



Diocese of Northampton

YEAR of PRAYER
and VOCATION
2017/2018



Prayer for September: Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;
Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesus hear me;
Within your wounds hide me;
Separated from you, let me never be;
From the evil one protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And close to you bid me;
That with your saints,
I may be praising you forever and ever.
Amen.

LIVERPOOL 2018

ADOREMUS

“ I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.’ *John 6:51*

One of the worst tortures is to be alone, deeply alone. We humans are made for relationship. To endure prolonged isolation as a prisoner in solitary confinement is anguish for the soul. The Vietnamese Bishop (later, Cardinal) Nguyễn Văn Thuận suffered such a fate when arrested by the North Vietnamese regime in 1975. He was sentenced to prison for 13 years, 9 years of which were in solitary confinement.

He wrote of his torment: ‘alone in my prison cell ... I was isolated, inactive and far from my people’. Accepting this as God’s will brought him deep peace. Amazingly, he was able to smuggle (as ‘medicine’) fragments of unleavened bread and a little bottle of Mass wine. He wrote of the inexpressible joy of celebrating daily Mass: ‘with three drops of wine, a drop of water in the palm of my hand, I celebrated my Mass’. When not in solitary confinement, he was able in secret to distribute Holy Communion



to his fellow Catholic prisoners. To protect the Blessed Sacrament, they made tiny bags from cigarette paper. At night, the prisoners took turns to spend time in adoration. Others were converted through this. Cardinal Van Thuan wrote of this: ‘the strength of the love of Jesus is irresistible. The darkness of the prison turned into light.’

When we visit the Blessed Sacrament, we visit Jesus, God and man, really, wholly and entirely present. His very body, blood, soul, and divinity. Here he keeps most deeply his promise to be with us to the end of time. Pope Francis wrote of ‘the Blessed Sacrament of the infinite love of Christ and His mercy, preserved in our churches, and often abandoned’. Let us not leave him in solitary confinement. Let us visit him with open hearts. In this Month of Prayer before the Eucharist, let us stay with him in simple adoration. Let us, if we can, join the Eucharistic Pilgrimage in Liverpool.

School Feast Days

Please pray for Our Lady’s, Amersham, St Mary’s, Caddington, St Mary’s, Aston le W., Our Lady’s Wellingborough, Our Lady of Walsingham, Corby, St Vincent’s, H’ton Regis and St Michael’s, High Wycombe.

A Practical Suggestion

From 7-9 September is the Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress “Adoremus” in Liverpool. Find out about this event and what ‘adoremus’ means. *Talk to your teacher and class about your research.*