to O.L. of Perpetual Help

Sat – 7.00am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Intentions of the Griffin Family

No Confessions today

5.00pm – Rose & Tony D'Silva - Anniversary

Sun – Church opens at 7.00am

8.00am – Intentions of Faustina Smiley

9.30am – Philomena Gomez – RIP

11.00am – Int of Esther, Geogina & Joseph Wilson

5.00pm – John Carey - RIP

Tues 15th October – St Theresa of Avila – Virgin

Wed 16th October – St Margaret Mary Alacoque

Thur 17th October – St Ignatius of Antioch - Martyr

Fri 18th October – St Luke – Evangelist – Evangelist

Sat 19th October – St Paul of the Cross – Priest

or St John Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues & Companions

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION CONFESSION

**Saturday 12th October – No
Confessions today.**

**Saturday 19th October – from
after morning Mass until 11.00a**

Please do take advantage of these times. Always a very special time of the year and so good for us to put things right with God and with ourselves. Face to face or private confessions in the sacristy.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 19th/20th October 2024

WMS is our opportunity to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas. We pray and give a donation to support them in spreading the Good News. Please use the special envelope for donation.

CHOSEN – Season Four

I know that many of you have enjoyed watching the films **CHOSEN** which are based on the life of Jesus. Some of you may not have seen Season Four yet, so we are going to show it in the parish hall on **Mondays 21st/28th October** at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. Refreshments will be available. Please join us for an entertaining evening.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

October 2024 – For a shared mission

Let us pray that the Church continue to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity.

AUTUMN FAITH SHARING

'Calling People of Goodwill'

The Bible and the Common Good

The common good is central to the Christian imagination – in the words of St John Chrysostom, 'it's the highest point' – because God calls people to live in relationship with him and each other peacefully. **Groups meet in Parish Hall now.**

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

November is the month when we pray for the repose of the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and especially our own loved ones. We will offer 3 Masses on All Souls Day and 4 Masses each week of November for the repose of the Holy Souls. If you would like names of your loved ones to be offered in the intentions of those Masses please write a list and put it in one of the special envelopes together with your offering for the Masses and return it before the beginning of November. The list will be placed in front of the altar and be offered at every Mass during the month.

RETRouvaille

You can help your Marriage

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue – or have you just stopped talking to each other? **Retrouvaille** helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. No group therapy or group work. 1000's of couples have been helped with difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the next programme – residential weekend (8th – 10th November) call or text on 07887296983 or email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

MARY'S MEALS

An appeal

Mary's Meals can make money for their work by collecting any unwanted mobiles/ipads/jewellery/watches/cameras. If you have any of these and would be willing to donate them, pop them in a bag. Mark the bag Mary's Meals and hand it in next time you are at Mass. David Chapman will pick them up and deliver them to the Mary's Meals office. Thank you for your support.

FRIDAY LUNCH

Our Friday Lunch Club is very popular but we are in desperate need of help for a short time to move heavy tables and to help unload food off the van when it is delivered – for about an hour and half from about 9.00am.

Parish Shop – October Magnificat, Rosaries, Candles, Occasional Cards, all kinds of Statues, Crucifixes, Medals, all kinds of Devotional items – have a look!

YOUNG ADULTS DEANERY MEETINGS

Ages 18 – 35

The idea is for young adults (ages 18-35) to meet up once a month at one of the parishes in the Enfield deanery on a weekday evening for a time of prayer, worship (with a talk) and a social. This will allow young adults to grow and develop in their faith with mutual support and friendship. The next meeting will be on Friday 8th November (7-9pm) at St Edmund's Church, Edmonton.. For further details please contact: annamcmullan@rcdow.org.uk

OCTOBER – MONTH OF ROSARY

Our Lady of Fatima asks us to say the Rosary every day if we are able. Do try, especially in this month of Our Lady of the Rosary, to say the Rosary for the intention of peace in our world and in particular in the middle. Do try and keep your Rosary beads on you – the great protection of Mary.

