

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; web-site www.christthekingcheshire.sch.uk



Newsletter for the week of 12th January 2025 Sunday Readings Cycle C Weekday Readings Cycle I

Readings for the Baptism of the Lord: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; Psalm 104(103)); Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16,21-22

Psalm's Response: The Lord will bless his people with peace

Saturday 11th Jan 5.30pm 1st MASS of the BAPTISM of the LORD

Sunday 12th Jan 10.30am MASS of the

Monday 13th Jan 9.15am Mass (Optional: St. Hilary, bishop, doctor of the Church)

Tuesday 14th Jan

Wednesday 15th Jan 11.30am Mass

Thursday 16th Jan

Friday 17th Jan 1.00pm Mass (in Hospital Chapel) St. Anthony, abbot

Saturday 18th Jan 10.00am Mass

10.30-11am Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 18th Jan 5.30pm 1st Mass of the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Day of Prayer for World Peace

Sunday 19th Jan 10.30am Mass of the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Day of Prayer for World Peace

Readings for 2nd Ordinary Sunday Isaiah: 62:1-5; Psalm 96(95); 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

CHILDREN'S FIRST SACRAMENTS PROGRAMME

Next Tues 14th Jan ~3.30- 4.45pm (weather permitting) after school in the C. Room 1st Sacrament of Forgiveness programme led by Caroline Mottram Caroline.mottram@taktalk.net & 07953 27687 & Anne O'Brien: panddobrien@btconnect.com & 07774 467317

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Tues 21st Jan 7.00pm Meeting in the Community Room. Agenda items to Chair: Steve James sjames2@btinternet.com Vice-Chair: John Mears john.mears@outlook.com; Sec. Sarina Bloor sarinabloor@live.co.uk

REMEMBER OUR RETIRED & SICK PRIESTS

Next Sunday 19th Jan the annual Collection for the Retired Priests' Fund will be held. Please you continue to build the Fund to help meet the needs of our sick & retired priests? Baskets will be at the church doors. To make a donation online please go to <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund>

FOOD BANK

The Silk Life Food Bank is open again to donate items. It is this time in the New Year when struggling people & families often need the most help. See the lists on posters e.g.: UHT milk, stewed steak, beef casserole, chili con carne, instant mash..

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped because it only makes it worse? Retrouvaille has helped 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the next programme which will be presented on Zoom 27th Feb to 2nd Mar Email: info@retrouvaille.org.uk Call or text 0788 7296983 or visit the web-site www.retrouvaille.org.uk

CRIB & CHRISTMAS TREE

Would volunteers kindly not forget to dismantle and pack away the crib & tree after the end of the Sunday morning Mass today?



PILGRIMS of HOPE A Companion Booklet to Jubilee '25 price £1.00 is on sale at the Piety Stall.

THANK YOU for YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday's Collection £354.61

