

TODAY'S READINGS ARE ABOUT FAITH IN GOD. But what is faith? Perhaps this extract from the *Catechism* might help:

To obey (from the Latin ob-audire, to "hear or listen to") in faith is to submit freely to the word that has been heard, because its truth is guaranteed by God, who is Truth itself. Abraham is the model of such obedience offered us by Sacred Scripture. The Virgin Mary is its most perfect embodiment.

Believing is possible only by grace and the interior helps of the Holy Spirit. But it is no less true that believing is an authentically human act. Trusting in God and cleaving to the truths he has revealed is contrary neither to human freedom nor to human reason. Even in human relations it is not contrary to our dignity to believe what other persons tell us about themselves and their intentions, or to trust their promises (for example, when a man and a woman marry) to share a communion of life with one another. If this is so, still less is it contrary to our dignity to "yield by faith the full submission of... intellect and will to God who reveals", and to share in an interior communion with him.

In faith, the human intellect and will co-operate with divine grace: "Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace."

What moves us to believe is not the fact that revealed truths appear as true and intelligible in the light of our natural reason: we believe "because of the authority of God himself who reveals them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived". So "that the submission of our faith might nevertheless be in accordance with reason, God willed that external

proofs of his Revelation should be joined to the internal helps of the Holy Spirit." Thus the miracles of Christ and the saints, prophecies, the Church's growth and holiness, and her fruitfulness and stability "are the most certain signs of divine Revelation, adapted to the intelligence of all"; they are "motives of credibility", which show that the assent of faith is "by no means a blind impulse of the mind".

Faith is certain. It is more certain than all human knowledge because it is founded on the very word of God who cannot lie. To be sure, revealed truths can seem obscure to human reason and experience, but "the certainty that the divine light gives is greater than that which the light of natural reason gives." Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt."

"Faith seeks understanding." It is intrinsic to faith that a believer desires to know better the One in whom he has put his faith, and to understand better what He has revealed; a more penetrating knowledge will in turn call forth a greater faith, increasingly set afire by love. The grace of faith opens "the eyes of your hearts" to a lively understanding of the contents of Revelation: that is, of the totality of God's plan and the mysteries of faith, of their connection with each other and with Christ, the centre of the revealed mystery. "The same Holy Spirit constantly perfects faith by his gifts, so that Revelation may be more and more profoundly understood." In the words of St. Augustine, "I believe, in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, para. 144-158, abridged).



LITURGICAL CALENDAR, MASS/SERVICE TIMES, AND PRIEST'S INTENTIONS
 CONFESSIONS — 5.30PM SATURDAY, (OR AFTER WEEKDAY MASS ON REQUEST)
 TEA/COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY MORNING MASS IN PARISH HALL

SUN 5TH OCTOBER	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C	VIGIL (SAT) MASS	6.00PM 10.00AM	Gehane (Birthday) +Edoardo & Lucia Crisante
Mon 6	St Bruno	No Mass		
Tues 7	Our Lady of the Rosary	Mass		+Ada Nora Hockey (Anny)
Wed 8	Feria, week 27	Mass	10.00am	Fr. Richard (wellbeing)
Thurs 9	St John Henry Newman	Mass	10.00am	People of the Parish
Fri 10	St Paulinus of York	Mass Rosary (English) Rosary (Malayalam)	10.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Katie Passmore (wellbeing)
Sat 11	Pope St John XXIII	No AM Mass		
SUN 12TH OCTOBER	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C	VIGIL (SAT) MASS	6.00PM 10.00AM	+Eddy Kelleher (Birthday) Joseph & Gisele (Wed. Anny)

4/5 Oct	Reader	EMHC	11/12 Oct	Reader	EMHC
Vigil (Sat)	BD	KD, MH	Vigil (Sat)	GG	MH, BD
10.00am	VJ	SS, JN, JK	10.00am	CB	JP, LE, LD

Please use this QR Code or card reader at back of church for general, second, and other collections, Mass cards, and candles. Many thanks.



CAFOD FAMILY FAST

COLLECTION: Today. Please fill an envelope and encourage your family and friends to contribute towards CAFOD'S vital work bringing relief overseas. We can also donate online at cafod.org.uk/ envelope or by calling 0303 303 3030. We can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10. There are also copies of CAFOD's ethical Christmas present card available at the back of church.



ANNUAL MASS COUNT: Today. please count *after* the Offertory.

PARISH LIVING ROSARY GROUP: Monthly meeting this Monday, the vigil of the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, 5.00pm in the hall. All welcome.

PRAYER CORNER: Our prayers are asked for the following who r2NDe sick and/or housebound: T Steeles, Madelaine Newland, Robin Hockey, Barbara Williams, Joan Miller, Malcolm Davies, Churcher Family, Elouise Sargent, Evelyn Merifield, Marie Doolan, Mary & Roy Tanner, Gill Norris, Mary Dene, Philippe Hamon, John Hamon, Doreen O'Halloran, Liz Willis, Jenny Adams, Robert Myjak, Tanya Smijth-Windham, Deacon Steve Bowler, Fr Kevin, Peter Caffyn.

OCTOBER ROSARY IN

MALAYALAM: Fridays, at 6:00 pm at OLOL. All welcome.

NEW CANDLE LIGHTERS: We're replacing our noisy and unreliable gas lighters with rechargeable electronic ones. When in place, please follow the instructions posted by the candle stands.

CHARITY WALK FOR

PARKINSONS UK: Lizzie's daughters, Kate and Bella, completed the sponsored walk for Parkinsons last Sunday and between them raised £1,200 for Parkinsons UK. A huge "Thank You" to the very generous donations made by parishioners at OLOL that made it possible to raise this amazing amount for research into this cruel disease. Thank you all so much!

2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: for the Centenary

PARISH INFO-BAR

The Presbytery, 15 Mount Avenue, New Milton. Hampshire. BH25 6NT

General enquiries, Mass Intentions, and Hall Bookings
 Lizzie Davies
 Wed & Fri 12.00pm-4.00pm
 01425 614 968
lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Priest
 Fr Bill Wilson
 01425 614 968
wwilson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Minister
 Jill Parsons
safeguarding.newmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
In emergency, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator on 02394 216 486

Live streaming
<http://churchservices.tv/newmilton>

Parish website
ourladyoflourdes.co.uk

A Parishioner's Blog
the247catholic.blogspot.com

Diocesan website
www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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