LEGION OF MARY

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom

Meeting on Sunday 10th November at 2.45pm

An opportunity to meet together and say our Legion prayers together and to give our reports on the work we have achieved over the past week or so.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE 6TH APPARITION OF O.L. OF FATIMA

Sunday 13th October 2024

The anniversary of the 6th Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima falls on a Sunday this year. After the 11.00am Mass there will be our usual devotions – we will process to the parish hall and follow the devotions there. Please do join us on that day for this special time in honouring Our Lady.



Parish Shop – Open for Rosaries, Candles, Statues and Occasional Cards.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



Friday Evenings

from 5.00 – 7.15pm

Saturday Mornings

from 7.00 – 8.30am

*During this Year of Prayer,
Try and give a little
more time to Our Lord*

MASS INTENTIONS

Wanting a Mass said for a person or occasion is good but a reminder that if you wish a special date then you must hand in your request well in advance if you do not want to be disappointed. Thanks

SPECIAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Saturday 19th October at 12 noon.

Our Lady of Lourdes parish, New Southgate would like to invite families who have lost a child or children to a Remembrance Service. The service will have readings and musical reflections. It is to honour the memories of beloved children and share in a space of comfort and healing with others.

Prayers please:

Sick: Daphne Sullivan, Fergal Sherry, Mehil Ftoni, Agnes Robinson, Peter Thorpe, Joe Harper, Mary Conway.. Suzi Modi, Agnes Guveya, Liz Freeman, Adreina Sifari, Margaret Felgate, Mark Keighrey, Marilyn Theodore. Sara Malaki, John Keighrey, Dan Heath, Geoffry Nwachukwu. Maureen Walker,, Eamon Fitzpatrick. Eileen Lacey

Recently Dead: Agatha Durowaa, Angelo D'Vito, Kathleen Tracey,, Thomas Lawlor. Brid McGonagle, Kathleen Fitzsimmons, Djomou Julienne, Phyllis Robinson, Jennifer Browne, Liam Sullivan, Fr David Williamson. Rose Tonkin, Frank Sebaggala, Rosemarie Warnesuriya, Elvera Nardone, Victor Saldhana, Fr Damien Crimes, Patrick Mukasa. Philomena Gomes

Anniversaries: Dennis Swanton, Stephanie Molloy, Eileen Swanton, Agnes Fernando, Sheila Saldhana, Theresa Ragbir, Marie Mendy, Vermeil Joson, Anscarina Dinha, Margaret Paul, Diane Bunker. Peggy Power.

Morning Prayer & Rosary – is said before all weekday Masses. Monday to Thursday and Saturday mornings at 8.30am and Friday evening at 6.30pm before Mass.

Legion of Mary – the next meeting of the Legion of Mary is on Sunday 1st September at 2.45pm in the hall.

Friday Lunch – is served every Friday in the hall from 11.30am onwards – open to all comers – no cost!

Contactless Offerings to the Parish – you can find the Dona Contactless Terminal in the porch of the church for any donations you may wish to make to the parish and for payment for any purchases from the parish Repository. Not for special collections

THE YEAR OF PRAYER

Following the Year of the Council we now enter the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025. It is a weekly resource of prayer and meditation based on Pope Francis' recent catechesis on prayer. It is compiled in 52 parts providing a reflection for each week of the year. You will find them on the table in the porch each week.

Please remember: Please take advantage of the times of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our church. So important as a help to building a relationship with Jesus.

SUNDAY PLUS

Celebrate littleness

The game of Snakes and Ladders

few tasks. There are specific work preparation courses among which Timpson's make commendable efforts. There are programmes to address offending behaviour and learn new skills... all are tremendously valuable ways to improve for the future.

The snakes, though, are everywhere! There's the poorly planned unexpected move to a prison not offering the course you need, the long wait to reach a prison that does, the lockdowns that deny access to learning or training,

the attack that you didn't see coming and was meant for someone else anyway!

The man in the Gospel is trying his best but meets another hurdle. He goes away sad, but it doesn't mean he won't accept the challenge.

