

## The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor

Registered Charity no. 234025

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Newsletter for the week of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023      *Sunday Readings Cycle A*      *Weekday Readings Cycle I*

*Readings of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Sunday: Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20; Ps. 127; 1Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30*

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 5.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> MASS of the 33<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME      *Prayer for Safeguarding*

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 10.30am MASS of the 33<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME      ” ” ”

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Nov      *The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 11.30am *St. Cecilia, virgin, martyr*

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov      *(Optional: St Clement I, pope, martyr)(Optional: St. Columban, abbot, missionary)*

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 11.30am *Ss. Andrew Dung-Lac, priest & Companions, martyrs*

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 10.00am *(St. Catherine of Alexandria, virgin, martyr)*

*10.30-11am Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 5.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of the Solemnity: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 10.30am Mass of the Solemnity: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

*Readings of Christ the King Solemnity: Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17; Ps. 22; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28; Matt 25:31-46*

### WHY SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY?

St. Edward's is a place where anyone can come, feel welcomed, loved, and part of a community. With that openness comes responsibility, especially towards safeguarding vulnerable people. To truly create places that are safer for all, we need to create open cultures where abuse has nowhere to hide. To do this we need to ensure that everyone in our church is aware of the part they each have to play in supporting the safeguarding arrangements we have in place: to be alert to the risks of abuse both from within and outside the church. *Safeguarding Sunday* highlights too all the good work being done behind the scenes by our parish safeguarding representatives *Lesley & Geoff Kipling* and to show each other and the community at large our commitment to protecting vulnerable people and creating safer cultures & communities for all both now & in the future.

### CLERGY EDUCATION & TRAINING FUND COLLECTION

At a time of shortages of Priests, it is a blessing that we have men studying for the Priesthood & Diaconate. This is good news for the people of the Diocese, but the training is expensive – for example, it costs around £30,000 a year (about £80 a day) to train a Seminarian, and £4,000 a year to train a Deacon. The *Clergy Education & Training Fund* helps meet these costs, as well as the ongoing training needs of Clergy, and in certain instances the cost of training Laity. Use an envelope if you wish to give with *Gift Aid* & collection baskets are at the Church entrances

### WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Today (Sunday) at 12noon *Alba Rose Ward* is baptised & welcomed into the community of Jesus' disciples.

### CRAFT CLUB

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 12.15- 2.30pm** *Craft Club* in the Community Room. *Craft Club* products are on display in the Community Room for sale. Put money in the plastic container on table to go to two *Craft Club* chosen charities.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday £284.26

### CARITAS at CHRISTMAS APPEAL

*"Without the support, I simply wouldn't still be here."* **Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec** collection for *Caritas Shrewsbury*. 100% of your donations go to those in the most vulnerable situations within the diocese to receive crisis food vouchers & practical support a.s.a.p. when it is most needed. Is someone in need of assistance, then please speak to *Trish Spencer*, deputy CEO. For more information & to donate online go to: <https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk>

### TOY SUNDAY

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Dec** An invitation to bring new unwrapped toys & games for underprivileged children & suitable presents for homeless 16-18yr olds (e.g. non-perishable gifts like toiletries) for distribution by the NSPCC

**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](mailto:st.edmacc@gmail.com)

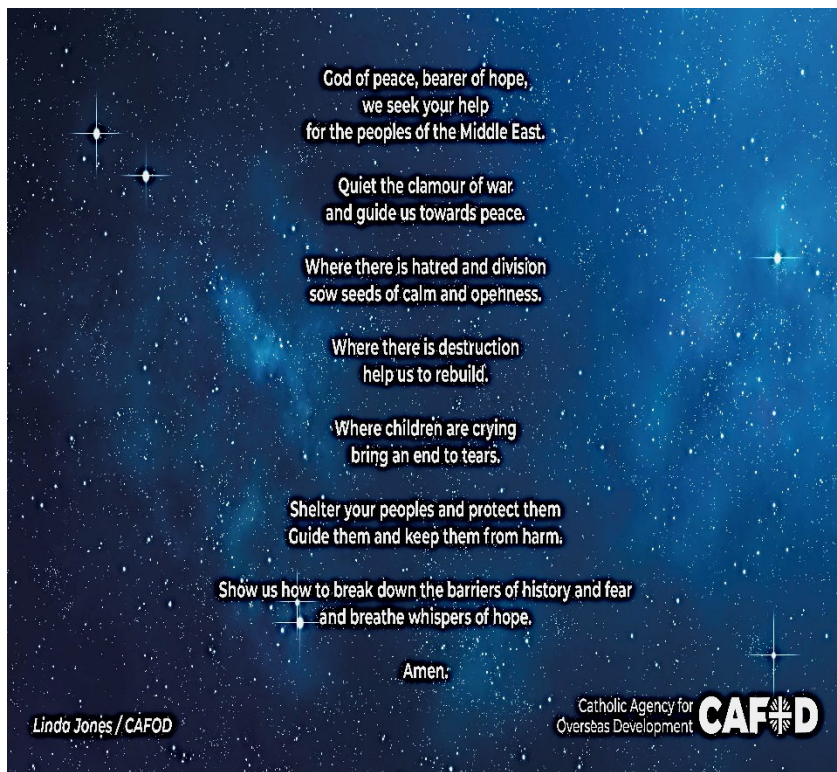
### DIARY of EVENT

- **Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent- start of Year B Sunday Readings.

