

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 19th January 2025 Sunday Readings Cycle C Weekday Readings Cycle I

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

Psalm's Response: Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

Saturday 18th Jan 5.30pm 1st MASS of the 2nd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME - Day of Prayer for World Peace

Sunday 19th Jan 10.30am MASS of the 2nd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME - Day of Prayer for World Peace

Monday 20th Jan 9.15am Mass (Optional: St. Fabian, pope, martyr) (Optional: St. Sebastian, martyr)

Tuesday 21st Jan (Optional: St. Agnes, virgin, martyr)

Wednesday 22nd Jan 11.30am Mass (Optional: St. Vincent, deacon, martyr)

Thursday 23rd Jan

Friday 24th Jan 1.00pm Mass (in Hospital Chapel) St. Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor of the Church

Saturday 25th Jan 10.00am Mass FEAST: CONVERSION of ST. PAUL the APOSTLE

10.30-11am Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 25th Jan 5.30pm 1st Mass of the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 26th Jan 10.30am Mass of the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Readings for 3rd Ordinary Sunday Isaiah: Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10; Psalm 18; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Peace Sunday 2025

"True peace can only be born from a heart 'disarmed' of anxiety and the fear of war"

Pope Francis

TODAY IS A DAY OF PRAYER for WORLD PEACE

"Forgive us our trespasses, Lord, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

In this cycle of forgiveness, grant us your peace, the peace that you alone can give to those who let themselves be disarmed in heart,

to those who choose in hope to forgive the debts of their brothers and sisters,

to those who are unafraid to confess their debt to you,

and to those who do not close their ears to the cry of the poor." (Pope Francis' prayer at the end of his message)

REMEMBER OUR RETIRED & SICK PRIESTS

This Sunday 19th Jan is the annual Collection for the *Retired Priests' Fund*.

The two retired priests featured on the poster- *Fr. Jim McGrath & Fr. Jim Robinson* – are known to you, for both have celebrated Mass here occasionally, both ordained over 63 years ago. They are now the most senior priests alive in the priests of the diocese. We remember to gratefully thank God for their faithful priestly life & ministry they have given us here in Shrewsbury Diocese and here to us in St. Edwards. Please you continue to help the Fund to help meet the needs of all of our sick & retired priests. Baskets are at the church doors for your donations. To make a donation online please go to <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund>



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Next **Tues 21st Jan** 7.00pm Meeting in the Community Room.

CHILDREN'S FIRST SACRAMENTS PROGRAMME

Tues 21st Jan 3.45- 4.45pm after school in the Community Room 1st Sacrament of Forgiveness programme with *Caroline Mottram* Caroline.mottram@taktalk.net & 07953 27687 & *Anne O'Brien*: panddobrien@btconnect.com & 07774 467317

FOOD BANK

The *Silk Life* Food Bank is open 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..

THANK YOU for YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday's Collection £140.20

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

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

This Extract is the 2nd half (sections III & IV) Pope Francis' Message. For the full message go to <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/>

III. A journey of hope: three proposals

9. If we take to heart these much-needed changes, the Jubilee Year of Grace can serve to set each of us on a renewed journey of hope, born of the experience of God's unlimited mercy. God owes nothing to anyone, yet he constantly bestows his grace and mercy upon all. As Isaac of Nineveh, a seventh-century Father of the Eastern Church, put it in one of his prayers: "*Your love, Lord, is greater than my trespasses. The waves of the sea are nothing with respect to the multitude of my sins, but placed on a scale and weighed against your love, they vanish like a speck of dust*". God does not weigh up the evils we commit; rather, he is immensely "*rich in mercy, for the great love with which he loved us*" (*Eph 2:4*). Yet he also hears the plea of the poor and the cry of the earth. We would do well simply to stop for a moment, at the beginning of this year, to think of the mercy with which he constantly forgives our sins and forgives our every debt, so that our hearts may overflow with hope and peace.

10. In teaching us to pray the "Our Father", Jesus begins by asking the Father to forgive our trespasses, but passes immediately to the challenging words: "*as we forgive those who trespass against us*" (cf. *Mt 6:12*). In order to forgive others their trespasses and to offer them hope, we need for our own lives to be filled with that same hope, the fruit of our experience of God's mercy. Hope overflows in generosity; it is free of calculation, makes no hidden demands, is unconcerned with gain, but aims at one thing alone: to raise up those who have fallen, to heal hearts that are broken and to set us free from every kind of bondage.

11. Consequently, at the beginning of this Year of Grace, I would like to offer three proposals capable of restoring dignity to the lives of entire peoples and enabling them to set them out anew on the journey of hope. In this way, the debt crisis can be overcome and all of us can once more realize that we are debtors whose debts have been forgiven.

First, I renew the appeal launched by Saint John Paul II on the occasion of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 to consider "reducing substantially, if not cancelling outright, the international debt which seriously threatens the future of many nations". In recognition of their ecological debt, the more prosperous countries ought to feel called to do everything possible to forgive the debts of those countries that are in no condition to repay the amount they owe. Naturally, lest this prove merely an isolated act of charity that simply reboots the vicious cycle of financing and indebtedness, a new financial framework must be devised, leading to the creation of a global financial Charter based on solidarity and harmony between peoples.

I also ask for a firm commitment to respect for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death, so that each person can cherish his or her own life and all may look with hope to a future of prosperity and happiness for themselves and for their children. Without hope for the future, it becomes hard for the young to look forward to bringing new lives into the world. Here I would like once more to propose a concrete gesture that can help foster the culture of life, namely the elimination of the death penalty in all nations. This penalty not only compromises the inviolability of life but eliminates every human hope of forgiveness and rehabilitation.