When we pray for men and women in our prisons, please make their opportunity to choose a wise path a real intention. Too often the pathway is so heavily strewn



with dangers that it appears wiser not to set out. God wants us all to embark on the path to follow him with confidence and trust. Let us pray that the hearts of those "inside" can fully trust in the Lord. "For men it is impossible, but not for God."

James Gallogly is a Catholic lay chaplain in a UK prison.

By James Gallogly

Wisdom is a vital component of any life plan. However, planning your future in the Criminal Justice system is akin to playing the game of Snakes and Ladders.

A range of ladders exists. These include education courses, even the opportunity to access the Open University. There is a range of work to do to keep the prison running: cleaning, painting, kitchen, bakery, waste management, to name but a

Today let us ask the Virgin Mary for a huge grace, that of littleness: to be children who trust the Father, certain that he will not fail to take care of us.

Pope Francis

Feast of the week
Sunday 13 October

St Edward the Confessor
(1003-1066)

Westminster Abbey is the huge church which the Anglo-Saxon King of England, Edward the Confessor, caused to be built on the ancient site of St Peter's abbey. It's also where he was buried. Intensely prayerful, gentle and loyal, Edward had a great devotion to St Peter and wanted to be buried in a church dedicated to the apostle who so often

"muddled along" but whose eventual fidelity made him an iconic leader of the Church throughout its two-thousand-year history.

Edward the Confessor wasn't the perfect king, but he tried to be and that's what matters. He lived in turbulent, warlike times. Did he foresee that the confusion about his successor would lead to the Battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest of England? Probably not. Did he expect to become the patron saint of couples with difficult marriages and of separated spouses? Definitely not!

Today we pray for all those who are experiencing problems in their marriages.

Planning priorities

By Krista Nelson

I love getting a new planner for the upcoming year. My planners usually have space to put all my priorities for the week and year. But can we have "priorities"? In a reflection by Catholic speaker Jeff

Cavins, he suggested we can really only have one priority. (I think you can guess what that is.) Boy, did that hit home! Everything else is just a to-do list. If we get that one priority right – loving God and following his commandments – everything else falls into place. But when we don't get that right, the balance slips – we focus too much on all our

other "priorities" and inflate their importance. Soon we are stressing about the email that didn't get sent and snapping at spouses because the dishwasher wasn't emptied. But would we act differently if that number one position on our list of jobs was simply "Do the Lord's will"?

Krista Nelson is a mum of four, catechist and editor.

Lord of life and love, guide all those who are in prison and support their families, carers and victims.
✚ Amen.

Today:
Wisdom 7:7-11
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10:17-30

Monday:
Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31 – 5:1
Luke 11:29-32

Tuesday:
Galatians 5:1-6
Luke 11:37-41

Wednesday:
Galatians 5:18-25
Luke 11:42-46

Thursday:
Ephesians 1:1-10
Luke 11:47-54

Friday:
2 Timothy 4:10-17
Luke 10:1-9

Saturday:
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 12:8-12

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 53:10-11
Hebrews 4:14-16
Mark 10:35-45



Encountering Christ

The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families



Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross and remain still for a minute of settling silence.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.

1

Read

The Gospel for Sunday 13th October 2024

THE RICH MAN'S QUESTION

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, "Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother." And he said to him, "Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days." Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, "There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth. Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, "My children," he said to them, "how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." They were more astonished than ever. "In that case," they said to one another, "who can be saved?" Jesus gazed at them. "For men," he said, "it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God."

