

Papal Visit Legacy Resources



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February 2011

Transparent for Jesus

'...the Church does not seek to be attractive in and of herself, but must be transparent for Jesus Christ and to the extent that she is not out for herself, as a strong and powerful body in the world, that wants power... she herself must see and speak of the other.' Pope Benedict XVI, In flight interview, 16 September 2010

Our Christian Heritage



The Holy Father's coming to the UK was historic because it was the first ever state visit of a Pope to our lands. In His speech to the Queen at Holyrood House, he recalled the UK's Christian heritage:

'The name of Holyroodhouse, Your Majesty's official residence in Scotland, recalls the "Holy Cross" and points to the deep Christian roots that are still present in every layer of British life. The monarchs of England and Scotland have been Christians from very early times and include outstanding saints like Edward the Confessor and Margaret of Scotland. As you know, many of them consciously exercised their sovereign duty in the light of the Gospel, and in this way shaped the nation for good at the deepest level. As a result, the Christian message has been an integral part of the language, thought and culture of the peoples of these islands for more than a thousand years. Your forefathers' respect for truth and justice, for mercy and charity come to you from a faith that remains a mighty force for good in your kingdom, to the great benefit of Christians and non-Christians alike.'

Full text: <http://www.thepapalvisit.org.uk/Replay-the-Visit/Speeches/Speeches-16-September/Pope-Benedict-XVI-s-Speech-to-The-Queen>

Prayer: Feast of the Chair of St Peter, 22 February 2011

We pray for our Pope and for our Bishops who teach with the authority of Christ. Lord, pour out afresh your Holy Spirit on them, especially on our diocesan Bishop (*insert his name*). *Lord hear us, Lord graciously hear us.*

We pray for the gift of a well-informed conscience. Enlighten our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit. *Lord hear us, Lord graciously hear us.*

At Oscott Seminary, His Holiness said: 'In the course of my visit it has become clear to me how deep a thirst there is among the British people for the Good News... You have been chosen by God to offer them the living water of the Gospel... This is our task. We pray to respond ever more generously to the call to evangelise. *Lord hear us, Lord graciously hear us.*

Almighty God, as you built your Church on the rock of Peter's faith, grant that with such a firm foundation we may hold fast in every storm. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. AMEN.

Sourced from: 'Text for use in small faith groups' at <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Home-Mission> and <http://www.universalis.com/20110222/lauds.htm>

Saint of the Month: St Edward The Confessor

The Holy Father reminded us repeatedly during his visit of the witness of the saints. This month we focus on St Edward The Confessor.

'Edward the Confessor was the son of King Ethelred III and his Norman wife, Emma, daughter of Duke



Richard I of Normandy. He was born at Islip, England, and sent to Normandy with his mother in the year 1013 when the Danes under Sweyn and his son Canute invaded England. Canute remained in England and the year after Ethelred's death in 1016, married Emma, who

had returned to England, and became King of England. Edward remained in Normandy, was brought up a Norman, and in 1042, on the death of his half-brother, Hardicanute, son of Canute and Emma, and largely through the support of the powerful Earl Godwin, he was acclaimed king of England. In 1044, he married Godwin's daughter Edith. His reign was a peaceful one characterized by his good rule and remission of odious taxes, but also by the struggle, partly caused by his natural inclination to favor the Normans, between Godwin and his Saxon supporters and the Norman barons, including Robert of Jumieges, whom Edward had brought with him when he returned to England and whom he named Archbishop of Canterbury in 1051.'

Full text: http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=223 Image: <http://www.oystermouthparish.com/st-edward-confessor>

Parish Resource for 22 February

A text has been prepared for the Feast of the Chair of St Peter, Apostle (22 February), to be read out at Masses and / or during prayer group meetings.

Bishop Kieran Conry, who is Chair of the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis, writes: 'This feast celebrates how the See of St Peter is a symbol of the unity of the Church founded on the Apostle Saint Peter. Peter was given a unique mission as teacher and pastor which is continued in an unbroken line to the present Pope. We are also invited to pray for our Pope and for our Bishops who teach with the authority of Christ... Another key truth that today's Feast invites us to reflect upon is the Church's call to witness to our faith, to evangelise.'

The full text, an accompanying sheet for use in small groups and a free leaflet about how to evangelise everyday are available from: <http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Home-Mission>

Holy Hour



A large number of materials were created before the Papal Visit to support parishes to prepare for it.

The theme of the Visit was 'Heart Speaks Unto Heart' and a holy hour is still available from the Papal Visit website to help people to reflect on the meaning of the theme and also to introduce to the spirituality of Blessed John Henry Newman.

An hour in prayer before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is a response to the invitation that Jesus made to his followers in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before his crucifixion, "Wait here and stay awake with me". (Matthew 26:38). When kept on a Thursday evening, a holy hour is offered as a way of drawing close to Jesus during his time of anguish and agony.

See: <http://www.thepapalvisit.org.uk/2010-Visit/Papal-Visit-Resources/Parish-Resources/Prayer/Holy-Hour>

Called To Serve



The invitation to witness to our faith was issued again and again last September. Our bishops led the way in responding by recording their own video testimonies of when the Lord has spoken to them 'heart to heart'. This month we hear Bishop Richard Moth's (Forces) story of when, in the silence of his heart, he felt the Lord's call to the priesthood. To watch and listen please see: <http://www.thepapalvisit.org.uk/2010-Visit/Cor-ad-Cor-Loquitur-Heart-Speaks-unto-Heart/Bishops-Videos/Bishop-Moth>