

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 7th July 2024 Sunday Readings Cycle B Weekday Readings Cycle II

Readings for 14th Ordinary Sunday Ezekiel 2:2-5; ; Psalm 122; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6

Saturday 6th July 5.30pm 1st Mass of the 14th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 7th July 10.30am Mass of the 14th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Monday 8th July

Tuesday 9th July (Optional: St. Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions, martyrs)

Wednesday 10th July 11.30am Mass

Thursday 11th July FEAST: ST. BENEDICT, Abbot, patron of Europe

Friday 12th July 1.00pm Mass (in St. Luke's Chapel, Macclesfield Hospital)

Saturday 13th July 10.00am Mass (Optional St. Henry, married man, ruler)

10.30-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 13th July 5.30pm 1st Mass of 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 14th July 10.30am Mass of the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings for 15th Ordinary Sunday Amos 7:12-15; ; Psalm 84; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:7-13

St Edward's Food Festival

Sat 13th July
12-2pm

Bring a dish for
our shared table

@ St Edward's RC Church
garden, SK11 7RZ

ALL WELCOME

Free barbecue



FREE bouncy
castle!!!

PARISH FOOD FESTIVAL NEXT SATURDAY 13th July 12- 2.00pm

in the Community Room & outside on the front lawn with a free Barbeque & refreshments, shared table (with ethnic food encouraged) and a bouncy castle. Everyone is welcome- bring your family and friends! Please put your name down on one of the lists with the dish you wish to bring along to share if you are able

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Next Tues 9th July 6.30pm meeting of PPC in the Community Room

CRAFT CLUB Next Wed 10th July 12.15-2.30pm Craft Club meeting, & then on 17th July

SYRO- MALABAR RITE MASS

Sat 13th July 5.00pm in St. Alban's Mass in Malayalam language for South Indians.

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE SUMMER COURSE

Thu 1st – Sun 4th Aug "Living Catholicism Today" How do we interpret the sources of Christian morality? Why is the Church 'obsessed' about human sexuality? What is the significance of the virtues? Part of the CHC's "Faith & Reason" series exploring morality & the Christian life, with Dr Caroline Farey, Dr Andrew Beard and Stefan Kaminski. For more information visit <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/faith-and-reason-series/>

CASTLERIGG RETREAT CENTRE in the LAKE DISTRICT

Castlerigg Manor is the retreat centre of the Diocese of Lancaster, 10 mins walk from Keswick & Derwentwater in the Lake District With 7 acres of grounds, a chapel, and large & small group meeting rooms, it offers a special rate of £81 per person including meals for some weekends from Sept until April 2025 Contact Adrienne – business@castleriggmanor.co.uk

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday Collection £373.90 Sale of Derelict Outside Lamps £80.00 Peter's Pence £83.70

SEA SUNDAY 14th JULY

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is Sunday 14th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support makes a big difference to seafarers & fishers in need. You can donate in church, or by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital for *Stella Maris* to continue its important work, please give generously.



RECENT NEWSLETTER PROBLEMS

Unfortunately, the current newsletter on the parish website can only now be found by clicking on "Read the latest the newsletter" link as result of a software change. Publishing the paper newsletter also has problems since a week ago the copier has a serious failure and it is difficult to obtain the spare part as the copier model is no longer made. Apologies!

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

Are we forgetting the conflicts in Holy Land because it is too uncomfortable to keep remembering them ?

Abbot Nikodemus Schnabel of Jerusalem's Benedictine Dormition Abbey told Catholic charity **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)** that it is important to look at the conflict from a Christian perspective.



THE ROOFS OF THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

Abbot Schnabel said: *“People are dying while the world watches as if it was a simple game, where one waves flags for one team or another. But this is a terrible situation. This is not a football match, and it’s not about scoring points, seeing who has the most impressive stories or the best pictures.”*

He added: *“At the moment we are living in a very polarised environment, there is a lot of pressure to pick a camp and make accusations, but if you do so you become part of this game. ‘The reality is very complicated, with many ‘footnotes’, ‘brackets’ and ‘parentheses’.”*

The abbot explained: *“I am neither pro-Israel nor pro-Palestine. I am pro-human being. This is my theological position.”*

He highlighted the importance of the belief shared by Christians, Jews and Muslims – that every human being is created in the image of God and deserving of respect and dignity, regardless of nationality or religion.

Abbot Schnabel said that there was a lot of dangerous rhetoric on both sides of the conflict, adding: *“They don’t talk about human beings. They say these are not people, they are monsters, beasts in human shape. There is a dangerous tendency to dehumanise the ‘other’.*

They speak of ‘neutralising’ people – they don’t say ‘killing’. ‘They talk about casualties in referring to the victims, as though they were mere statistics – they hide the fact that these are human beings, dying at the hands of other human beings.’”

