

Saints Days this Week... 19th-26th October

TUESDAY - St John Paul II Today we celebrate the life of Karol Wojtyla, born in Wadowice, Poland in 1920. After Roman studies and ordination, he returned to Poland and was involved in various parishes & academic institutions, becoming Archbishop of Krakow in 1964. He took part in the Second Vatican Council. In 1978 he was elected pope. His exceptional apostolic zeal, particularly for families, young people and the sick, led him to numerous pastoral visits throughout the world. He died in 2005 on Divine Mercy Sunday – a feast which he had instituted.

SATURDAY – Ss Chad & Cedd Were brothers who were educated in Lindisfarne under St Aidan. Chad became Abbot of Lastingham (Yorkshire) and was chosen to be bishop of Northumbria, but St Wilfrid contested his appointment, and Chad obediently withdrew. He was then sent as bishop to Mercia, where he founded the see of Lichfield. On his death in 672, he was immediately revered as a saint, because of his holiness, humility & preaching. Cedd founded many monasteries and was sent as bishop to evangelise the East Saxons. He established his see at Bradwell in Essex. He died of the plague in 664

PARISH PRAYER GROUPS AND PRAYER TIMES

Monday Exposition & Rosary ~ St Wilfrid's, 7.30–8.30pm

St Bede's Prayer Group ~ Meets in church, Tuesday 7.30–9.00pm

Mother's Prayers ~ Coming together in each other's homes to pray for families. Further details from the Parish 01606 42440

Divine Mercy Prayer Group ~ Praying for the sick & dying.

Morning Prayer ~ Is prayed each weekday 9.05am, prior to 9.30am Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration ~ Sunday at St Wilfrid's 4.15 – 5.15pm

Exposition & Reconciliation ~ Saturday at St Wilfrid's 11.00-11.50am

Web Sites ~

Parish: www.stjohnvianney.co.uk

Catholic Church in England & Wales: www.catholicnews.org.uk

Prayer Site: www.pray-as-you-go.org

Scripture Reflection: www.wednesdayword.org

Preparing to hear God's word...

**Next Sunday's Readings:
Thirtieth Sunday Year C
27th October 2019**

“God, be merciful to me, a sinner”



In today's **First Reading** we hear the prayer of the humble man, who recognises his spiritual poverty before God and God comes to his aid.

Psalm 33: *The Lord hears and answers the cry of the poor*

In the **Second Reading** - (2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18) Paul knows that the end of his life is approaching. He has remained loyal to God who is his hope. He professes his trusting faith in God, who has been loyal to him to the end. Paul perseveres in faith, confident that God will rescue him.

*Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope
and charity, and make us love what you command,
so that we may gain what you promise*

Ecclesiasticus 35: 12-14, 16-18

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages. He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man, he listens to the plea of the injured party. He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story. The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds. The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds, until it arrives he is inconsolable, nor will he desist until the most high takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement. And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

As I settle to pray, I ask the Lord that I may open to His word today.

The first reading from the book of Sirach says that God hears and lovingly responds to our prayers. God rewards our loyalty to Him regardless of our journey or identity in life. When we come to the Lord simply handing over our needs, our struggles and our fears to Him with complete confidence and in faith then we know that God will act and answer our prayers,

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- Can this be said of me?
- I pray for an increase in faith and trust in God and His unconditional love for me
- I hand over my needs, struggles and fears to God opening my life to His healing and strength

“Humility is to know that every good thing we have comes from God as pure gift”

Thomas Aquinas

Luke 18: 9-14

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself. “I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get.” The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, “God be merciful to me a sinner.” This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

I come to my place of prayer. I gently become aware of God's presence. When I am ready, I slowly read and re-read the Gospel.

Luke reminds us in his account of Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector of God's continual call to be grateful for our giftedness and to appreciate our blessings in a way which recognises our dependence and total trust in God the Father. God honours the choice to live our life in faith which calls for complete dependence on Him. As evidenced by the tax collector, it is through acknowledging our flaws and asking for God's mercy that we experience healing and encouragement.

So as we seek to grow closer to God in our daily living, may we strive to practise greater trust in His way and humble ourselves before Him. In displaying boundless faith in God while living meekly we open ourselves more fully to be living in and enjoying God's unconditional love. What a gift!

“It is always springtime in the heart that loves God”

Saint John Vianney