

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor  
Registered Charity no. 234025

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Newsletter for the week of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Sunday Readings Cycle B

Weekday Readings Cycle II

Readings for 26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday: Numbers 11; 25-29; Psalm 18; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 5.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of the 26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 10.30am Mass of the 26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept St. Jerome, priest, doctor of the Church

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct St. Theresea of Lisieux, religious

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 11.30am Mass (Optional: Guardian Angels)

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 1.00pm Mass (in MDGH Hospital Chapel) St. Francis, deacon, religious founder - Cafod Harvest Fast Day

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 10.00am Mass (Optional: St. Faustina Kowalska)

10.30-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 5.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of the 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 10.30am Mass of the 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings for 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday: Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 127; James Hebrews 2:9-11; Mark 10:2-16

### CAFOD HARVEST FAST APPEAL



Next Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Oct *Daniel*, a young man in Goma in Eastern D. R. Congo, is carving a better future for his family with carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD funded training centre. This centre supports people in Goma to learn life-changing new skills. Give to CAFOD next week and you'll fund training, tools, equipment & safe spaces so more people like *Daniel* can learn new skills & fulfil their God-given potential. Take away an envelope from church today. If you wish give with *Gift Aid* next weekend. You can give online with the new virtual envelope at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or you can scan the QR code on the posters.

### PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Today Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept** after the 10.30am Mass. The PPC Chair for '23-'24, Caroline Mottram will give a report of the PPC & parish activities for the last year. There is an opportunity to review & comment on the parish financial situation for the last year. Important announcements & a decision to be made: including what to do when we have 3 nominations for 2 PPC places..

### WEEKDAY MASS

With the return of the cold weather, weekday Mass from next Wednesday returns to being celebrated in the Community Room.

### FUNERAL

**Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Oct.** 1.30pm Funeral Service for *Richard Stringer* who died peacefully at Mount Hall Care Home, Bollington Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. age 81 years with interment at the Macclesfield Crematorium 2.45pm. Refreshments afterwards at Sutton Hall.

### LECTURE ON THE HARM OF ASSISTED SUICIDE

**Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 7:30pm - 9pm** in Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel, Portland Street, Manchester M1 4PH. The P. M. Keir Starmer has promised a vote on **Assisted Suicide**. Lord Falconer, in the House of Lords, has already tabled a Private Members' Bill. The speaker, *Dr Dominic Whitehouse*, a palliative care consultant currently working in a hospice in Sussex, will explain why a change in the law would be harmful to patients, doctors and to society.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday's Collection £299.60

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

### DIARY OF EVENTS

**Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Oct** Solemnity of St. Edward the Confessor & Parish Celebration: Tea & Cake after Sunday 10.30am Mass

**Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Oct** World Mission Sunday with second collection

**Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Oct – Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Nov** 1/2 term break for schools

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Nov** Solemnity of All Saints – Holiday of Obligation

**Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Nov** PPC meeting

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Nov** Start 10am Mass-12.30pm Seminar for Mass Readers & Minsters of Holy Communion on the New Lectionary



## A Pastoral Letter On the Pilgrim Path of the Shrewsbury Diocese Sunday 29th September 2024

My dear brothers and sisters,

I write at the end of a pilgrimage which brought several thousand people from across our Diocese to Saint Anthony's, Wythenshawe. What drew so many was the witness of a teenager, Blessed Carlo Acutis. A young man born in London, who grew up in Italy and died suddenly of leukaemia in 2006. Carlo told his parents that he was offering what he had to suffer for the Pope, the Church and *"to skip purgatory and go straight to Heaven"*! Pope Francis declared him among the Blessed in 2020 and sets his example before us. In 15 short years, Carlo reached the perfection of love for which you and I must still strive.

The pilgrimage of the relic of his heart reminded us once again that what speaks most eloquently to this and every generation, is the witness of holiness. Carlo described this as: *"Always to be united with Jesus, this is the programme of my life."* And our society will be evangelised anew, as our land was first evangelised by the witness of saints, who allow the Gospel to be seen by their striving to draw closer and closer to Jesus Christ truly and powerfully present in His Eucharist. It is the same witness many wait to see in you and me! Speaking via a phone link, Blessed Carlo's mother reminded us holiness is the only worthwhile goal – namely being united with Christ now and for all eternity. Carlo expressed this with his wonderful directness when he said: *"You, too, can be a saint. But you need to want it with your whole heart, and, if you do not yet desire it, ask the Lord for it with insistence."*

When I spoke to more than 500 of our young people in Wythenshawe, I noted that we often picture saints in times different to our own, so it's startling to find someone reaching the heights of holiness wearing trainers, liking Nutella and using the internet to good effect! A teenager so close to our time that Carlo Acutis is indistinguishable in dress and tastes from many who grew up in the 21st Century and points us now to the one goal of everlasting happiness. This helps us understand the hard words of the Gospel today in which Jesus urges us to let go of everything that prevents us finding the life and happiness which the saints now share<sup>i</sup>. And this led us to pray at the beginning of Mass, for an abundance of grace that we may hasten to attain the treasures of Heaven<sup>ii</sup>.