- **Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

- **Sun 24<sup>th</sup>/ Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec** Christmas: 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of Xstmas Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm & Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Xstmas Day Mass 10.00am

## CAFOD's Response in the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis:



We have all been shocked and saddened by the devastating conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. CAFOD's local partners in Gaza and southern Israel are now actively responding and providing urgent humanitarian aid to those in need.

We have sent **£100,000** to our local partner, *Catholic Relief Services (CRS)* who are already supporting 10,000 families with cash vouchers. Families are using these to purchase essentials such as food and water as well as mattresses and bedding from wholesale suppliers in Gaza.

We have committed **£50,000** to our local partner, *Culture and Free Thought Association*, who are sheltering 300 people in their centres in Gaza and are supporting them with cash assistance, food, water and offering counselling to those dealing with losing their loved ones,

their homes and their livelihoods.

We have released **£10,000** to our local partner *Sadaka Reut*, working in southern Israel with local emergency support groups providing psychological support, basic humanitarian assistance and building emotional resilience.

Sadly, staff and volunteers in our partner organisations have already lost their lives and tragically news has reached us this morning that more local staff in Gaza have been killed. They tell us that your support and your prayers of solidarity for those putting their lives at risk to help during this crisis are needed now more than ever.

We would be grateful for your help in letting your parishioners know how they can support our appeal.

To donate to *CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal* at <https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help> or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers."





Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - The Thirty Third 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

The Gospel for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21): A Story about Talents

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said, "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things; I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

### 3 Reflect

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

*It is encouraging to think of all the talents which friends and neighbours have and which I don't have. It is all part of the gifts of the Spirit, which Paul sees as making up the whole Body of Christ. Everyone has a special contribution to make. As for me, it is extraordinary that God created me with all my twists, defects, fears and failures and it is precisely because of those boils, sores, abscesses that God loves me, helps me and guides me to work out my salvation. And it is just possible that there may be friends who can think that God has given me talents which make a tiny contribution to the happiness and goodness of the world. In the longer version of this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus mentions a man with just one talent who hides it in the ground: the master calls him "wicked and lazy" and has him thrown out. Why is he so severely treated? This is surely someone who resolutely turns his (or her) back on the goodness she (or he) has received and refuses to work with it for the Lord's purposes or for anyone else's. Such a talent goes to waste and merely rusts and corrupts. If I know anyone like that, it is just worth asking whether, with infinite and patient kindness, I can help that person to release their talent and bring it to blossom.*

*Just think for a moment: what is your best talent? Is it a gift, skill or humour which brings joy and happiness to those around you?*

*Are you like the man who buried his talent in the ground, or do you use this skill or gift or wisdom to bring joy to others?*

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 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## First Reading: *A Woman about the House*

Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31

A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her; from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax; she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff; her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor; she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

*The gospel parable is about a man who is an astute administrator, and this first reading delicately pairs it with a woman who is a shrewd businesswoman, running her household and her cottage industry capably, wisely and generously in reverence for the Lord. The Bible is often felt to be unduly male-oriented (an accusation often made also against the Church), but this was the normal state of society in biblical times. Nevertheless, a succession of remarkable women appear in the pages of the Old Testament; they are real partners to their husbands, and they often provide the motive force in the pursuit of the fulfilment of God's promises. In the New Testament too, besides Mary and Jesus' female followers in the gospels, we see Jesus valuing women. Particularly the playful scenes between Jesus and the Samaritan woman and the Canaanite (or Syro-Phoenician) woman spring to mind. In Paul's letters and apostolate women play important roles, even leadership roles, working with Paul to establish his communities – women like Chloe, Phoebe, Junia. Indeed, the first convert to Christianity in Europe was a woman, Lydia.*

*What gifts do I have that (like the gifts of the woman in Proverbs) give praise to the Lord?*

## Second Reading: *A Thief in the Night*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is,' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

*Paul had obviously taught the new Christians at Thessalonika that Christ had conquered death, so that death had no more grasp on Christians. So they were puzzled that Christians nevertheless died. Paul explains in his letter to them that Christians who have died will be the first to rise up and join the returning Christ in his triumphant procession. Only after them will come those who are still alive. However, Paul's principal stress is on the unpredictability of the Day of the Lord, that final day when the Lord will set right all injustice. It makes little difference whether I imagine meeting the Lord on the great Day of the Final Judgement, or meeting with the Lord personally at my own death. I know that it is very unlikely that I will be ready ("if only I had just a little more time to prepare!" is my constant excuse) and that I will not be in a fit state to face the glorious, pure wonder of divine love. The Day will come as unexpectedly as a thief in the night or the pains of childbirth, with that same finality and inescapability.*

*How may I best prepare for the coming of the Day of the Lord?*

“ That final day when the Lord will set right all injustice. ”

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God w:*  
[www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org) e: [info@wednesdayword.org](mailto:info@wednesdayword.org)