

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor

Registered Charity no. 234025

Father Peter Cryan

Tel: 01625 423576 E-mail: st.edmacc@gmail.com Parish website: <https://www.st-edward-macclesfield.org.uk/>
145 London Road, Macclesfield Cheshire SK11 7RL (For Parking SK11 7RZ)

Christ the King Pr. School Tel: 01625 466833 school website www.christthekingcheshire.sch.uk

Newsletter for the week of 10th July 2022

Sunday Readings Cycle C

Weekday Readings Cycle II

Readings for 15th Ordinary Sunday Deuteronomy 30:10-14; Psalm 68; Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 10:25-37

Saturday 9th July 5.30pm 1st Mass of the 15th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME -Day of Prayer for Seafarers

Sunday 10th July 10.30am 15th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Monday 11th July 9.30am Mass FEAST: ST. BENEDICT, abbot, religious founder, patron of Europe

Tuesday 12th July

Wednesday 13th July 11.30am Mass (St. Henry, married man, ruler)

Thursday 14th July (St. Camillus de Lellis, priest, religious founder)

Friday 15th July 11.30am Mass St. Bonaventure, bishop, religious, doctor of the Church

Saturday 16th July 5.30pm 1st Mass of 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 17th July 10.30am Mass: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings for 16th Ordinary Sunday Genesis 18: 1-10; Psalm 14; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42

A face mask/ covering is **optional** but now **recommended** in the church & community Room. Hand sanitizing continues to be **desirable**. Care for **safe physical distancing** for oneself & fellow worshippers is more than ever needed.!

SEA SUNDAY

Today is Sea Sunday when we remember and pray for all who make their livelihood at sea. Seafarers & fishers play a vital role in our lives, but often work in difficult & hazardous conditions. In the last year more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from relentless noise & pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health. This Sunday the Church prays for all who live and work at sea. Your support makes a difference to seafarers & fishers in need. Collection baskets are at the church entrances to supplement the hundred pounds the parish will send. You may also donate online at www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate & by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5.00

ARRANGEMENTS AT MASS

- church benches & statues restored ; - individual invitation & response at Holy Communion is restored;
- the offertory collection restored; - the offertory procession returns;
- Sunday 10.30am Mass the entrance procession returns; - the non-tactile sign of peace continues.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING

Last Sunday's Offertory £152.00

July S/O £886.00

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

This Mon 11th July 7.30pm meeting has been changed to a ZOOM meeting because of the high Covid 19 infection rate: (1 in 22 in Cheshire East).

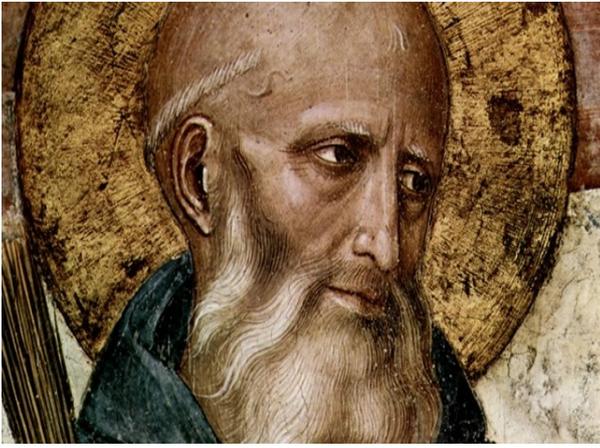
FUNERAL MASS

Wed 27th July 1.00pm Funeral Mass for *Mary Matson*. Cremation at Macclesfield Crematorium. Mary died peacefully at home in her chair a week ago Saturday 2nd July age 97 years. May she rest in peace.

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION

A lot of misinformation & one-sided information has been spread about the US Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v Wade* & return abortion legislation to individual US states. The *Right To Life UK* has a useful article on its website at <https://righttolife.org.uk/news/us-supreme-court-overturns-roe-v-wade>. *Lord Alton* has on : <https://thecritic.co.uk/reversing-a-tragic-half-century-of-lost-lives/> published the key facts about the US court's decision.

GET IN TOUCH QUICKLY –IF YOU ARE SICK If you or your relative enters Macclesfield Hospital let Fr. Peter know as soon as possible tel: 01625 423576 or by e-mail st.edmacc@gmail.com



THE WISDOM of ST. BENEDICT

It's becoming obvious how much our hyper-media age loves gossip, noise, and images that take us on a dizzying marathon, at full speed, away from what is essential. Given this digital onslaught, how can we keep ourselves firmly grounded? How can we find our way and find ourselves?

Many sociologists are looking at the phenomenon of the “acceleration of time,” a major experience in our society that often causes a feeling of suffocation. This constant bombardment of all kinds of demands, this “too much of everything,” actually reveals a real gap to be filled. If we're caught up in the daily spiral of responding more and more to things we consider urgent, but which are superfluous and superficial—in short, if we only focus on our “lack of having and doing”—we lose sight of the essence of our life: We have a “lack of being.”

St. Benedict, the father of monastic life in the West, lived a Rule that can be distilled into something we can live as well. Fifteen centuries later, St. Benedict's wisdom remains amazingly relevant. Among his precepts, there is an astonishingly simple piece of advice for how to stay focused on the essentials.

Regarding all the things that are a means to an end, “man needs measure. He must constantly find a balance between excess and lack,” as *Dom Xavier Perrin, Abbot of Quarr in the Isle of Wight*, explains. St. Benedict points out that we are tempted to go in one direction only, when life demands a constant balancing of efforts and activities. Paradoxically, we can even err by excess in praying too much, fasting too much, or constantly working ourselves to exhaustion.