He stressed the challenges faced by the Holy Land’s Christian community, shaken by decades of division, violence and political conflict. He said: *“Many people think that Israel and Judaism are the same thing, and that they are the same as the Western world, and that the Palestinians equal Islam and the Eastern world. But even though they are only a small percentage, estimated at around 2 percent of the population, Christians don’t fit into this tidy arrangement, and suffer amongst the divisions, which have intensified because of the war. ‘The truth is that we are victims of both sides.’”*

The abbot added: *“I get the feeling that some people think that without the Christians things would be simpler, because then we really would be left with this wonderfully black and white representation of the conflict. ‘But the Christians are present, and on both sides, which complicates the narrative of a clear division between opposing forces.’”*

Abbot Schnabel highlighted that, despite being largely ignored and marginalised, the Christian community in the Holy Land has an important role because it is the only faith group placing the message of forgiveness and compassion at the centre of its teaching. He said: *“We feel the pain and suffer with the people on both sides. We shed tears for both sides.”*

He concluded: *“My point of reference is Holy Scripture, the Bible – that is where I learned from my Lord Jesus Christ that I should pray for those who hate me, pray also for those who commit crimes.*

‘It is a scandal to say so nowadays, but I do pray for the terrorists, and for all the others who are implicated in the conflict.’”



FLOWERS PLANTED IN TEAR GAS GRENADE BY PALESTINIAN WOMAN

ACN has provided emergency aid – food coupons, life-saving medicine and help with housing costs and tuition fees – for more than 3,400 Christians in the Holy Land who have lost their livelihoods because of the conflict’s economic impact.

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 7th July 2024
A PROPHET DESPISED IN HIS OWN COUNTRY

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, “Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?” And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house”; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Taken from Mark 6:1-6 The Fourteenth 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.

The very last sentence of the reading speaks of the people’s lack of faith. What was this lack of faith? They recognized in Jesus an extraordinary wisdom and the power to perform miracles, but this seems not to have been enough. What more was needed? Faith is not the acceptance of a set of propositions (‘I believe that the earth circles the sun’, etc.). It is putting all my trust in God as my only hope. Abraham, the model of faith, went out into the desert, leaving everything on which he relied, everything that made him what he was. He even trusted God to get him out of the unbearable fix when God told him to sacrifice his only son. The townsfolk of Nazareth presumably thought they knew Jesus through and through. They were prepared to acknowledge his wisdom and his miracles. But they were not prepared to go further and see that God was at work in him, that he was the manifestation of God among them. It is all very well to admire Jesus, to think him a fine teacher and a heroic, honourable man, who gave everything for his high ideals; but unless we see God in him, the divine transcendence of all that is human, he cannot work the miracle of taking us to himself. **What does it mean to you to describe yourself or someone else as “a person of faith”?**

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 WELCOME!

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 7th July 2024**



1st Reading: Ezekiel 2:2-5

The Call of a Prophet

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, 'The Lord says this.' Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them."

.....

This reading tells the story of the call of Ezekiel to be a prophet. There is an obvious parallel between the rejection of Ezekiel as a prophet by the 'rebels' and the rejection of Jesus by his own people of Nazareth. A prophet is not simply someone who foretells the future. The task of a prophet is to tell people how God sees things, for the prophet sees things as God sees them. This directness of vision is not always popular, for we don't always like being told certain aspects of ourselves: hearing from someone else the truth about ourselves is often unwelcome, particularly when it involves criticism and demands change. Ezekiel was sent to the people of Israel, exiled in Babylon, to encourage them and tell them that, despite their disastrous losses, they should not give way to despair. The hope of Israel was in them (the people in exile), rather than in the remnant left in Jerusalem who were 'stubborn and obstinate' and refused to listen. We are prepared to listen to criticisms of others merrily enough and agree heartily, but are less happy to receive criticism. However, the word of God often comes to us in ways that we do not recognize, and that can include criticisms of ourselves, perhaps spoken in anger or only partly true, but no less valid criticisms for that.

Listen in prayer to what the Lord is asking of you. What is he calling you to change?

Rely on God's Strength.



2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Paul's Weakness and Strength

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, "My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness." So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

.....

In this final part of the letter to the Corinthians Paul is defending his apostolate against a rival group of preachers whom he caricatures as 'super-apostles'. They claim to have authority greater than his. Paul replies by stating that he is more fully a servant of the Lord Jesus. Most of his argument forms an invaluable autobiographical sketch. Paul makes his case with three points. First he outlines the sufferings and persecutions he has undergone in the service of Christ: just as Jesus sees himself as the Suffering Servant of the Lord prophesied by Isaiah, so by his sufferings Paul sees himself as the servant of the Lord Jesus. Secondly, Paul speaks of his heavenly vision, the experience or revelation of 'words that may not and cannot be spoken by any human being', and this is the core inspiration of his life. Thirdly, in this passage Paul stresses his own weakness, which makes him rely on God's strength. What this weakness was, we do not know. Nor is its exact nature significant. The point is that it prevented Paul getting proud and made him rely on God's strength to counteract his own weakness.

What helps us to endure "hardships" in the service 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**