

Monday in 27th Week in Ordinary Time (II) - 5th October 2026:

What would St Paul say about our generation? He would likely be critical of anyone who replaces the Gospel of Christ with a Gospel of Nice, a proclamation of the good news stripped of any sense of a conversion to holiness. St Paul had announced the Gospel to the Galatians, but soon as he left, others came and undermined the good news of salvation, trying to get them to return to their old practices. *'But I'm trying to be pastoral'*, is the classic justification. Yes, but mercy without the truth is empty, being nothing more than a platitude that makes us feel better while eating away at our true dignity of being a child of God. *'Divine Mercy'* always involves an acceptance of the cross, a renunciation of oneself for the sake of the gospel and the salvation of souls. There is no new Christianity waiting for us to discover; it's all there in the gospel and the catechism, the fruit of 2,000 years of fruitful discernment that cannot just be thrown out because we think the Christian Life is suddenly difficult, and we now know better.

Tuesday in 27th Week in Ordinary Time (II) – 6th October 2026:

How will the world remember us? As a person concerned with the welfare of others or someone worried only about their own problems. Of course, this question might itself become an unhealthy obsession, worried about our reputation, rather than our character. Reputation is what people think of you, whereas character is what you are. St Paul's reputation is of a persecutor and so when he comes among Christians, they are sceptical of his conversion and his motivation for wanting to join them. In his character, infused with divine grace, he becomes the most effective evangeliser. Every Christian, regardless of our past can produce good fruit. As St Augustine said, *'every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future!'* God's grace can transform us into instruments of his mercy so more people may come to know the truth and salvation.

Opt. Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary – Wednesday 7th October 2026:

The feast remembers the Battle of Lepanto fought between Europe and the Ottoman Turks. Europe was victorious; had they lost it's likely that Europe would have been overrun by the Ottoman Empire. On paper Europe should not have won for they were outnumbered both in ships and men. Europe believed that their victory was aided by prayer; especially by the Rosary. The people of Rome, the night before the battle, went in Procession through the streets praying the Rosary, the gift and prayer of Our Lady which helps us meditate on the gospel of our salvation – it is a prayer all about Christ!

Thursday in 27th Week in Ordinary Time (II) – 8th October 2026:

St Paul is pained to see that the Galatians have forgotten that it is faith in Jesus Christ that brings about salvation, without whom they could never have been grafted onto the covenant that God has made with his holy people. We once took it for granted that the UK was a Christian Country, a society founded on the principals of the gospels. Can we truly say this today? We live in a culture that values '*relativism*', that my choice, my opinion, my truth is what matters and even though this leads to utter confusion, somehow, we say to ourselves that we are free. The mission, work and example of Christians in the community is as important as ever. We must announce the gospel showing people that there is a better way, that the corruption of the God's law and life is not bringing people the happiness and dignity they so desire and long to see fulfilled in their life. Instead, we must preach Christ crucified even though that is a stumbling block to our Jewish cousins and folly to the philosophical ideologies of our age.

Feast of St John Henry Cardinal Newman – Friday 9th October 2026:

Newman was distant from Catholic practices, but overtime was drawn to the Oxford Movement, a High-Church tradition that sought to find Anglicanism ancient roots, which it inevitably found in Catholic theology and practice. Newman felt compelled, therefore, to come home to Rome, being received at Littlemore by Blessed Dominic Barberi. Pope Leo XIII made Newman a Cardinal, but he did not want to be consecrated a bishop. He was a teacher of holiness and that our saintliness is found in a person's heart, the place of our devotion and true measure of evangelisation. The Cardinal's Motto, '*Heart speaks unto heart*', describes our desire to enter communion with the Trinity, accessed in the sacraments, springing forth from Jesus' Sacred Heart.

Opt. Mem. of St Paulinus of York – Saturday 10th October 2026:

Paulinus arrived with St Augustine's mission to England, and he spent 27 years evangelizing the Anglo-Saxons, before being consecrated a bishop. He travelled north and presided at the marriage of Æthelburg (sister of the Kentish King) to King Edwin Northumbria. Through the prayers of Paulinus, Edwin was granted the gift of a daughter and later victory over Wessex and thus converted to Christianity, along with many of his subjects, establishing a Church in York, which became a centre for the Catholic faith in England, united to Rome as its source, something Newman remembered, receiving Holy Communion for the first time on the Feast of St Paulinus.