December S/O £677.00

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

DIARY OF EVENTS

Sun 19th Jan Peace Sunday – Day of Prayer for World Peace

5th March Ash Wednesday

20th April Easter



MESSAGE POPE FRANCIS for DAY OF PRAYER for WORLD PEACE JANUARY 2025

Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace

I. Listening to the plea of an endangered humanity

1. At the dawn of this New Year given to us by our heavenly Father, a year of Jubilee in the spirit of hope, I offer heartfelt good wishes of peace to every man and woman. I think especially of those who feel downtrodden, burdened by their past mistakes, oppressed by the judgment of others and incapable of perceiving even a glimmer of hope for their own lives. Upon everyone I invoke hope and peace, for this is a Year of Grace born of the Heart of the Redeemer!
2. Throughout this year, the Catholic Church celebrates the Jubilee, an event that fills hearts with hope. The “jubilee” recalls an ancient Jewish practice, when, every forty-ninth year, the sound of a ram’s horn (in Hebrew, *jobel*) would proclaim a year of forgiveness and freedom for the entire people (cf. *Lev 25:10*). This solemn proclamation was meant to echo throughout the land (cf. *Lev 25:9*) and to restore God’s justice in every aspect of life: in the use of the land, in the possession of goods and in relationships with others, above all the poor and the dispossessed. The blowing of the horn reminded the entire people, rich and poor alike, that no one comes into this world doomed to oppression: all of us are brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the same Father, born to live in freedom, in accordance with the Lord’s will (cf. *Lev 25:17, 25, 43, 46, 55*).
3. In our day too, the Jubilee is an event that inspires us to seek to establish the liberating justice of God in our world. In place of the ram’s horn, at the start of this Year of Grace we wish to hear the “desperate plea for help” that, like the cry of the blood of Abel (cf. *Gen 4:10*), rises up from so many parts of our world – a plea that God never fails to hear. We for our part feel bound to cry out and denounce the many situations in which the earth is exploited and our neighbours oppressed. These injustices can appear at times in the form of what [Saint John Paul II](#) called “structures of sin”, that arise not only from injustice on the part of some but are also consolidated and maintained by a network of complicity.
4. Each of us must feel in some way responsible for the devastation to which the earth, our common home, has been subjected, beginning with those actions that, albeit only indirectly, fuel the conflicts that presently plague our human family. Systemic challenges, distinct yet interconnected, are thus created and together cause havoc in our world. I think, in particular, of all manner of disparities, the inhuman treatment meted out to migrants, environmental decay, the confusion wilfully created by disinformation, the refusal to engage in any form of dialogue and the immense resources spent on the industry of war. All these, taken together, represent a threat to the existence of humanity as a whole. At the beginning of this year, then, we desire to heed the plea of suffering humankind in order to feel called, together and as individuals, to break the bonds of injustice and to proclaim God’s justice. Sporadic acts of philanthropy are not enough. Cultural and structural changes are necessary, so that enduring change may come about.

II. A cultural change: all of us are debtors

5. The celebration of the Jubilee spurs us to make a number of changes in order to confront the present state of injustice and inequality by reminding ourselves that the goods of the earth are meant not for a privileged few, but for everyone. [\[6\]](#) We do well to recall the words of Saint Basil of Caesarea: “Tell me, what things belong to you? Where did you find them to make them part of your life? ... Did you not come forth naked from the womb of your mother? Will you not return naked to the ground? Where did your property come from? If you say that it comes to you naturally by luck, you would deny God by not recognizing the Creator and being grateful to the Giver”. Without gratitude, we are unable to recognize God’s gifts. Yet in his infinite mercy the Lord does not abandon sinful humanity, but instead reaffirms his *gift* of life by the saving *forgiveness* offered to all through Jesus Christ. That is why, in teaching us the “Our Father”, Jesus told us to pray: “Forgive us our trespasses” (*Mt 6:12*).
6. Once we lose sight of our relationship to the Father, we begin to cherish the illusion that our relationships with others can be governed by a logic of exploitation and oppression, where might makes right. Like the elites at the time of Jesus, who profited from the suffering of the poor, so today, in our interconnected global village, the international system, unless it is inspired by a spirit of solidarity and interdependence, gives rise to injustices, aggravated by corruption, which leave the poorer countries trapped. A mentality that exploits the indebted can serve as a shorthand description of the present “debt crisis” that weighs upon a number of countries, above all in the global South.
7. I have repeatedly stated that foreign debt has become a means of control whereby certain governments and private financial institutions of the richer countries unscrupulously and indiscriminately exploit the human and natural resources of poorer countries, simply to satisfy the demands of their own markets. In addition, different peoples, already burdened by international debt, find themselves also forced to bear the burden of the “ecological debt” incurred by the more developed countries. Foreign debt and ecological debt are two sides of the same coin, namely the mindset of exploitation that has culminated in the debt crisis. In the spirit of this Jubilee Year, I urge the international community to work towards forgiving foreign debt in recognition of the ecological debt existing between the North and the South of this world. This is an appeal for solidarity, but above all for justice.
8. The cultural and structural change needed to surmount this crisis will come about when we finally recognize that we are all sons and daughters of the one Father, that we are all in his debt but also that we need one another, in a spirit of shared and diversified responsibility. We will be able to “rediscover once for all that we need one another” and are indebted one to another.