In addition, following in the footsteps of Saint Paul VI and Benedict XVI, **I do not hesitate to make yet another appeal, for the sake of future generations.** In this time marked by wars, let us use at least a fixed percentage of the money earmarked for armaments to establish a global Fund to eradicate hunger and facilitate in the poorer countries educational activities aimed at promoting sustainable development and combating climate change. We need to work at eliminating every pretext that encourages young people to regard their future as hopeless or dominated by the thirst to avenge the blood of their dear ones. The future is a gift meant to enable us to go beyond past failures and to pave new paths of peace.

IV. The goal of peace

12. Those who take up these proposals and set out on the journey of hope will surely glimpse the dawn of the greatly desired goal of peace. The Psalmist promises us that "*steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss*" (*Ps 85:10*). When I divest myself of the weapon of credit and restore the path of hope to one of my brothers or sisters, I contribute to the restoration of God's justice on this earth and, with that person, I advance towards the goal of peace. As Saint John XXIII observed, true peace can be born only from a heart "disarmed" of anxiety and the fear of war.

13. May 2025 be a year in which peace flourishes! A true and lasting peace that goes beyond quibbling over the details of agreements and human compromises. May we seek the true peace that is granted by God to hearts disarmed: hearts not set on calculating what is mine and what is yours; hearts that turn selfishness into readiness to reach out to others; hearts that see themselves as indebted to God and thus prepared to forgive the debts that oppress others; hearts that replace anxiety about the future with the hope that every individual can be a resource for the building of a better world.

14. Disarming hearts is a job for everyone, great and small, rich and poor alike. At times, something quite simple will do, such as "a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, a good deed". With such gestures, we progress towards the goal of peace. We will arrive all the more quickly if, in the course of journeying alongside our brothers and sisters, we discover that we have changed from the time we first set out. Peace does not only come with the end of wars but with the dawn of a new world, a world in which we realize that we are different, closer and more fraternal than we ever thought possible.....

From the Vatican, 8 December 2024

FRANCIS

Wednesday 15th 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 19th January 2025

THE WEDDING-FEAST AT CANA

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus said, "Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim. "Draw some out now," he told them, "and take it to the steward." They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, "People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now." This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

Taken from John 2:1-11 The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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.

Year C is the year of Luke's gospel, but we start with this reading from John which recounts the symbolic beginning of Jesus' ministry. It is full of riches. After the first reading from Isaiah it is impossible not to see this 'sign' (as John calls it) as a sign of that final wedding-feast of God and his people. Furthermore, in Jewish thought, water represents the Law: in an arid land water is the sign of life and is precious – just so, the Law of God is precious and gives life. Jesus transforms this water of the Law into the wine of the New Covenant – and in such generous quantities: over one hundred gallons of wine! Then there is Mary's part: Jesus says his Hour has not yet come (and the reader knows that the Hour of Jesus will be the moment of his exaltation at the Cross and Resurrection), but Mary's confident plea is a reminder to us of the power of her intercession. She will be mentioned no more in this gospel till she is present at the Cross, sharing the passion of her Son and joined to the Beloved Disciple to form the first Christian community.

Why did Jesus choose to do this as his first miracle?

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 JOY!

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 19th January 2025**



1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

The Wedding-Feast of the Lord

About Zion I will not be silent; about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.



The marriage relationship is perhaps the most intimate of the personal relationships we know, designed to become ever deeper and more absorbing. Even the relationship of mother to child cannot equal it. So in the Bible the relationship of the Lord to his people is likened to the relationship in marriage. But, like many human marriage relationships, it went through bad patches. Israel was so persistently unfaithful to the Lord that eventually it seemed that the Lord abandoned her to those with whom she had 'prostituted' herself. This could not be permanent; Israel could not go on being called 'Abandoned' and 'Forsaken'; the past would be forgotten. After the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, Isaiah prophesies the final wedding in terms of the unalloyed joy of a freshly wedded couple. So in the gospels, Jesus uses the figure of the final wedding-feast, and the image of himself as the bridegroom in the joy of the festival. The Lord always gives us another chance, an unalloyed welcome to his feast.

What does it mean to liken our relationship with God to the relationship between a couple in marriage?

I can rejoice in gifts which God has given to me, but only if simultaneously I think of all the gifts which others have and I lack.



2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gifts of the Spirit

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.



At the beginning of each year the Church gives us some six Sundays of readings from Paul's first letter to that troubled community, the Corinthians. Corinth was a thriving port-town of southern Greece, with a very varied community, rich and poor, academics and dockers. There were no clear human leaders in the Church community, and reliance on the Spirit for guidance in the problems of living as Christians did not always seem to provide a solution. The readings on these three Sundays show Paul trying to help. Yes, the Spirit is at work in the community in many different ways. There are many different gifts, all necessary for this varied community. The trouble seems to have been that each person valued their own contribution so much that the gifts of others seemed insignificant. Paul's stress on the variety of ways in which the Spirit works to build up a community gives us the occasion to reflect on the variety of gifts which the Spirit has poured out on our own Christian community, and on every individual member of it. I can rejoice in gifts which God has given to me, but only if simultaneously I think of all the gifts which others have and I lack.

What gifts do we need in a Christian community for its full flourishing under God? How do we help all in the community realise the diversity of gifts?

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**