

# A HOLY HOUR OF REPARATION



**Thursday 31st October 2024**

*Our Lord's Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane*

6.00pm—Evening Prayer

6.30pm—Mass in Honour of Our Lord's Agony

**Followed by a Holy Hour of Reparation**

**Our Lord's request is that we stay awake with Him  
and that we spend time in prayer with him**

## FIRST FRIDAY & DEVOTIONS

### ***NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS***

**Friday 1st November 2024**



6.00pm—First Friday Confessions & Exposition until 7.15pm

6.30pm—Evening Prayer & Rosary

7.30—Mass (All Saints Day Mass)

**Followed by First Friday Devotions**

## FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

### ***DEVOTIONS TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY***

**Saturday 2nd November 2024**

**for five consecutive First Saturdays**

*Receiving Communion worthily each First Saturday, going to Confession each First Saturday, making a Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, saying the Rosary with a short quiet Rosary meditation.*

8.00am—Church opens for Silent Prayer 8.15am—Morning Prayer

Followed by First Saturday Confessions until 10.00am

9.30am—Rosary with Rosary Meditation until 10.00am

10.15am—First Saturday Devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

10.30am—Mass for the Conversion of Sinners (All Souls Day Mass)



## ALL SAINTS DAY

Friday 1st November 2024



7.00am—Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.15am—Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am & 12.30pm—Quiet Mass

5.00pm Church opens

6.00pm - First Friday Confessions until 7.15pm

6.30pm—Evening Prayer & Rosary

7.30pm—Sung Mass

*Followed by First Friday Devotions*

*All Saints Day is a Holyday of Obligation*

*Please make every effort to get to Mass on this day*

## MASS & BLESSING OF GRAVES

Saturday 16th November 2024

Lavender Hill Chapel at 12.30pm



The Mass will be offered for all those who are buried in Lavender Hill or Strayfield Cemeteries.

Afterwards Fr John will bless the graves of your departed loved ones

## A TIME TO REMEMBER

Friday 29th November 2024

5.00pm—Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

6.30pm—Evening Prayer and Rosary

7.30pm—A Mass of Remembering

followed by a quiet time of prayer and reflection and the bringing forward of crosses which can be left at the front of the altar.

*Eternal rest grant unto them O, Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon  
them.*

*May they rest in peace.*

*May their souls and the souls of all the  
faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*



## ALL SOULS DAY

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Saturday 2nd November 2024



7.00am—Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.15am—Morning Prayer

8.30am—First Saturday Confessions until 10.00am

9.30am—Rosary & 15 minutes quiet Rosary prayer

10.15am—First Saturday Devotions

10.30am—Mass for the Holy Souls (1)

12.30pm—Mass for the Holy Souls (2)

4.00pm—Rosary and Evening Prayer

5.00pm—Sung Mass for the Holy Souls (3)

Followed by Benediction with the calling of names.

Bringing forward of candles.

## NOVENA FOR THE HOLY SOULS

We will offer this Novena on behalf of all the departed members of our families.

Thursday 14th November—after morning Mass

Friday 15th November—after evening Mass

Saturday 16th November—after morning Mass

Sunday 17th November—after 4.30pm before Mass

Monday 18th November—after morning Mass

Tuesday 19th November—after morning Mass

Wednesday 20th November—after morning Mass

Thursday 21st November—after morning Mass

Friday 22nd November—after evening Mass

Please join us when you are able for this Novena.

Booklets will be available for you to use.



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 10th November 2024

11.00am—Mass offered for the Fallen.

