

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor

Registered Charity no. 234025

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Newsletter for the week of 4th August 2024

Sunday Readings Cycle B

Weekday Readings Cycle II

Readings for 18th Ordinary Sunday: Exodus 16:2-4,12-15 ; Psalm 77; Ephesians 4:17,20-24; John 6:24-35

Saturday 3rd Aug 5.30pm 1st Mass of the 18th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 4th Aug 10.30am Mass of the 18th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Monday 5th Aug (Optional: Dedication of St. Mary Major Basilica)

Tuesday 6th Aug FEAST: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Wednesday 7th Aug 11.30am Mass (Optional: Ss Sixtus II, pope, & 4 deacon companions, martyrs)

Thursday 8th Aug St. Dominic priest, religious founder

Friday 9th Aug 1.00pm Mass (in Macclesfield Hospital Chapel) FEAST: St. TERESA BENEDICTA, religious, martyr

Saturday 10th Aug 10.00am Mass FEAST: ST. LAURENCE, deacon, martyr

10.30-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10th Aug 5.30pm 1st Mass of 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 11th Aug 10.30am Mass of the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings for 19th Ordinary: 1 Kings 19:4-8 ; Psalm 33; Ephesians 4:30-5:2; John 6:41-51

FOOD BANK APPEAL

We perhaps may think that the *Cost of Living Crisis* has disappeared but the truth is the number of people and families who are seeking food from the *Silk Life Food Bank* is the same as ever. During school holidays quite a number of children who depend for their only full meal each day by having their lunch in school may go to bed without a proper meal for the next month. Please let us try to help less those less fortunate than ourselves by bringing items for the Food Bank See posters or give: *UHT milk, stewed steak, beef casserole, chili con carne, instant mash or chicken curry – much needed baby items.*

PETITION TO END the 2-CHILD BENEFIT CAP

Many people agree that families with more than 2 children are struggling in the “*Cost of Living Crisis*” which is still with us and yet are deprived of the support that Child Benefit would give them for the extra children in their families. You can take away a petition card sponsored by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) fill it in & post it off to add your voice calling for change. The Petition Cards are the church entrances.

CLERGY NEWS

There is some news about clergy appointments in the area and some news about Fr. Peter Burke: Fr. Anthony McGrath who has been at Christ Church, Heald Green will now move in September to St. Teresa’s Wilmslow looking after the parishes of Wilmslow, St. Pius X Alderley Edge & St. Benedict’s Handforth with the assistance of Fr. Moses Ibeh; Fr. Louis Charuvila Pappy presently at St. Ann’s Cheadle Hulme will move to Christ Church Heald Green in September to look after Heald Green, St. Chad’s Cheadle & St. Ann’s Cheadle Hulme with the assistance of Fr. Samuel Libu Vilayil Babu; Fr. Peter Dutton presently at St. Mary’s Middlewich is retiring and Fr. Vijay Bhupathi will look after St. Mary’s Middlewich & St. Margaret’s Centre Holme’s Chapel. Fr. Matthew Thomas, I understand from him, will be away for all of September and afterward will return to take another appointment in the Diocese. There are no clergy moves in Macclesfield. Fr. Peter Burke had suffered a heart attack while he was in Shrewsbury & is transferring to another hospital for a procedure to bring recovery & to return after recuperation to St. Alban’s.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday Collection £337.40

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

Thurs 15th Aug The Assumption of Our Lady – Holiday of Obligation

Thurs 5th Sept Christ the King Pr. Sch reopens (All Hallows College opens Tues 3rd Sept Yrs.7&12; Wed 4th Sept all students)

Tues 10th Sept PPC meeting 7.00pm in the Community Room

Sun 27th Aug Nominations open for 2 PPC members

Sat 21st Sept PPC nominations announced

Sun 15th Sept Nominations close for 2 PPC members

Sun 29th Sept Parish Annual General Meeting

Sun 13th Oct Solemnity of St. Edward the Confessor – Parish Feast

The FOUR DEACONS martyred with Pope Sixtus II in A.D.258 & the DEACON St. LAWRENCE 4 days later

This is a week for deacons with the 4 who were arrested on 6th August 158 A.D celebrating Mass with Pope Sixtus and martyred immediately. Then 2 days later the deacon Lawrence who was the treasurer of the diocese of Rome and revered for helping the poor.. We have our own deacons in the area. The best know are Rev. John McKay , the son-in law of Margaret Birch, who ministers in St. Peter's Hazel Grove & works is a consultant doctor in Macclesfield Hospital and Rev. György Zörényi who ministers in St. Alban's and is a medical research scientist.. But what are deacons?

What are deacons and what distinguishes them from priests?



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

Even though they may look alike and share many responsibilities, deacons are not priests. Sometimes going to Mass can be confusing for a Catholic unfamiliar with deacons. Both clergy members wear vestments at Mass and in some dioceses, both even wear Roman collars. To make it even more confusing, often deacons as well as priests wear clerical shirts.

However, while deacons and priests may sometimes appear to be the same, their roles in the Church are very different.

The United States Conference of Bishops

provides a succinct definition of a deacon and his particular role in the Church:

"A deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church. There are three groups, or 'orders,' of ordained ministers in the Church: bishops, presbyters and deacons. Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world of Christ, who came 'to serve and not to be served.' The entire Church is called by Christ to serve, and the deacon, in virtue of his sacramental ordination and through his various ministries, is to be a servant in a servant-Church."