Wednesday 8th January 2025

THE *Wednesday*
WORD



Encountering Christ

The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families



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.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, 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.

1

Read

The Gospel for Sunday 12th January 2025

THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

Taken from Luke 3:15-16. 21-22 The Baptism of the Lord, Year C

2

Reflect

After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

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

Luke does not tell us who baptised Jesus. In Luke the story of John the Baptist ends with his promise of one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit - then John is arrested. At the baptism itself all Luke's concentration is on the coming of the Spirit. Indeed, it is hardly an account of the baptism at all, for the baptism is only a time marker for the coming of the Spirit when "Jesus, after his own baptism, was at prayer". Jesus' mission begins with the coming of the Spirit. In the same way, Luke's second volume (the Acts of the Apostles) begins with the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. It is as though Luke wants to show the importance of the Spirit from beginning to end of the Christian life. And this is the case: in both books the part played by the Spirit directs all the action. The same is still true in the Christian community today, though sometimes human stubbornness and blindness does its best to impede the leadership and guidance of the Spirit. Most of us are artists at blocking the Spirit when the Spirit's promptings are inconvenient!

What does Luke's account of Jesus' baptism tell us about the Holy Spirit?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

3

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. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, patience, humility, joy, forgiveness, self-control, courage, generosity, faith or something else.

4

Pray for Families

This Wednesday's word for our school families is BAPTISM !

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**The Jubilee
Year of Hope**

Share the Prayer: Why not forward a digital copy of this Parish Version to your friends? Also, to see a sample of your primary school's *Family Version*, visit: wednesdayword.org

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 12th January 2025**



1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

Console my People, Console them

"Console my people, console them," says your God. "Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes." A voice cries, "Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God." Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him; his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.



The reading from Isaiah for today is the joyful song which opens the second part of Isaiah. After the 70 years of the Exile the people of Israel are looking forward to the return to Jerusalem, aware that they are soon to be released from their captivity. They have 'served their sentence' in Babylon and their sin has been forgiven. The Lord will lead them in joy across the great desert as he led them across the desert at Exodus, and will manifest his glory again. For Christians the excitement is that John the Baptist picks up this message as he prepares for the coming of Christ. We can see the fulfilment of this passage from Isaiah in the coming of Christ in history and in his future return in glory. Christ brings about his Kingship of God, but it is for us Christians, as we await his coming again, to show by our lives the glory and the love and the generosity of God to a world which refuses to see the splendour of his coming. This is the daunting responsibility of those who bear the name of 'Christian', who see in Jesus the manifestation of God's reign.

How today do we best manifest God's reign and fulfil our mission as Church?

**Jesus baptism is
the model of your
and my baptism.**



2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Reborn in the Cleansing Waters

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. When the kindness and love of God our saviour were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.



The phrase in this reading which seizes the attention is "he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit". Is this referring to Jesus' baptism or to yours and mine? My guess is that in the original letter it referred to our baptism, but that, by putting it forward on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Church is referring it to Jesus' baptism as the model of your and my baptism. We received in our baptism the same re-birth as children of God and the same renewal in the Holy Spirit as Jesus did in the Jordan. The image of birth from the waters is a fascinating one, and can be taken on many levels: the ocean as the great, turbulent place from which all life derives, the source of life and fertility for plants, animals and humans, the 'waters' of each mammal's birth. By the waters of baptism we are given a wholly new life as adopted sons of God. We have seen how, in Luke's account of the Baptism of Jesus, the coming of the Spirit is the main focus. On us too the Spirit comes at baptism and empowers us to do all kinds of good works beyond any human ability.

How do we see the Holy Spirit at work in our own particular local Church community?

The Wednesday Word Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

**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**