



was an important place to make the case for the continued validity of the Roman Catholic Church, and where he knew he still had a following. He decided he'd make most impact if he published a pamphlet setting out his arguments; it was called the *Decem Rationes* or "ten reasons" why the Catholic Church remained fundamental.

The Catholic Stonor clan supported his ambition and agreed to give him refuge; they had a printing press secretly installed in the attic, and Campion spent some weeks working on his document and getting it printed. The pamphlet was ready for distribution in the summer of 1581: it was handed out around Oxford and, as Campion had intended, it caused a sensation. But it also put the authorities on his tail; in August he was captured in Wantage, and tortured before being tried and executed. The connection with the Stonors was uncovered, and the family were financially penalised and ostracised from political and social life for many years – the price people paid, in those days, for being Catholics. The impact of that, however, has been that Stonor Park has not been changed or remodelled the way it might have been if the family had been wealthier – so the house you see today is very much the house Campion knew.

In recent years Stonor has been the location for movies and TV series including the 1987 James Bond film *The Living Daylights*, and two years later it was the setting for a film version of the Roald Dahl book *Danny, the Champion of the World*. It's regularly used for events including food festivals, antique fairs and outdoor concerts.

For more information, or to plan a visit, see www.stonor.com

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.**

FIRST READING Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

PSALM Psalm 97

RESPONSE **The Lord has shown his salvation
to the nations.**

Or **Alleluia!**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. **R.**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. **R.**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will
keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall
come to him."
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL John 15:9-17

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**If you love me, keep my commandments, says
the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you
another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Acts 1:15-17. 20-26
1 John 4:11-16
John 17:11-19



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SUNDAY BULLETIN

STANDING TESTAMENT TO HISTORY

Stonor Park is a grand country mansion in the English tradition; but unlike many of the homes of privileged people in the south of England, it belongs to a family that remained loyal to the Catholic faith throughout the persecution years after the Reformation, despite the accompanying privations.

The house stands testament to this history, and also to the story of how Catholicism was established in these islands by first becoming intertwined with the ancient pagan beliefs, as directed by Pope Gregory the Great in 601. He called on English Catholics to build their Church on the faiths that had gone before; and at Stonor this direction was taken seriously. The chapel was built on the site of a prehistoric stone circle; in fact one of the stones was used as a foundation stone and can be seen to this day.

It's a warm, red-brick house nestled in the heart of the Chiltern Hills, and it makes a great day out: there's an exciting children's playground, a kitchen garden lined with apple and plum trees, miles of walks, and one of the oldest deer herds in the country grazing in the park. Indoors there's a fabulous art collection that spans from Old Masters and Renaissance bronzes to tapestries and twentieth-century works. Treasures inside the chapel include a series of Stations of the Cross carved out of Red Cross packing boxes during the Second World War by a Polish prisoner of war called Jozef Janas, and later gifted to Stonor by the writer Graham Greene, who was a regular visitor. Also of note is the colourful stained glass *Salvator Mundi* east window by artist Francis Eginton.

But the standout story, especially for Catholic visitors, is that of Edmund Campion, one of the English Martyrs whose feast was celebrated last Tuesday. His life and its end in particular is inextricably linked with Stonor Park, and there's an exhibition dedicated to him there. Campion was an academic at nearby Oxford University in the sixteenth century, but at the Reformation he felt he couldn't go along with the split from Rome. As he was a well-respected teacher, that meant he had to resign his post. He travelled to Rome where he joined the Jesuits and was ordained there in 1581. His plan was to return to Oxford, which he knew

Catholic heritage in Britain



Joanna Moorhead
visits Stonor Park
in Oxfordshire.



9 MAY 2021

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II