Taken from Mark 10:17-30 The Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

2

Reflect

After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

This exchange between Jesus and the rich man is often read with Matthew's parallel in mind, where Jesus tells the young man to sell his possessions 'if you would be perfect'. There are no such phrases in Mark's story. The questioner has reached a certain age, for he has kept the commandments 'from my earliest days'. He is in the full flush of wealth, and getting rid of his riches is not a mere counsel of perfection for this particular man. Jesus is stressing the danger of possessions for everyone. It is a curious fact that for many people, the more they have, the more they want. Conversely, the less people have, the more generous they can be drawn to be, knowing the value to other needy people because of the little they have. It is not merely that we need to be free of the preoccupations and distractions of wealth. Wealth can be a good preoccupation if the worry comes from awareness of the responsibility it brings. Repeatedly, however, in the history of the Church, from St Anthony of the Desert, St Francis of Assisi and others, people have interpreted these words of Jesus in this gospel in a heroic manner, and have stripped themselves of all possessions to concentrate on the Kingdom of God. God's blessing is especially on the poor.

How does the danger of possessions affect me? Am I generous with what I have?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

3

Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, patience, humility, joy, forgiveness, self-control, courage, generosity, faith or something else.

4

Pray for Families

This Wednesday's word for our school families is **HAPPINESS!**

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 13th October 2024**



1st Reading: Wisdom 7:7-11

The Riches of Wisdom

I prayed, and understanding was given me; I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones; compared with her, I held riches as nothing. I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer, for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand, and beside her silver ranks as mud. I loved her more than health or beauty, preferred her to the light, since her radiance never sleeps. In her company all good things came to me, at her hands riches not to be numbered.



Unusually, the first reading seems to pair both with the second reading and with the Gospel. It pairs with the second reading because divine Wisdom and the Word of God are similar: each is the way in which God makes himself known to us. It pairs with the gospel reading because the author of the Book of Wisdom esteems riches as nothing and prefers Wisdom, just as the rich man in the gospel is encouraged by Jesus to prefer the following of Christ to his riches. The Book of Wisdom was written a bare half-century before the birth of Christ, at a time when all hope of a personal Messiah in the line of David seemed remote. The only way in which God might enter into this world seemed to be by his Wisdom. This chapter goes on to show how God created the world and continues to rule it by his Wisdom. Divine Wisdom is described as the 'mirror of God's active power and image of his goodness', language seeking to describe how Wisdom is in God and yet is not exactly identical with the Creator. This language will be used also by Paul and John to describe the incarnation of the Word of God.

What does it mean to say that Divine Wisdom became incarnate in Jesus? How does this association with Wisdom enrich the way we think of God?



2nd Reading: Hebrews 4:12-13

The Word of God

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

The Word of God can in this reading be understood on two levels. The Word of God is on one level the Sacred Scriptures which penetrate the human soul. That is why we need to read the Scriptures to come to know the ways of God. By a prayerful reading we can come to understand the world and even ourselves as God sees them, gradually growing in understanding of his will for us, and so how each of us personally can be penetrated by the Spirit of God and grow closer to the Lord. The author of the Letter is inviting readers to reflect on the psalm which speaks of the 'place of rest' for the People of God, and to understand that their arrival in Canaan after their wanderings in the desert was not the final 'place of rest' designed for them by God; they are still on pilgrimage. But the Word of God can also be understood as the Word which became flesh, as it says in the Prologue to John's Gospel. Jesus is the Word of God become flesh, the image of his goodness, by which we can come to know God. The two senses of Word are combined in the glorious vision, at the beginning of the Book of Revelation, of the Risen Christ, the Lord of the Church, from whose mouth issues a two-edged sword, by which he judges the world.

What does this reading mean by saying that the Word of God is sharper than a sword? How then does the Word affect the lives it penetrates? How has the Word affected your own life?

We need to read the Scriptures to come to know the ways of God.

The Wednesday Word Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**

Six Reasons Why We Make the Sign of the Cross

Catholics often make the Sign of the Cross casually, just as a nice gesture for beginning and ending their prayers. But when we learn to take this act seriously, signing ourselves frequently with faith and reverence, remarkable results can take place. We find ourselves doing measurably better in our Christian life: praying with more passion, resisting our bad inclinations more effectively, and relating to others more kindly.

The Sign of the Cross, after all, is not merely a pious gesture. It is a powerful prayer, a sacramental of the Church.