*Today we remember with gratitude all those who gave  
their lives in the great wars of the last century and in  
subsequent conflicts so that we can live in relative  
freedom and peace.*

*We remember them*

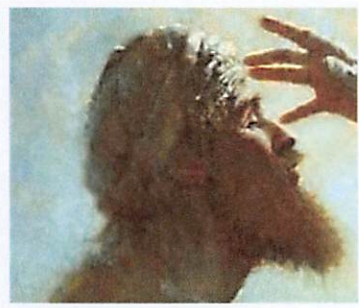


# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

192, Nags Head Road, Ponders End, Enfield EN3 7AR

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Parish Admin – Dorothy Eribankya Catechetical Coordinator – Arianne Phagoo 020 8443 4069  
or 07784186406 Live streaming: <https://www.churchservices.tv/enfield>



Our Lady of  
The Rosary



October

## 30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*'Let us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory'*

On the road which leads from Jerusalem, Jesus walks ahead of his disciples. They follow him with trepidation, blinder than ever. They are unable to understand that the Son of Man must suffer and die, although it would be enough to follow him resolutely to discover, in the depths of his abasement, who he is: the Son of God. Mark, in relating the episode of the healing of the blind Bartimaeus, sees beyond the circle of the Twelve to the whole Christian community which is also called to follow Jesus on the way to the passion, but is reluctant to do so. Paradoxically the blindness of this beggar, seated at the side of the road, does not prevent him from perceiving who Jesus is much better than the crowd does. He expresses his conviction by his repeated cries, by the leap of faith which makes him reject every support and hurry towards the one who calls him and is going to heal him. A miracle of the keen discernment of faith: not only does it save, but it also involves a man in the dynamic of conversion. No sooner cured than Bartimaeus, image of the faithful community and type of the perfect disciple, gets ready to follow Jesus on the way. Symbol of those 'who dwell in the darkness and in the shadow of death' (Luke 1:79), Bartimaeus becomes the model of those who cry out, who pray to be delivered from their blindness, in order to get up and walk.

### Weekend Mass Intentions

**Sat:** - 7.00am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer  
8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary  
9.30am – Peggy Power - Anniversary

### No Confessions this Morning

5.00pm – Veronica Crawley – Well Being

### Sun – The church opens at 7.00pm

8.00am – Emilia & Edward Tokarscy - RIP  
9.30am – Pantaleone Amato  
11.00am – Intentions of Parishioners  
5.00pm – Gloria Conway – Birthday Intention

### Mon – 8.15am - Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary  
9.30am – Veronica O'Brien - RIP

### No Adoration this morning

### Tues – 8.15am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary  
9.30am – Marco Marzolini - Anniversary

### Wed - 8.15am – Church Opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary  
9.30am – For the Repose of the Holy Souls

### Thu – 8.15am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary  
9.30am – Daphne Sullivan - RIP

### Adoration until 11.00am

6.00pm – Evening Prayer

### 6.30pm – Mass and a Holy Hour of Reparation

### Fri 8.15am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Evening Prayer & Rosary  
9.30am – John Baio – Anniversary  
12.30pm – For Parishioners

### 5.00pm – Church Opens - 6.00pm - Confessions

6.30pm – Evening Prayer & Rosary  
7.30pm = Ida Barnet & Family

### Followed by First Friday Devotions

### Sat – 7.00am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.15am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

### 8.30am – First Saturday Confessions until 10.00am

### 9.30am – Rosary & 15 minutes quiet Rosary Prayer

10.15am – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Devotions  
10.30am – Mass for the Holy Souls  
12.30pm – Mass for the Holy Souls

4.00pm – Evening Prayer & Rosary

5.00pm – Mass for the Holy Souls

Followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with the calling of names of departed loved ones.

### THE SACRAMENT OF

### RECONCILIATION CONFESSION

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – from

6.00pm to 7.15pm

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – from

8.30am to 10.00am

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.

### 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.**

### ALL SAINTS DAY

Friday 1st November 2024

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Mass 12.30pm – Mass

6.30pm – Evening Prayer & Rosary

7.30pm – Mass with Singing

### ALL SOULS DAY

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Masses – 10.30am, 12.30pm & 5.00pm (with singing)

The 5.00pm Mass will be followed with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament during which the names of your loved ones will be called out in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Hand your names in as you come into church

### 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 in prayer 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 (8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November) call or text on 07887296983 or email: [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup> November (7-9pm) at St Edmund's Church, Edmonton.. For further details please contact: [annamcmullan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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 21<sup>st</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. Refreshments will be available. Please join us for an entertaining evening.

## CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The **CCS** are a charity providing young people and children with counselling and therapy, emergency grants for families and carers and adoption and aftercare. Check out their Christmas Card brochure in porch.

**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

## AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

This weekend we have an appeal from the ACN which is a Pontifical foundation of the Catholic Church. ACN supports more than 5000 projects helping the Church's mission internationally. ACN has stepped up its support for Christians in Lebanon in response to the deepening crisis, offering food and medicine, help with education. There will be a retiring collection at the end of Mass. More info at [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org)

## Prayers please:

**Sick:** Daphne Sullivan, Fergal Sherry, Mehill 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## New vision

# The prayer that screams

Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

**J**ust as Jesus knew his plan, he had enough for everyone, he wants each of us to know we are enough, just as we are. There are times, of course, when we feel self-doubt and concern, just as the disciples did on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. But if Jesus stood before us today, he would gaze his kind eyes upon us and reassure us we

are enough. Psalm 139:13-14 reminds us, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" [NIV]. So, whenever we feel depleted or empty, let us remind ourselves how being close to Jesus fills us up, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Also, when we feel we have surplus

reserves, just as the disciples filled their baskets with leftovers, let us bestow our extra energy, time and attention on those who are hard to reach, those who sit on the periphery, those who are hungry for nourishment.

*Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk).*

For Jesus, the cry of those pleading for help is not a nuisance but a challenge. How important it is for us to listen to life!

Pope Francis

"I want to see."

By Natalie Claveria

"I want to see," said my colleague who was becoming increasingly annoyed by the scratched lens in his glasses. Seeing clearly is such a gift. To view the world in high definition allows us to take in all the beauty of the natural world, to appreciate intricate details of artwork and, plainly, to read. However, as the American poet and philosopher, Henry David

Thoreau, once commented, "It's not what you look at that matters: it's what you see. To look means to gaze upon something with your eyes and acknowledge its presence. But to see requires time, patience, open-mindedness and sometimes even effort." As active and engaged Christians let us take the time to truly see our faith and share it with those around us.

*In addition to being a busy mum and active in her parish, Natalie Claveria is also the Head of Sales, Distribution & Customer Experience for Redemptorist Publications.*

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Visit [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)

Code: 1979 ISBN: 9780852316436 Price: £19.95



OUT NOW

Feasts of the week

Friday 1 November

All Saints

Saturday 2 November

All Souls' Day

What God wants most of all for each one of you is that you should become holy... Perhaps some of you think being a saint is not for you. Let me explain what I mean. When we are young, we can usually think of people that we look up to, people we admire, people we want to be like. It could be someone we meet in our daily lives that we hold in great esteem. Or it could be

someone famous. We live in a celebrity culture and young people are often encouraged to model themselves on figures from the world of sport or entertainment. My question for you is this: what are the qualities you see in others that you would most like to have yourselves? What kind of person would you really like to be?... God wants your friendship. And once you enter into friendship with God, everything in your life begins to change.

*Pope Benedict XVI, St Mary's University College, Twickenham, 17 September 2010*

Lord of light, open the eyes of my heart to the needs of the people around me. Help me to see them with your eyes. ✚ Amen.

Today:  
Jeremiah 31:7-9  
Hebrews 5:1-6  
Mark 10:46-52

Monday:  
Ephesians 2:19-22  
Luke 6:12-19

Tuesday:  
Ephesians 5:21-33  
Luke 13:18-21

Wednesday:  
Ephesians 6:1-9  
Luke 13:22-30

Thursday:  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
Luke 13:31-35

Friday:  
Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14  
1 John 3:1-3  
Matthew 5:1-12

Saturday:  
Isaiah 25:6-9  
Romans 5:5-11  
Mark 15:33-39; 16:1-6

Next Sunday:  
Deuteronomy 6:2-6  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 12:28-34



