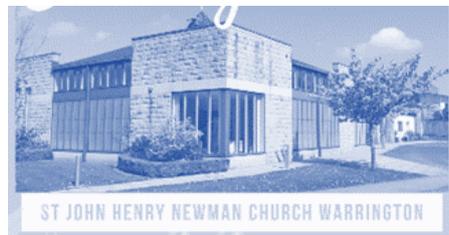


# Saint John Henry Newman

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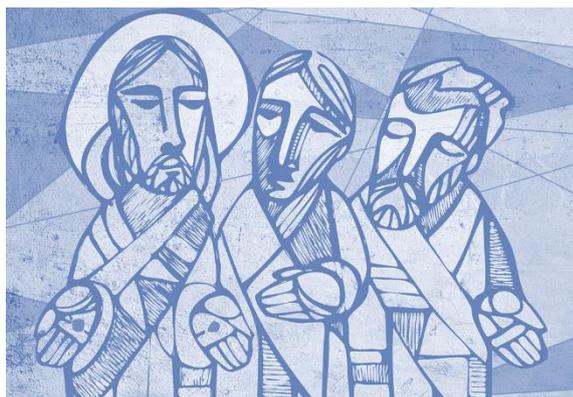


*where heart speaks to heart*

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

**13/14 April 2024**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER** (Page 258)



By inviting the disciples to touch him, to verify that he is not a ghost—touch me! - Jesus indicates to them and to us that the relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters cannot remain “at a distance.”.

Christianity does not exist at a distance; Christianity does not exist only at the level of looking. Love requires looking and it also requires closeness; it requires contact, the sharing of life. The Good Samaritan did not limit himself to looking at that man whom he found half dead along the road: he stopped, he bent down, he treated his wounds, he touched him, he loaded him onto his mount and took him to the inn. And it is the same with Jesus himself: loving him means entering a communion of life, a communion with him.

Being Christian is not primarily a doctrine or a moral ideal; it is a living relationship with him, with the Risen Lord: we look at him, we touch him, we are nourished by him and, transformed by his Love; we look at, touch and nourish others as brothers and sisters. (Pope Francis)

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*When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. Henri Nouwen*



Earlier this week Pope Francis made a surprise visit to a catechism class at St. John Vianney parish on the far eastern edge of Rome. He met with about 200 children, spoke with them about prayer: "It is important to say

thank you for everything. For example, if you go into someone's house and you don't say thank you or may I or hello, is that nice?" he asked. "The first word is 'thank you.'"

He gave each of the children a large folder with his coat of arms on the cover and, inside, a special prayer of thanks composed for the occasion; the prayer thanked God for the gift of life, the gift of parents, the gift of creation and, especially, "the gift of your Son, our brother and saviour, friend of the small and the poor." He also brought them chocolate Easter eggs and rosaries.

Francis asked the children if they pray, and one of the youngsters said his family prays before they eat.

"You said something important," the pope told him. They should all thank the Lord for the food they eat and for giving them families.

Alice, who is 10, asked, "How can I thank the Lord when I'm sick?"

"Even in dark times, we have to thank the Lord because he gives us the patience to tolerate difficulties," the pope responded.

"Let's say together: 'Thank you, Lord for giving us the strength to tolerate pain.'"

Sofia, who will receive her first Communion in a few days, said it is hard to thank God when there are wars.

Pope Francis said there is always something to thank God for, and he shared a piece of advice: "Before you go to sleep think, 'What can I thank the Lord for?' And give thanks."

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## Confirmation

We will be joined on Thursday 18 July by Bishop Mark for a celebration of Confirmation together with candidates from Saint Monica's parish. Those attending Cardinal Newman High School will be make their preparations at school. Those attending other schools will be invited to attend a short programme in the parish. Those in year 8 and above (adults included<sup>1</sup>) are eligible to take part. Please complete one of the application forms available on the parish website: [Confirmation - Blessed John Henry Newman Church Warrington UK \(newmanparishwarrington.com\)](http://newmanparishwarrington.com) and bring it to church asap.



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## Lent and Easter Retreat

This Sunday afternoon we will hold a closing session with a half our of silent prayer beginning at 3 pm, followed by a conversation over a cup of tea. Anyone is welcome to attend regardless of whether you took part or simply dipped in at one time or another. What I would genuinely like to discuss is how we can nurture and support a richer life of personal and collective prayer in the parish. This is a theme that Pope Francis discussed with the children. He spoke about **parish communities becoming *Schools of Prayer***. If this idea strikes a chord for you then please join us.

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**NOTE for Envelope Users:** Please note that envelope donations are only recorded as received at the actual time of donation. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend a weekend Mass then you can discard the envelope(s) for that week (or weeks) and simply pick up the week you are next at Mass. If you wish to include donations for any of the missed weeks then please add them in a single envelope dated for that particular Sunday. Hopefully this will simplify things for everyone. Many thanks as always for your continued generosity.

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Teas and Coffees will be served by Team A after the two morning Masses next Sunday 21 April.

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<sup>1</sup>Adult candidates please speak with Fr Peter

**13 - 14 APRIL - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER** PAGE 258

Sat 13 April	7.00 pm	Miriam Jones RIP
Sunday 14 April	9.00 am 11.00 am 3.00 pm	Josephine John Intentions Mark Cornelia RIP Retreat Celebration
Mon 15 April	10.00 am	Josie Hall RIP (Tea/Toast)
<b>Tues 16 April*</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	a. Ints Joanna b. Mary Stanley RIP
Wed 17 April		No Services
Thursday 18 April	6.30 pm 7.00 pm	Quiet Adoration Fr Peter's Family Intentions
Friday 19 April	10.00 am	Barbara & Chris Monks Intentions

**20 - 21 APRIL – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER-** PAGE 261

Sat 20 April	5.30 pm	George Eakins RIP
Sunday 21 April	9.00 am 11.00 am	The Withers Family Intentions Antonia Huguette Morgan RIP



KINDLY REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: for all requesting our prayers including *John & Marie Clowes, Harry Challoner, Margaret Daintith, Harold Entwistle, Mary Finn, Tony Graham, Rita Hutson, Barbara Lynskey, Rita Mahon, Kathleen Mannion, Roger Maxwell, Gerard Moulding, Christine Moores, Marcos Sala, Meryl & Tony Wernham, Gordon Whittaker, & Carol Worsley.*

When my brother-in-law Steve died, we had a memorial service, remembering him as a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, as a fierce environmentalist and as a guitar player who loved music. At two points in the service, his two sons and one of his college friends strapped on their guitars to play songs he loved while his nephew Sean provided a quiet counterpoint on his mandolin.

Sean is a professional bluegrass musician who can really let it rip on stage. But here, at this moment, he was fitting his music behind, underneath and around the guitars. He was providing grace notes, as it were, to their main melodies.

I was struck by the humility of his playing, and the aptness of it. He was stretching his talent not out, but in. He was finding a way to enhance the music of the less polished guitar players. It was as if, in creating this musical setting, he was expressing without words how God was holding the guitarists — and everyone at the service, and Steve, too — in the palm of God's hand. Patrick Reardon

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