Scripture, the Church Fathers and saints, and Catholic teaching offer six perspectives on the Sign of the Cross that reveal why making it opens us to life-transforming graces. Once we grasp them, we can make the gesture with more faith and experience its great blessings.

Six Reasons to Make the Sign

1. A mini-creed.

The Sign of the Cross is a profession of faith in God as He has revealed himself. It serves as an abbreviated form of the Apostles' Creed.

Touching our forehead, breast and shoulders (and in some cultures, our lips as well), we declare our belief in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are announcing our faith in what God has done — the creation of all things, the redemption of humanity from sin and death, and the establishment of the Church, which offers new life to all.

When we sign ourselves we are making ourselves aware of God's presence and opening ourselves to His action in our lives.

That much alone would be enough to transform us spiritually, wouldn't it? But there is much, much more.

2. A renewal of baptism.

First-century Christians began making the Sign of the Cross as a reminder and renewal of what happened to them when they were baptized. It still works the same way for us.

When we sign ourselves we are declaring that in baptism we died sacramentally with Christ on the cross and rose to a new life with Him (see Rom 6:3-4 and Gal 2:20). We are asking the Lord to renew in us those baptismal graces.

We are also acknowledging that baptism joined us to the Body of Christ and equipped us for our role of collaborating with the Lord in His work of rescuing all people from sin and death.

3. A mark of discipleship.

At baptism the Lord claimed us as His own by marking us with the Sign of the Cross. Now, when we sign ourselves, we are affirming our loyalty to Him. By tracing the cross on our bodies, we are denying that we belong to ourselves and declaring that we belong to Him alone (see Lk 9:23).

The Church Fathers used the same word for the Sign of the Cross that the ancient world employed to indicate ownership. The same word

named a shepherd's brand on his sheep, a general's tattoo on his soldiers, a householder's mark on his servants, and the Lord's mark on His disciples.

Signing ourselves recognizes that we are Christ's sheep and can count on His care; His soldiers, commissioned to work with Him in advancing His kingdom on earth; and His servants, dedicated to doing whatever He tells us.

4. An acceptance of suffering.

Jesus promised us that suffering would be a normal part of a disciple's life (see Lk 9:23-24). So when we mark our bodies with the sign, we are embracing whatever pain comes as a consequence of our faith in Christ. Making the sign is our taking up the cross and following Him (Lk 9:23).

At the same time, however, it comforts us with the realization that Jesus, who endured the Crucifixion for us, now joins us in our suffering and supports us.

Signing ourselves also announces another significant truth: with St. Paul, we are celebrating that our afflictions as members of the body of Christ contribute to the Lord's saving work of perfecting the Church in holiness (see Col 1:24).

5. A two-edged move against the devil.

When the devil watched Jesus die on the cross, he mistakenly believed he had won a great victory. Instead, the Lord surprised him with an ignominious defeat (see 1 Cor 2:8). From the first Easter

morning through the present, the Sign of the Cross makes the devil cower and flee.

On one level, then, making the sign is a defensive move, declaring our inviolability to the devil's influence. But, more importantly, the sign is also an offensive weapon, helping us reclaim with Christ all that Satan lost at the cross. It announces our cooperation with Jesus in the indomitable advance of the kingdom of God against the kingdom of darkness.

6. A victory over the flesh.

In the New Testament, the word flesh sums up all the evil inclinations of our old nature that persist in us even after we die with Christ in baptism (see Gal 5:16-22). Making the Sign of the Cross expresses our decision to crucify these desires of the flesh and to live by the Spirit.

Like tossing off a dirty shirt or blouse, making the sign indicates our stripping ourselves of our evil inclinations and clothing ourselves with the behaviours of Christ (see Col 3:5-15).

The Church Fathers taught that the Sign of the Cross diffused the force of powerful temptations such as anger and lust. So, no matter how strongly we are tempted, we can use the Sign of the Cross to activate our freedom in Christ and conquer even our besetting sins.

Apply These Truths Now

Right now, you can imprint in your heart these six truths about the Sign of the Cross by making it six times, each time applying one of the perspectives.

