

Reading for the Feast of St John Henry Newman

9th October 2026

First reading

2 Timothy 4:1-5

‘Do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.’

Beloved: I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 96(95):1-2a. 2b-3. 7-8a. 10. R3

*Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.
or: Alleluia.*

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. O sing to the Lord; bless his name. Proclaim his salvation day by day. Tell among the nations his glory, and his wonders among all the peoples.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and power; ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name.

Say to the nations, ‘The Lord is king.’ The world he made firm in its place; he will judge the peoples in fairness.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt23:9,10

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have only one Father, and he is in heaven;
you have only one Teacher, the Christ.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:9-17

‘Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

Jesus’ ‘new’ commandment is that we love one another. He assured us that to be like him is to live the Christian life as loving as we possibly can be. To be filled with this blessing means that we will be called to love, to love all, without any exceptions, as Jesus did.

It is the Lord, who summoned us and called us friends, so we hope that the realisation that He befriended each one of us and will encourage us onwards in our mission towards others.. Jesus assures us that he loves us with the same love as his Father loves him! Can we dare to believe that Jesus might want to bless us with this grace? What is it like for us to sit with this statement? Do we know it deep in our hearts? Do we long to know it?

May we recall some time when we realised that we were loved. What is that memory like? Can we recall some time when we realised that we loved someone? What is that memory like? Jesus' 'new' commandment is that we love one another. He assured us that to be like him is to live the Christian life as loving as we possibly can be. To be filled with this blessing means that we will be called to love, to love all, without any exceptions, as Jesus did.

This costly love will bear rich fruit, whether we see it or not. Just so, Jesus' love bears fruit only after his death. We must not be discouraged when our love seems to be wasted. True love never comes to an end (1 Corinthians 13:8). Loving actions are the building blocks of eternal life.