

Learn from the heart of 'God's influencer' Blessed Carlo Acutis, says Bishop

The life of Blessed Carlo Acutis – an Italian boy who is expected to become the “first millennial saint” – reveals how humanity finds fulfilment in divine love, the Bishop of Shrewsbury has said.



The Rt Rev. Mark Davies reminded the congregation that all people are called to be saints like Blessed Carlo. “Yet not a few young people are told diabolically today that a life

so given for the love of Christ is a wasted life,” the Bishop said in a homily during a Mass in the first presence of the relic of the heart of Blessed Carlo.

“It is an objection made to those who come forward to offer their lives in the Priesthood or the Consecrated Life; and those called to the enduring love of marriage and family, told they are “losing their freedom,” the Bishop said.

“Yet, we know, a human life is only wasted and lost insofar as we fail to discover the Love for which we were made. As Pope Benedict declared, ‘Whoever wants to eliminate love is preparing to eliminate man’. For humanity cannot live without love, Divine Love.

“This led Pope Francis to reflect the only real tragedy in a human life is that we fail to become a saint, to reach the perfection of love like the 15-year-old Carlo Acutis. Our lives are truly wasted if you and I fail to strive for this same goal in the time that has been given us.”

The Mass on Saturday was celebrated in the crowded Church of St Anthony in Wythenshaw, Manchester, on the second of four days of public prayer, veneration and devotion. Blessed Carlo, who was born in London to Italian parents, who died from leukaemia in 2006 at the age of 15. He is often referred to as “God’s influencer” because he dedicated himself to spreading devotion of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist through a website he designed himself. His relic (see notes), which is kept in an ornate reliquary, had attracted more than 2,000 pilgrims by Saturday, with large numbers also expected on Sunday and Monday. St Anthony’s Church is open to all people who have booked a time to prayer before the relic through an Eventbrite link on the website of the Diocese of Shrewsbury.

In his homily, Bishop Davies reflected explained how Blessed Carlo had discovered “the Heart of Jesus in the silence of the Eucharist; in the daily offering of the Sacrifice of the Mass; in commitment to personal prayer; in the frequent Confession of his sins as the path to holiness; and in love for Mary, the Mother of Christ and our Mother”.

“And this Love overflowed from his heart in a desire to share this same love, indeed, the great miracle of love, which is the Eucharist, with all his contemporaries, indeed with all the world via the internet,” said Bishop Davies.

To Belong To Christ

Today’s Gospel begins with a scene that recalls a similar moment in the history of Israel, the episode recalled in today’s First Reading. The seventy elders who receive God’s Spirit through Moses prefigure the ministry of the Apostles.

Like Joshua in the First Reading, John makes the mistake of presuming that only a select few are inspired and entrusted to carry out God’s plans. The Spirit blows where it wills (see John 3:8), and God desires to bestow His Spirit on all the people of God in every nation under heaven (see Acts 2:5, 38).

God can and will work mighty deeds through the most unexpected and unlikely people. All of us are called to perform even our most humble tasks, such as giving a cup of water, for the sake of His name and the cause of His kingdom.

John believes he is protecting the purity of the Lord’s name. But, really, he’s only guarding his own privilege and status. It’s telling that the Apostles want to shut down the ministry of an exorcist. Authority to drive out demons and



unclean spirits was one of the specific powers entrusted to the Twelve (see Mark 3:14–15; 6:7, 13).

Cleanse me from my unknown faults, we pray in today’s Psalm. Often, like Joshua and John, perhaps without noticing it, we cloak our failings and fears under the guise of our desire to defend Christ or the Church.

But as Jesus says today, instead of worrying about who is a real Christian and who is not, we should make sure that we ourselves are leading lives worthy of our calling as disciples (see Ephesians 1:4).

Does the advice we give, or the example of our actions, give scandal—causing others to doubt or lose faith? Do we do what we do with mixed motives instead of seeking only the Father’s will? Are we living, as this Sunday’s Epistle warns, for our own luxury and pleasure while neglecting our neighbors?

We need to keep meditating on His Law, as we sing in today’s Psalm. We need to pray for the grace to detect our failings and to overcome them.

Scott Hann



English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

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26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR B (II)

Entrance Antiphon Dn 3:31, 29, 30, 43, 42

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading: Book of Numbers 11:25-29

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 18

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart
Second Reading: Letter of Saint James 5:1-6

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 17:17

Alleluia, alleluia!!

Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Communion Antiphon: Ps 118:49-50

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

SATURDAY 28th September ... St Wenceslaus

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... **Confession after Mass**
4:30 pm Adoration & Confessions before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford
5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford
5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot
6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Hugh McCormack RIP (Chris Stemp)

SUNDAY 29th September ... 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Gaodisia, Julie & Veronica RIP (Connie Dely)
11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Bernard Gray ... Good Estate (Angela Gray)
Baptism of Kiara Fox ... 2:30pm, Didcot
Benediction ... 6pm, Didcot

MONDAY 30th September ... St Jerome ... NO MASS

TUESDAY 1st October ... St Theresa of the Child Jesus

12:00 noon Adoration before mass St John Wallingford ... Bernard Gray ... Good Estate (Angela Gray)

WEDNESDAY 2nd October ... The Holy Guardian Angels

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Charles Snoxall RIP (Gillian Snoxall)
6:00 pm Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Charles Snoxall RIP (Gillian Snoxall)

THURSDAY 3rd October

9:30 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Seraphina’s Birthday Thanksgiving (Julie Lazarus)

FRIDAY 4th October ... St Francis of Assisi

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Mr & Mrs Patrick & Joan O’Donnell 60th Wedding Anniversary
3:00-4:00 pm ... Eucharistic Adoration ... Didcot

SATURDAY 5th October ... St Faustina Kowalska

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... **Confession after Mass**
4:30 pm Adoration & Confessions before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford
5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... Bernard Gray ... Good Estate (Angela Gray)
5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot
6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Maureen & Judy Hallsal RIP (Doug & Kim)

SUNDAY 6th October ... 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot
11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford

In your prayers, please remember: Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Joan Russell, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Pat McLoughlin, Barry Molloy, David Woodley, Ann Furlong and all the sick and housebound of our churches.



DEATH/FUNERAL NOTICE

Genina Marshall (RIP)...Requiem Mass, Monday 30th September, 11am ... Didcot

RIP

Centenary Celebration...Thank You All

This is to express deep appreciation to everyone involved in the preparation and celebration of 100 Years of faithful service to the Lord here in our Parish Church, St John the Evangelist, Wallingford. The turn out and the activities are a demonstration of our love and unity. Thank You. The celebrations will continue with prayers for the dead.



CAFOD Family Fast Day – Harvest Appeal

Daniel, a young man in Democratic Republic of the Congo, is carving a better future for his family with carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD-funded training centre. Give to CAFOD today and you'll fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so more people like Daniel can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential. Use the envelope in church or give online at cafod.org.uk/envelope.



Junior RCIA Is Here

Parents often wonder if their teenage children still have a chance of doing the sacraments. The answer is YES. The answer is here. Come along let us start the Junior Rite of Christian Initiation. The beauty of the program is that it is an on-going growth and accompaniment in the faith. If you know a teenager or young adult who wish to consider the Junior RCIA, please go to the parish website, download the Form and let's begin a joyful preparation.



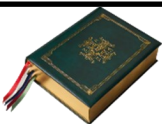
The New Lectionary

A new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, will come into use in England and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent 2024.

It will use the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition for the scripture readings and the Psalms and Canticles for the Responsorial Psalms. The Lectionary will be published by Catholic Truth Society. A variety of publishers will provide resources and participation aids.

We plan to place orders for our churches in Didcot and Wallingford. Also, we shall place orders for the new people's missals (Sunday Missal) which you can buy from the repository.

This is to thank those who have offered to pay for the Church Lectionary. If you are interested in donating towards the purchase, do speak with Father Dominic. A copy costs £695.00.



Advent Day of Prayer for Diocesan Staff and Volunteers

The bishop, Bishop Philip Egan is inviting Diocesan staff, parish staff and volunteers to join him for an Advent Day of Prayer on Wednesday 4th December 2024. To be led by Sister Hyacinthe Defos du Rau from the Dominican Sisters at St Peter's Church Pastoral Centre, Winchester. A time to reflect on the importance of recommitting ourselves to pause and listen to God, to be a compassionate presence to others and deepen habit of prayer. The day will include tea & coffee, mass led by Bishop Philip Egan, followed by a hot lunch.



Enrol in the Adult Sacramental Program (RCIA) A Journey of Faith

We plan to re-start our Adult sacramental program, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If you are interested please send an email to dadeiza@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. This program promises to be interactive, experiential and supportive. Who can benefit from this? If you miss out on other sacraments after baptism, this fit for you. If you wish to become a Catholic, this is for you. If you have been baptised in a Church outside the Catholic Church whose baptism is recognised by the Catholic Church, this is for you. Or do you know anyone who wants to become a Catholic? This is a journey of faith! Come and let's journey together.

