

A Message from your Parish Priest

On Tuesday of the coming week, we celebrate the feast day of a King of England who is also a Saint – the last one who was (at least officially!). Edward the Confessor ruled England until the fateful year of 1066, the “year of three kings,” which culminated in the Norman Conquest at the Battle of Hastings. 1066 saw the end of Saxon England and the beginning of a new world. As the last of the old Saxon royal family, historians tend to view Edward as rather a failure in all those things which are generally held to matter in the lives of Kings.

The celebrated English writer and preacher of the early part of the twentieth century, Monsignor Ronald Knox, wrote a lovely sermon about St Edward. In his sermon, he paints a word picture of an event in Westminster Abbey, where all the great and good of the land are gathered together for some important event – I think it was a memorial service for someone who might have been fairly described as “influential” rather than “good.” He makes the observation that in all their proceedings, probably none of them spare a moment to think of the Saint – Edward the Confessor – who founded the Abbey they are sitting in, and whose remains lie in their tomb behind its High Altar. His qualities are not those such people usually hold in high regard. They are not the qualities, in fact, which earn people memorial services in Westminster Abbey!

To people such as those making up the congregation in the Abbey - and most of us have more in common with them than we would care to acknowledge – there would probably be greater admiration in their hearts for William the Conqueror, who ended the year 1066 as King of England, than with Edward who reigned at its beginning. William won battles, seized kingdoms, changed the destiny of nations, and produced a litter of children to succeed him on his thrones. Edward did none of these things. Yet it is Edward who is the Saint of God, and not William. Is this not the only success which really matters?

Monsignor Knox poses a question. The question is not, “Who would you have rather been then?” but “Who would you rather be now?”

In his own time, William was a great success. In the eyes of this world, he is still regarded as a great and successful King, despite some very terrible deeds which appalled his contemporaries and which will forever be laid to his account. On the other hand, in his own lifetime and ever since, the Confessor was regarded as a failure, despite his wonderful reputation for holiness of life.

Monsignor Knox takes another view. He wrote as follows:

“The Conqueror, who diverted the stream of history, went to his grave disappointed, and lies there an historical memory. The Confessor, whose ambitions could be satisfied by finding a poor man his dinner, saw no corruption in death.”

For a Christian person, what always matters most is goodness. Success in this world’s terms, if it is not accompanied by goodness, ultimately counts for nothing.

More than once, when I have gone to a funeral, the final thought we were left with was Frank Sinatra singing “I did it my way.” The message of St Edward the Confessor’s life is that, in everything which really counts, it would be far better if it could be said of us “They tried their best to do it God’s way.”

To-day in 2026, both William the Conqueror and Edward the Confessor have long gone from this earth. We cannot doubt that, where they are now, it is Edward who is accounted the greater success. Kindness, gentleness, the love of God and of neighbour have won him his place among the saints. On the day we meet God face to face, we will realise what really has mattered in our lives, and it will have been quite simple things. With every blessing, Monsignor Smith



THE PARISH OF St MARY'S, SELBY and CARLTON

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MASS SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONS

Saturday:

10.00am-10.30am (in Selby)

5.15pm-5.45pm (in Selby)

And on request in Carlton.

**The Readings for the Sunday
Mass are on page 140.**

**Preface 7 of Sundays in
Ordinary Time: Page 67**

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

**Every day before week-day
Mass and at 5pm on Sunday
(With Benediction)**



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Saturday:

10.00am-10.30am

5.15pm-5.45pm

(in Selby during confessions)

Marriages and Baptisms

By appointment. Please see the
priest after Mass to make
arrangements

SATURDAY OCTOBER	10 th	6:00pm	Selby	Leon Kubiak	Vigil Mass
SUNDAY	11 th	9.30am 11:15am 5.00pm	Selby Carlton Selby	Pro Populo Michael and Sandra Hugill Rosary and Benediction	27th Sunday in the Year
MONDAY	12 th	11.00am	Selby	Marina Fenton	Requiem Mass
TUESDAY	13 th	9.30am	Carlton	Thomas Healey	St Edward the Confessor
WEDNESDAY	14 th	10.00am	Selby	Private Intention (Margaret)	Feria
THURSDAY	15 th			N.B. No Mass To-day	St Teresa of Avila
FRIDAY	16 th			N.B. No Mass To-day	St Margaret Mary Alacoque
SATURDAY	17 th	9.30am 6:00pm	Selby Selby	Yorkshire Brethren Margarita Goralczyk	St Ignatius of Antioch Vigil Mass
SUNDAY OCTOBER	18 th	9.30am 11:15am	Selby Carlton	John Leedham (Ann.) Pro Populo	28th Sunday in the Year

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy, Baffam Lane, Selby YO8 9AX
Tel: 01757 706616 Email: admin@sm.bkcat.uk Headmistress: Mrs L. Bird

YOUR OFFERINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday 3rd October £1054.02 (Including Standing Orders)

Many Thanks for your Generosity.

Next week-end there will be a retiring collection for Home Mission Sunday.

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT

The parish quiz night will take place on Friday 23rd October at 7.00pm in the parish centre. Tickets are on sale after Mass.

PLEASE PRAY

For the repose of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially: Colette Williamson, Thomas Lynch, Winefride Carr, Joan Gordon, Chris Dixon, Sgt John Collinson, Joseph Darcy, Hilary Ruth Standring, Eric Waterworth, Brenda Oates, Mary Cecilia Smith, Molly Mooney, Mary Burdett, Walter Trybala, Monica Howden, Flt Sgt. Patrick Hennigan DFM.

May they rest in peace.

Please remember also in your prayers Marina Fenton and Tracy Wharvell who have sadly died.

Marina's Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 12th October at 11.00am

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

At the back of church in Selby, there is a selection of religious books for the use of children. Sometimes, I know, it can be difficult for children to concentrate throughout Mass and these may be of some help.

Please help yourself and replace on the shelf before you leave church.

CONGRATULATIONS

to two young couples who are getting married in the parish this week: Charles Meacham and Eleanor Smith, Luigi Felici and Sinead Quinn, wishing them every happiness in their lives together and many blessings.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please remember very specially in your prayers those who are sick:

Maureen McDonnell, Gerry McCrossan, Shirley Harrison and Jean Wilson, Zita Birchwood, Breda Gallagher, Irene Bradshaw, Pat Lynch, André Joseph Gudgeon and Patrick Tracey.

MASSES RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK

John McGrath, Margarita Goralczyk, Mary and Thomas Huddlestone and the Snee Family, Beatty and Peter Woodall, Intentions of Mary Watson.

SELBY SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The First Confessions for our year four children will take place on 12th December this year. Preparation sessions will begin on the week-end of 7th/8th November.

The First Confessions for our year three children will take place on 13th March next year. Preparation sessions will begin on the week-end of 6th/7th February.

First Holy Communion, for children in year four, will take place on the week-end of 19th/20th June next year. Preparation sessions will begin on the week-end of 17th/18th April.

The arrangements for Confirmation and for the Carlton children will follow later.

Enrolment Forms will be available – and completed – at the initial parents meetings. The parents meeting for the year 4 first confessions will take place at 7.00pm on Monday 2nd November.

CARLTON SINGERS

We are hoping to form a small group to enhance the singing during the Sunday morning Mass in St Mary's, Carlton. Chris Gilbert, one of our parishioners who has great experience in this area, including at the Manchester Oratory, has volunteered his services. Anyone interested in taking part, please speak to Chris before or after Mass.

Mass Offerings, Notices and News Items for the Parish Bulletin should be given to Monsignor Smith by Wednesday evening.

Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404