First, sign yourself professing your faith in God.

Second, mark yourself remembering that you died with Christ in baptism.

Third, make the sign to declare that you belong to Christ as His disciple and will obey Him.

Fourth, sign yourself to embrace whatever suffering comes and to celebrate your suffering with Christ for the Church.

Fifth, make the Sign of the Cross as a defence against the devil and as an offensive advance of God's kingdom against him.

Finally, make the sign to crucify your flesh and to put on Christ and His behaviours.

Go through these six signings often in your morning prayer — and watch the grace flow through this ancient sacramental in the days to come.

Bert Ghezzi is the author of numerous books, including “The Sign of the Cross: Recovering the Power of the Ancient Prayer” (Loyola, 2006).

LOVE, LISTEN AND LEARN

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

Due to the fact that there are now fewer pupils in London (there is a continued decrease in the population of children) and the issues with finding affordable housing we currently have some places in our Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3 2024/2025 year groups.

Please contact the school if you wish to apply for a place for your child.



**THANK YOU PARENTS AND PARISHIONERS FOR
RECOMMENDING OUR SCHOOL AND HELPING TO BUILD
UP OUR PUPIL NUMBERS.**

Phone Number: 020 88042396

E-mail: office@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

'Pupils are eager to come to school each morning because their teachers do their best to help them learn...Pupils learn in a calm environment. This is because the school has high expectations for pupils...Pupils conduct themselves well because they know what is right and have been taught how to behave well. Pupils achieve well across a range of subjects. They are proud to talk about their work which is presented with pride... Warm, caring relationships permeate the school... Pupils are confident that adults will listen to their worries and help them. This means they feel happy and safe...The curriculum is ambitious and well structured...Adults have secure subject knowledge...Leaders have high expectations and are ambitious for pupils...Safeguarding is a priority here.'
(OFSTED Inspection, November 2023).

LOVE, LISTEN AND LEARN

'A. Classroom religious education is outstanding

- *The school has adapted and developed the themes of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory in an excellent manner to meet the learning needs of the pupils' of St Mary's.*
- *The religious education programme in use fully delivers this content and the use of De Bono system in religious education pushes pupils to develop their understanding further.*
- *After carefully analysing the needs of their pupils, the school has developed a curriculum and teaching programme that has reached outstanding achievement by the pupils in religious education.*
- *Teachers have high expectations and plan lessons that deepen pupils' religious literacy.*
- *Since the last inspection, staff confidence in recording and assessment has been demonstrably achieved with the evidence of the clarity and confidence on the part of the staff in planning imaginative lessons based on the religious education programme followed in the school.*
- *The headteacher is also the religious education curriculum coordinator and she takes the closest interest in developing the excellent teaching and learning of religious education in the school.*
- *The chair of governors is a recent appointment but with her years of experience on the governing body she is clear in her role of both support and challenge in pursuing the special responsibility of governors of a Catholic school.*

B. The Catholic life of the school is outstanding

- *The curriculum fully conforms to the classroom curriculum time of at least 10% for religious education and teaching is fully in line with the requirements of the Bishops' Conference.*
- *The previous inspection asked the school to develop pupils' understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and to help pupils understand the ethics of the market place and fair trade. The school has fully addressed these priorities, both in their classroom teaching and in the encouragement offered when choosing charities to support.*
- *The pupils of St Mary's enjoy an outstanding experience of prayer, liturgy and Catholic worship.*
- *Pupils and staff have a deep understanding of the call to 'human flourishing' and are given opportunities to develop and celebrate their gifts and talents.*
- *Partnership with the parents is excellent; they appreciate and support all that the school provides for their children.*
- *The leadership and management of the school are very effective in promoting the Catholic life of the school. The head is strong and devoted in providing both oversight and support on all aspects of Catholic life. The contribution and regular visits of the parish priest provides a strong and stable reinforcement of the foundational position of Catholicism in the life of the school'*

(OFSTED Section 48 Inspection, September 2019).