This is the reason for this key piece of advice that St. Benedict transmitted to monks: **One must always practice balance between two contrary things to remain attentive to what is essential.** In the case of St. Benedict's monks, that means to balance prayer and work, silence and singing, separation from the world and welcome, solitude and common life, as *Dom Xavier Perrin* reminds us.

But how can we do everything in moderation? The practical genius of St. Benedict clearly suggests a guide. The just measure should be neither too high (like imitating certain feats of the Fathers of the desert), nor too low (like the way of life that the decadent monasticism of his time was too easily satisfied with).

Of course, the focus of each day, for monks, is to get closer to God through prayer. Everything is organized around this priority which leads to the essential. If defining priorities in life isn't always the most difficult thing, however, respecting them and organizing ourselves accordingly is a real challenge.

All the disturbances and unforeseen demands of daily life give power to the dictatorship of the urgent, of having and doing. It's hard to imagine not reacting during the day to an important customer's e-mail, for instance, but sometimes giving yourself time to think about the answer can make you much more creative—and therefore, more effective!

According to the Benedictine monk, the more important something is, the less we should rush it.

Although St. Benedict was writing for monks, the same principles apply to the rest of us. Like his monks, our goal is to draw closer to God and to love our neighbour, although with activities more varied and public than Benedictines in an abbey.

Work is important, but equally important is spending time with family and making time for prayer and recollection. Keeping up to date on news and entertainment is only in the “right measure” if we also give ourselves time to reflect on what we've seen, read, and heard, holding on to what is good, true, and beautiful while rejecting whatever could lead us astray.

Avoiding the extremes keeps us literally “centred.” It helps us to remember not just to “do” or “have,” but above all, to “be.” Let's remember this wisdom of St. Benedict in the midst of the disruption of our ordinary lives in this turbulent time.



THE CRYPT OF ST. BENEDICT'S BASILICA IN ITALY, WHERE BY ANCIENT TRADITION HE & HIS TWIN SISTER ST. SCHOLASTICA WERE BORN



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 10th July 2022 - The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Relax & Remember

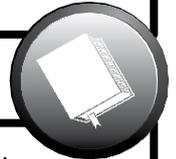
Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for 10th July 2022 (Luke 10:25-37): The Good Samaritan

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, "Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself." "You have answered right," said Jesus. "Do this and life is yours." But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have.' Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?" "The one, who took pity on him," he replied. Jesus said to him, "Go, and do the same yourself."



3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

To many a Jew at the time of Jesus the hatred of the Samaritans was such that a Good Samaritan was a contradiction in terms. It is striking that Luke changes the dialogue about the two commandments. In Mark's and Matthew's accounts Jesus answers the question about the commandments, while in Luke Jesus challenges the questioner, who then himself gives the right answer. It is also striking that, in his reply at the very end, the lawyer, despite Jesus' praise of him, cannot bring himself to pronounce the hated name, 'Samaritan', and says 'the one who...'. The conscientious dilemma of the priest and the Levite reveals a dry humour within this story: if the huddled traveller turns out to be dead, they will incur corpse-defilement and be unable to perform their sacred duties! This legal difficulty makes the Samaritan's attentive generosity all the more poignant, for a Samaritan is free of any such hang-ups. Love shown to the unfortunate and the down-trodden is a major theme in Luke's Gospel. But note also the Samaritan's careful administration of his funds: he gives not a blank cheque but two days' wages, which he will supplement on his return if necessary!

What is the main point of Jesus' story? Is it to be generous or not to be judgmental?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.



*The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph*

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS



Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 10th July 2022

First Reading: *Moses' Final Counsel*

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Moses said to the people: "Obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping those commandments and laws of his that are written in the Book of this Law, and you shall return to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. For this Law that I enjoin on you today is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, 'Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?' Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, 'Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?' No, the Word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance."

The Book of Deuteronomy consists of four great discourses on the Law. This lovely passage concludes the last discourse, after which the death of Moses is recounted. It encourages the people to observe the Law. The Law, it teaches, is not obscure, or difficult, or far away; the people do not need to travel far or search deeply. The author is saying that the Law is Israel's natural inheritance, and so it is natural for them to observe it; it is almost – as we would say – second nature. The Law was God's most precious gift to Israel, a revelation of the divine nature and the divine ways to the world, and so a source of light and life. It revealed how Israel had to behave in order to be God's faithful people. Therefore, observance of the Law was not to be thought of as a tiresome obligation but a response in love to this gift made in love. For Christians the Law is brought to perfection in the incarnate Word of God, who is the perfect revelation of the Father, and is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Israel saw the revelation of God's will, and so of his nature, in the Law; Christians similarly see the full revelation of the glory of God in Christ Jesus.

How can I come to know God's ways? Why not (as a starting point) read John's Gospel (where we discover Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life)?

Second Reading: *Christ the First-born*

Colossians 1:15-20

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God and the firstborn of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers - all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

This is the first of the readings we will hear from Colossians over the coming week; it is a hymn to the pre-eminence of Christ. It falls into two stanzas: the first proclaims Christ's pre-eminence as firstborn in creation, the second his pre-eminence as first-born from the dead. As first-born in creation he is the image of the invisible God, in whom all is created, just as, in the Book of Wisdom, Wisdom is called the image of God, the reflection of the eternal light and the mirror of God's active power. In Wisdom, in Christ, God can be seen. In the second stanza, as first-born from the dead, Christ brings all things to perfection and completion. The hymn is a sort of parabola, starting with God in creation, descending to Christ as Lord of the Church, and returning with Christ to completion in God.

What does this passage teach us about Jesus Christ?

Christ brings all things to perfection and completion.



The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God* w:
www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org