# THE *Wednesday* WORD



## 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 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024

#### BLIND BARTIMAEUS

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, "Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me." And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they called the blind man. "Courage," they said, "get up; he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Rabbuni," the blind man said to him, "Master, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has saved you." And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

**Taken from Mark 10:46-52 The Thirtieth 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.

There are several remarkable things about this story. Firstly, the scene is just when Jesus is leaving Jericho. Jericho is about three hours' walk from Jerusalem, up a great, rocky canyon. When you leave Jericho you know you are just about coming to Jerusalem. It is the last village on the way, and (as we heard in last week's gospel) the excitement of what is to happen in Jerusalem (the great revelation of Jesus' glory at the Passion) is already upon those who are journeying with him; the cured beggar dances on the way with them. Secondly, the beggar is the only person in Mark to call Jesus 'Son of David', drawing attention to Jesus' messianic ancestry and preparing for his messianic entry into Jerusalem. Thirdly, in Mark Jesus says 'Your faith has cured you' only twice. The first time was to the woman with a haemorrhage, who had shown her faith with great courage by daring to touch Jesus' garment in the crowd. Now Bartimaeus shows the same stubborn courage in carrying on shouting despite the attempts to silence him. So both these people show with their courage that they really do put their trust in Jesus and are confident that he will help them. If our faith is to save us, it needs to be real, courageous and stubborn. Lukewarm, tentative faith is not enough.

**How do we show our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus?**

*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 COURAGE !**

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 27th October 2024**



**1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9**

## Israel is my First-born Son

The Lord says this: Shout with joy for Jacob! Hail the chief of nations! Proclaim! Praise! Shout! "The Lord has saved his people, the remnant of Israel!" See, I will bring them back from the land of the North and gather them from the far ends of earth; all of them: the blind and the lame, women with child, women in labour: a great company returning here. They had left in tears, I will comfort them as I lead them back; I will guide them to streams of water, by a smooth path where they will not stumble. For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born son.



The most remarkable feature of this prophecy of Jeremiah is that Jeremiah spoke it when the destruction of Jerusalem was certain. The city was about to collapse and its inhabitants were to be dragged into captivity across the desert on meat-hooks. Yet Jeremiah proclaims that the Lord has saved his people! Destruction is so certain that Jeremiah can speak of it in the perfect tense: it has virtually already happened. In the midst of disaster he declares that the Lord is a father to Israel, and Israel his cherished first-born son! Even the blind (pointing us to the gospel miracle) and the lame will be gathered in. They will have to wait for the final fulfilment, but this promise remains a beacon of hope for them. There are times in everyone's life when everything goes wrong and seemingly irremediable disaster strikes. In those dark moments we know that the same promise holds for us. In the Spirit we can still cry out 'Abba, Father'. The household of the Lord is a Church composed entirely of first-born sons - and daughters: according to the Law of Israel only sons had a right of inheritance, so even the daughters of the Church are rightly described as first-born 'sons'!

**How can people "from the far ends of earth" call God "father" if they have never heard of Him?**



**2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:1-6**

## High Priest of the Order of Melchizedek

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and forever.



'He can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain'. To single out these two characteristics and to grant that Jesus could be uncertain or ignorant is a bold assertion about Jesus' full humanity. Yet ignorance and the ability to learn is a condition of humanity: the child Jesus must have learnt how to deal with fire and knives and other dangers, and there is no way of learning which is better than initially getting it wrong. Similarly uncertainty is a crucial human condition: it is at once an openness to learning and a reminder of humility. The two unique elements of Jesus' priesthood are total ability to sympathise with us, and his unmediated link to his Father. These make his priesthood (his representation on our behalf to the Father and his wholehearted offering of himself in obedience to the Father) far more immediate than any formal priesthood (such as that of the priestly line of Aaron) could ever be.

**What does it mean to say the Jesus "lives in the limitations of weakness"?**

**He can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain.**

**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**