

The week beginning 16th September (Monday)

The Wiseman Spirit

‘Oh how holy would my life be, if, on every occasion, I asked myself the question, How would Jesus have acted.....’ –
Cardinal Wiseman



Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman

In Cardinal Wiseman was a man of many gifts and talents but he excelled in the gift of preaching, lecturing and languages.

It was partly due to these gifts that, in 1850, he was chosen to be the first Archbishop of Westminster following the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy.

Take a moment to reflect on your gifts. What gifts has God given you? What plans may God have in store for you? What may God be preparing you for?



**Heavenly Father,
we thank you for the
gifts and talents you
have blessed us with.
We ask that you would
help us to treasure
them and to use
them for your glory.
In Jesus' name we pray
Amen.**

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On his arrival in England in 1850 Cardinal Wiseman was met with great hostility, because of his faith. It was common for his carriage to be stoned as he was riding through London.

Cardinal Wiseman's response was to write a 30 page pamphlet titled "Appeal to the Reason and Good Feeling of the English people on the subject of the Catholic Hierarchy". It tried to encourage tolerance and respect for everyone, regardless of religious practice.

What response would you make in the face of hostility? Would it be a different response if you prayed for guidance first?



Father, we thank You for fresh grace
and a life full of promise.

Lead us in your ways and fill our
hearts with your love and joy,
Help us to see others as you see
them. Father, we ask that You guide
every decision, response, effort and
conversation we have. May it be all
for Your glory.

Amen

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*The Lord gives strength to his people; the
Lord blesses his people with peace*

Psalm 29:11

The anti-Catholic storm having been calmed, Wiseman made it his business to attempt to restore relations between Catholics and Protestants which had become disturbed by the recent outbursts.

Let us take a moment to reflect on relationships in our own lives which need restoring.



Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace!
That where there is hatred, I may bring love.
That where there is wrong, I may bring the
spirit of forgiveness.

That where there is discord, I may bring harmony.
That where there is error, I may bring truth.
That where there is doubt, I may bring faith.
That where there is despair, I may bring hope.
That where there are shadows, I may bring light.
That where there is sadness, I may bring joy.
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort,
than to be comforted.

To understand, than to be understood.

To love, than to be loved.

For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.

It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.

It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life.

The week beginning 16th September (Thursday)

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"it is a duty and a pleasure to state here that one great Christian scholar did honour to religion and to himself by quietly accepting the claims of science and making the best of them.... That man was Nicholas Wiseman, better known afterward as Cardinal Wiseman."

Andrew White

Wiseman never turned away from the conflict between religion and science. Instead he chose to write a paper and gave many lectures on the connections between science and religion. Thus leading the way for many Christian scientists throughout time such as George Lemaitre (Catholic priest responsible for the Big Bang Theory) and Gregor Mendel (Catholic friar who founded the science of genetics).



Lord, Help us to have the gift of courage just as Cardinal Wiseman had, to speak out for what we know is true. Grant that as we go through life, when we may be tempted to give up, help us to keep going. Grant us a cheerful spirit when things don't go our way. And give us courage to do whatever needs to be done. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The week beginning 16th September (Friday)

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“What a different thing is life with or without the comfort of those resources which education gives! How dreary would the hours often seem, but for the comfort of books!” – Cardinal Wiseman

Cardinal Wiseman understood the value of education, and what it can give to young people. It is easy to forget that having a place in a school and being educated by our teachers is a privilege; a privilege which many children and young people around the world do not have.

When you are in your classes and you are feeling tired and daydreaming, try to reflect on Cardinal Wiseman’s words and what you are gaining from each and every lesson.



A STUDENT'S PRAYER

Most blessed LORD, send the grace of
Your Holy Spirit on me to strengthen
me that I may learn well the subject I am
about to study and by it become a better
person for Your glory, the comfort of
my family, and for the benefit of
Your Church and the world. AMEN.

