

Let's talk Relics

What is a Relic?

A Relic is a part of a saint's body, or an object which has been in contact with their body (like an item of clothing). These are kept in special containers so that people can pray next to them and be reminded of the holy life that the person lived.



Why do we have Relics?

Every Altar in the world has a relic inside it - here at St Chad's we have the Relics of the Blessed Dominic Barberi in the front altar. Above the High Altar are the Relics of St Chad.

There are **two** big reasons for paying special attention to relics:



God often shows that He approves of relics by healing and allowing other good things (we call these "**graces**") to happen when people gather at a relic.

When we **Venerate Relics** we honour in a **ritual act of devotion**.

They are **venerated** to honour the holiness of God.

Relics help us to feel close to a holy person. When we meet holy people, **it makes us want to be holy too!**



This is the case containing the **Relics of St Chad** which is above the old Altar; also known as the High Altar.

Can you have lots of relics in one church?

Here at St Chad's we are very lucky to also hold **Relics of Saint John Henry Newman**. In the Chapel of the Oils you can see his zucchetto (skull cap), ring and a lock of his hair.



Relics of Saint John Henry Newman