Blessed Carlo tells us, *"The only thing we must really fear is sin ..."* and he calls us to go to Confession frequently; to come wholeheartedly to Mass and Holy Communion every Sunday and as often as we can on other days; and invites us to allow this Eucharistic Love to overflow into the details and duties of our lives, especially in concern for the salvation of souls and in care for the poorest and most vulnerable. Looking at the Tabernacle he asks us to reflect *"We are more fortunate than those who lived 2,000 years ago in contact with Jesus ... It is enough (for us) to visit the closest church!"* And he shares the secret of his own path to holiness using a vivid image: *"If we go out in the sun, we get a suntan ... but if we get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints."*

These simple, striking words of a young man 'forever blessed' struck me, when I saw our Shrewsbury Diocese in pilgrimage drawn from every background, age, and walk of life united in faith and prayer; confessing their sins and renewed in holiness and gathered to celebrate and adore the Most Holy Eucharist which Blessed Carlo described as: *"Truly the Heart of Jesus."* This is how the Second Vatican Council pictured the Church on her pilgrim path, passing through dangers and difficulties, yet gifted with all the means of salvation<sup>iii</sup>. The same Council taught, we must now strive for the goal which the saints have reached, for: *"The Church in which we are all called in Christ Jesus, and in which by the grace of God we acquire holiness, will receive its perfection only in the glory of heaven"*<sup>iv</sup>. May it be so for us, who have been given more than 15 years to strive for this goal!

The days of pilgrimage to Wythenshawe brought us back to the heart of the Church's life and mission; and Blessed Carlo's heart pointed us to the one thing necessary<sup>v</sup>. The Diocese has been gifted by the Bishop of Assisi with two relics of Blessed Carlo, one to remain in Wythenshawe and the other for the mission of our Eucharistic Shrine at Saint Joseph's, Stockport. May the radiant witness of his short life encourage us; and may Blessed Carlo Acutis pray for us as we continue on our earthly pilgrimage.

**Mark**

Bishop of Shrewsbury

<sup>i</sup> Cf. Mk. 9: 45-50 ;    <sup>ii</sup> Cf. Collect for 26th Sunday of the Year

<sup>iii</sup> Cf. Unitatis Redintegratio No 4 ; <sup>iv</sup> Lumen Gentium No. 48 ; <sup>v</sup> Cf. Lk. 10: 42



# 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 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024

#### HELPS AND HINDRANCES

John said to Jesus, “Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.” But Jesus said, “You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us. If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward. But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.”

**Taken from Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48 The Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

# 2

## Reflect

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

This part of Mark’s Gospel is a collection of sayings about following the Lord, and in this Gospel we are presented with a rich insight into two distinct areas of discipleship. The first little story tells us that we must accept good wherever we can find it, not only in our own group and where we expect it to be. It is the same lesson that is presented in this Sunday’s first reading. The Spirit of God is at work not only in Catholics, not only in Christians, not only even in explicit believers. As the Second Vatican Council taught so strongly, the Holy Spirit is at work too in those who are seeking the Kingdom under signs and symbols. They can even be better people and better Christians than we who sometimes rely too comfortably on our membership of Christ’s Church! Secondly, the gospel provides some striking and urgent sayings about ‘obstacles’, literally trip-stones which makes people fall over. These vivid and dire warnings are about leading other believers into evil and about the trip-stones in ourselves, the disordered desires, that lead us into evil. Jesus’ sayings here must be taken with the utmost seriousness – but not literally (Jesus is speaking graphically to make us listen, and is not advocating self-mutilation!). **What are the qualities of the Kingdom that we need to become models of Christ for other peoples?**

*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 GOODNESS !**

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.**

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 29th September 2024**



**1st Reading: Numbers 11:25-29**

## Openness to the Spirit

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again. Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, "Look," he said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, "My Lord Moses, stop them!" Moses answered him, "Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!"



This is a curious little scene, and the corresponding scene in the gospel is no less curious. It is part of the story of Israel's wanderings in the desert. Moses' father-in-law wisely suggests that Moses should appoint assistants to deal with all the complaints, quarrels and lawsuits among the people. So some of the divine spirit of judgment which was on Moses now descends upon these seventy elders. However, there seems to have been some sort of irregularity in the appointment of Eldad and Medad, which leads to objections even from Joshua, Moses' faithful servant and successor. Nevertheless, the message finally given is that the Spirit of God is to be welcomed wherever it may be found. This story is a valuable reminder that the Spirit of God is greater than human regulations and limitations, and that the Spirit crosses human boundaries. The wisdom of God may be found outside the Church; genuine holiness may there too. We must respect the freedom of God to give what he wills where he wills it, and we must always be open to learn from those who do not belong to our own tradition. **Where are true holiness and wisdom found?**

**Wealth can blind the wealthy to the needs and susceptibilities of others.**



**2nd Reading: James 5:1-6**

## The Dangers of Wealth

An answer for the rich. Start crying; weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting; your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them - listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.



This final reading from the Letter of James is a denunciation of the selfishness of the rich; it is in the style of the Old Testament prophets and contains a wealth of daunting imagery. This strength of expression is somewhat surprising in the early decades of Christianity, for it seems that wealth was not one of the temptations which seduced the early Christians. There do seem to have been rich Christians in the community at Corinth, but on the whole the Christians seem to have belonged to the lower classes and slaves. James, the presumed author of the letter, was the leader of the Jerusalem community. The Church at Jerusalem seems to have been in chronic financial difficulty: Paul was asked to help it out, and took a collection from the gentile Churches to Jerusalem. In the early second century the pagan Celsus denounces Christians as ignorant and ill-educated, but he does not denounce them for their wealth. However, these warnings from the author of our letter are still relevant today. It is still tempting to ease cash-flow by postponing payment of bills! The power and immunity given by wealth can still have a corrosive influence which blinds the wealthy to the needs and susceptibilities of others. **Is wealth necessarily a distraction from our true goals as followers of Christ?**

**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**