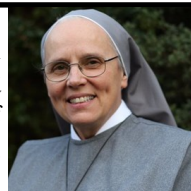
New Parish Secretary for English Martyrs Didcot and St John's Wallingford

Our new parish secretary — Miss Ada Chim. Ada has started working for our parish since the beginning of this September. Ada has been volunteering in the last couple of months, until Father Dominic ambushed her to take on the role as a part-time. The parish office is opposite to the tearoom at English Martyrs Church. It is open on Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Please come and meet Ada if you need anything, send email to didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, or call at 01235 812338. Let us all welcome Ada and make her enjoy serving our community.



Sister Judith Russi To Direct Our Retreat

Our parish of the English Martyrs Didcot and St John the Evangelist Wallingford will welcome Sister Judith Russi of Saint Mary of Namur, Saturday October 12 at 10 am in Didcot. Sister Judith is the director of Catholic educational charity EducareM, a teacher, a retreat director, an inspirational speaker and author of several books. She will accompany our Extra Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers and others from within our Pastoral Area on rediscovering the spirituality of the eucharistic ministry, the vocation to bring Christ to others and how to be another Christ in our midst.



CAFOD Family Fast Day, 4th October 2024

On Family Fast Day, CAFOD invites us to share in the abundance that God has given us. On Family Fast Day (Friday 4th October), CAFOD invites us to eat simply – perhaps having a bowl of soup instead of a meal – and give the money we save to help others. Please collect your Fast Day envelope from church this week and give what you can. Return the envelope the following Sunday or as soon afterwards. Don't forget to fill in the gift aid form if you are a UK tax payer.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY POSTER COMPETITION

And the winner is.....**Arani Jeyanthan**. Thank you so much to the children that entered our competition. We were very impressed with all the entries. Prizes will be given out this Sunday, 29th September at the 9a.m mass. We have prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Highly Commended. Please visit the display board. Jacquie & Gay

Feast of the Guardian Angels

The concept of an angel assigned to guide and nurture each human being is a development of Catholic doctrine and piety based on Scripture but not directly drawn from it. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10 best support the belief: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

Annual Mass Count

These weekends are the four autumn Mass Counts for the national statistics. The diocese expects the number of all those present at all Sunday Masses (i.e. Saturday evening and Sunday) celebrated in our parish over the next four weekends, starting last weekend, 21st / 22nd September. This data when collected helps the diocese in planning and in giving answers to questions in the future.



Are You Registered In The Parish?

When you register or fill out the parish membership form, you gain a sense of belonging and identity in the parish community. It is a commitment to practice your faith.

*Registration enables the parish priest and staff to get to know you better, to welcome you and to minister to you. This is especially important during a time of crisis so that the pastoral staff can attend to your spiritual needs and the needs of your family.

*Registration helps you stay connected with your parish and helps your parish stay connected with you. Providing your contact information is important so that parishes provide you timely updates via email, direct mail, phone, etc. Also, if you use offertory envelopes, online giving or the digital plate, the parish may be able to claim 25p of

Gift Aid for every £1 you give, if you are a registered tax payer. Once you are registered, please notify the parish office of any changes in address or phone number. Your data is SAFE.

*Registered active members are eligible for sponsor/godparent validation.

*Registered active members are sometimes eligible to rent parish facilities.

Census numbers may determine how many priests are assigned to a parish and how many Masses and enrichment programs are planned and scheduled. These numbers helps in how much levy we pay to the diocese.

Our First Holy Communion Prep Begins Now!

Our First Holy Communion Formation team is glad to announce early preparations. If you have a child age 7 going 8, or between 8 and 10, the time has come to register them for the First Holy Communion preparation sessions or classes.

Please visit the parish website, download the forms, fill, sign and hand them into the office. Remember, it is mandatory to accompany these Forms with your child's photocopy of baptism certificate. Please do not hand any of these to the priest or our First Holy Communion Formation team to avoid misplacement and improper handling of sensitive data. Take the Forms to the office.

The start date and other information shall be communicated to those concerned as soon as the Forms are handed in. It is our plan that our children will receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion before and on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 2025.



Our Church, St John the Evangelist, Wallingford is open daily for private prayers between 8am and 6pm.