Deacons have been around the Church since the very beginning, frequently being referenced in the New Testament. The most well-known reference to deacons in the New Testament is from the Acts of the Apostles. It reads, *"And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty'"* (Acts 6:2-3).

From the very beginning deacons were known to serve and assist the priests and bishops in their sacramental ministry. Practically speaking deacons can do many activities that priests participate in. Deacons can baptize, preach during Mass, officiate at a Catholic wedding, and even run a parish (with the permission of the local bishop). Deacons can also lead communion services that often look and feel like a Catholic Mass.

Deacons, however, cannot consecrate the Eucharist or hear confessions. They cannot administer the sacraments of Confirmation or Anointing of the Sick.

Simply put, deacons are meant to be servants, assisting the parish priest (and Church) in whatever way he can. All priests and bishops are also deacons, because the diaconate is the first of the three stages of Holy Orders. Deacons who go on to be ordained priests are known as transitional deacons. They are vowed to celibacy. Men who serve in the permanent diaconate — meaning they will not, as a rule, proceed to priestly ordination — may be married at the time of their ordination, but may not remarry if their spouse passes away.

The *permanent diaconate* is a specific vocation in the Church, one that depends on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This what Revs. John McKay & György Zörényi are:- married permanent deacons with families. God is the one who calls deacons to service in the Church through the sacrament of Holy Orders. It is important to remember that it is not something that is gained by going through the ranks of the Church, but something that is given (and received) through the grace of God.





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 4th August 2024 THE BREAD OF LIFE

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered, "I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?" Jesus gave them this answer, "This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent." So they said, "What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat." Jesus answered, "I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "give us that bread always." Jesus answered, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst."

Taken from John 6:24-35 The Eighteenth 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.

After the account of the miraculous feeding of the five thousand, Jesus explains the significance of the event. First he stresses that its importance lies not in the material food that goes bad, but in that of which the food is a sign. The people must understand the sign-value of the food, its ultimate fulfilment in Jesus of the manna in the desert: we do not live by bread alone but by every word which comes from the mouth of God. The whole explanation is built on a contrast between Moses and Jesus, between the food given by Moses and that given by Jesus. Jesus is the bread of life as the eucharistic bread, and also as revelation. We often concentrate exclusively on the eucharistic meaning of this chapter. This introduction to the Bread of Life discourse, however, emphasises that it is belief and understanding which is first required, and only then does Jesus begin to explain the deeper meaning of the bread. Jesus gives the explanation of what he has done in the synagogue at Capernaum, and – after the manner of Jewish sermons of the time – each phrase of the scriptural quotation from the Book of Exodus is commented on in turn: Bread from heaven / he gave them / to eat.

If this miraculous feeding is a sign, what is it a sign of?

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 NOURISH!

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 4th August 2024**



1st Reading: Exodus 16:2-4.12-15

Manna from Heaven

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, "Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our heart's content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!" Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them in this way to see whether they will follow my law or not. I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, 'Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your heart's content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God.'" And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, "What is that?" not knowing what it was. "That," said Moses to them, "is the bread the Lord gives you to eat."



The journey of the people of Israel through the desert of Sinai is regarded in the Bible from two quite different angles. From one angle it is the time of perfect harmony between God and his people, the honeymoon period when God was with his people Israel and when the people walked with him, trusting him on their journey in the wilderness. From the other angle it is seen as the beginning of a murmuring against the Lord, which will grow into the infidelities which eventually will lead to Israel's punishment by the exile to Babylon. This account of bread from heaven shows both Israel's impatience with the Lord and the Lord's supreme patience with Israel. The story demonstrates how God cared for his people and provided them with food during a generation's wandering in the savagely inhospitable desert of Sinai - a huge, infertile expanse of rock and sand, where virtually nothing grows. This care is focussed on manna, a sweet substance excreted from bushes on Sinai in a way which Israel found miraculous. The story has grown in the telling: it is linked to keeping the Sabbath, for manna could not be harvested on the Sabbath. Secondly, with typical Hebrew wordplay, this odd substance is linked to the Hebrew word manhu, meaning 'What is it?'

What does this pattern of the people's infidelity tell us about humanity and about God?



2nd Reading: Ephesians 4:17.20-24

A New Creation in Christ

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.



In his great classic letter to the Romans Paul teaches that by being baptised into Christ's death we have been joined with Christ in his resurrection and become a new being, fused with Christ or grafted into Christ. He sees us as living with Christ's life-principle, the Spirit, rather than our old corrupt life-principle. In First Corinthians he enlarges on the ways of life which this brings, the varied gifts of the Spirit which together make up the Christian body, the Body of Christ. Now, in Ephesians, we see a consequence of this. The Christian body is repeatedly described as a New Man, a new creation, after the model of Christ, the Second Adam. What does all this talk of 'new creation' amount to in real terms? Firstly, it poses the question whether we have really been renewed. Are my values and attitudes radically new as a Christian? Do they differ from the priorities which I would have without Christianity?

How do I best use my talents to build up the Body of Christ?

By being baptised into Christ's death we have become a new being.

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**