Welcome to Christ the King parish,
the Catholic Church in south Bedford.



The Thirty-Second Sunday, 2026

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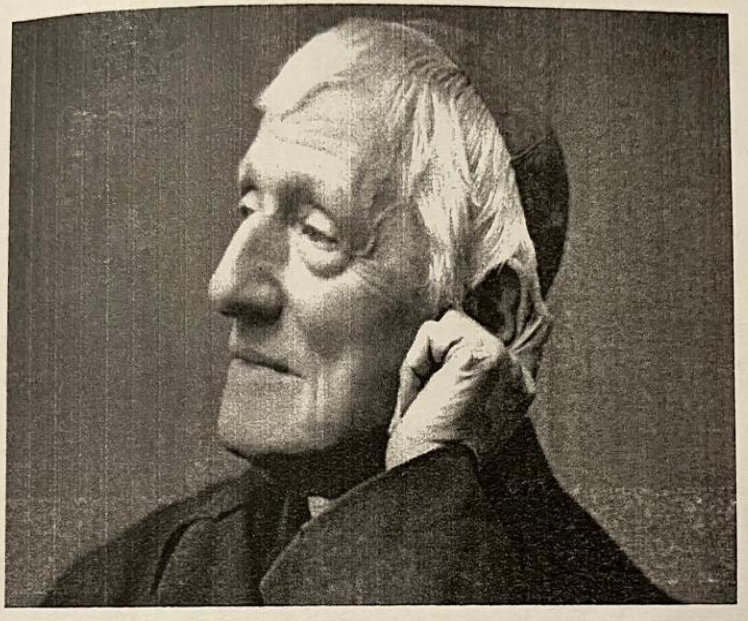
Office hour. Wednesdays, 5 - 6pm, Fr Richard is available in the presbytery for any enquiry, signing forms, Mass cards, or any admin.

The saints model the Faith and the Church for us, they are our great leaders in the Faith. **St John Henry Newman** is the newest saint from this country and his great contribution is in waking us up to how rationalism seeks to undermine the Christian Faith today.

Rationalism privileges ideas over reality. So, with whatever issue, instead of seeking to understand what human beings have done over time, it applies ideas in order to change the way we understand reality. Rationalism thinks that human beings can control and change reality, since it sees human reason as the primary source of truth - which it is not. Newman shows how rationalism places human ideas and preferences in place of the search for God, or growth in faith, or openness to grace, or growth in virtue. Obvious examples of this today are the idea that we should replace the Teaching of the Church with 'theology', or how in Scripture we can distinguish between things that we can explain and things that we regard as conjecture, or thinking that the Mass has to be simplified so that we must understand every last word, or how contraception has become the alternative to growing in virtue. Rationalism leads us to think we can create our own version of Christianity and even to become cynical about the Faith itself.

In the face of rationalism Newman speaks about how we can submit our reason to the Mystery of God, of how we can have faith in spite of the darkness that surrounds us, of how we can seek to remove the obstacles within us to faith, so that our minds can believe in God. In this way, Faith becomes a thankful and obedient experience, in which we allow God to transform us. Newman is a very great gift to the Church today!

The Chisen Charity is giving a briefing after Mass today about their work and there will be a retiring collection so that we are able to make another contribution to the Charity.



There is a wealth of literature about Cardinal Newman, not least the books authored by Fr Ian Ker. But I would also recommend these:

Louis Bouyer, *Newman's vision of faith*, Ignatius Press. In this book the author demonstrates how Newman foresaw the crisis facing Christianity.

Owen Chadwick, *Newman, a short introduction*, Oxford University Press. This book gives a short introduction to Newman's thought on faith, knowledge, and education, without becoming technical.

Michael Collins, *Newman: a short biography*, Messenger Publications. A short, engaging, and easy-to-read biography of Newman.

St John Henry Newman, pray for us.

Thanks to Pasquale and the Catechesis team who have been with us in recent weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This Tuesday evening is the last of these catecheses. Many people have found these evenings helpful, enlightening, and inspirational. We are very grateful to the team for their input and we pray a blessing on these catecheses, that God's grace will bear much fruit.

The confessional and Smart Phones. We know that our phones have software which 'listens' to what we say. In view of this, we should be conscious about not bringing a phone into the confessional with us, or powering it off before we come into the confessional. You can be assured that Fr Richard never has his phone with him in the confessional. Of course, any intentional recording of a confession with a phone, would be a serious abuse of the sacrament.

Matthew has been preparing all year for his baptism and confirmation, which will take place in the parish next week. I know that this has been a tremendous time for him, and we look forward to welcoming him into our midst as a brother in the Lord.

The Men's consecration to St Joseph took place at the end of October, and the group have wanted to continue their fraternity in some way, and to invite any men in the parish into this fellowship. They are beginning a men's rosary group; this will take place on the last Saturday of each month at 8.30am in the church, followed by refreshments. Any man in the parish is most welcome to come.

Mass of Reparation for Abortion, 12 noon on Saturday 28th November at St Joseph's in Bedford, a celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass, followed with refreshments.

Our patronal Feast of Christ the King approaches; this is always an opportunity for us to express, not just our faith, but the character of faith that the Lord has given to us here in south Bedford. How would you like to contribute to making this feast a very special day for us?

Schedule for the Week beginning Sunday 8th November 2026

Saturday 7th November
6pm Vigil Mass, the faithful of the parish

Sunday 8th November
8.30am Holy Mass (Latin), Roger Kennedy
10.30am Holy Mass, Luis Fonseca, 1st anniversary.

Tuesday 10th November
6.30pm Holy Mass, Dead List
7.30pm A catechesis on the Christian life, in the church

Wednesday 11th November
10am Holy Mass, Dead List
5pm - 6pm Office hour

Thursday 12th November
6.30pm Holy Mass, Private intention

Friday 13th November
11am - 11.45am Eucharistic Adoration with Confession available
12 noon Holy Mass, Dead List

Saturday 14th November
10.00am - 10.45am Confession available.
6pm Vigil Mass

Last Sunday's Offertory. Collection:£462.25 Standing Orders: £196.50
Dona device: £67.50 Total: £726.25

Thanks to all who donate to the parish by Standing Order. If you would like to donate in this way, please use these details:
Name: Christ the King Parish. Sort: 600611 Account: 46714332

Hymns: Entrance 64, Offertory 74, Communion 891, Final 183

The November Dead List is now recorded and twenty-two Masses will be offered for these souls, during this month and following.