

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor

Registered Charity no. 234025

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Newsletter for Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Sunday Readings Cycle C

Weekday Readings Cycle I

Readings for the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday: Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20; Luke 6:17, 20-26

**Psalm's Response: Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 5.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> MASS of the 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 10.30am MASS of the 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 9.15am Mass (Seven Lay Founders of the Order of Servites)

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 11.30am Mass

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1.00pm Mass (in Hospital Chapel) (Optional: St. Peter Damian, bishop, doctor of the Church)

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 10.00am Mass FEAST: CHAIR of ST. PETER the APOSTLE

10.30-11am Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 5.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 10.30am Mass of the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings for the 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13; Psalm 103(102); 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38



Marriage Care, a national charity, assists parishes to prepare couples for marriage. We are looking for help in presenting our one day marriage preparation courses and/ or providing marriage preparation online. We aim to provide the best possible opportunity for couples to prepare for a lifelong, loving marriage. We focus on

topics such as: exploring expectations; communication; conflict management; sacrament of marriage, vows and promises; nurturing the relationship. We are looking for both male & female volunteers. Would you be able to help? We provide training & ongoing support to equip you to work in a team. Go to <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/get-involved/> for more information or contact John Worth, Centre co-ordinator, Stockport Marriage Care, on 0161 494 6428.

## PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 5.00pm: meeting in the Community Room

## REVISED PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL(PPC) CONSTITUTION

The PPC has reviewed & revised its constitution and it is posted for inspection in the Community Room & church and on the parish website <https://www.st-edward-macclesfield.org.uk/pastoral-council> •

## THANK YOU for YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday's Collection £207.00

## CARITAS ACADEMY: AN INTRODUCTION to CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING



Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) launches an Online course aimed at parishioners not so familiar with Catholic Social Teaching. The programme will be spread over **5 one hour Zoom sessions** on each Tuesday in March & on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The course fee is £95 for the five sessions & includes a copy of Desmond Friel's book: "Catholic Social Teaching: An introduction" For more info contact [bernardette.durcan@csan.org.uk](mailto:bernardette.durcan@csan.org.uk)

## JUBILEE YEAR RESOURCE: WE DARE TO HOPE

The English & Welsh Bishops have produced a small group resource for the weeks of Lent composed by the Dominican Sisters of the New Forest. The 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter page reproduces some of the introduction. The complete five weeks material is available as a pdf file from Fr. Peter at [st.edmacc@gmail.com](mailto:st.edmacc@gmail.com)



## FOOD BANK

The Silk Life Food Bank appeals for items seen the listed on noticeboards e.g.: UHT milk, stewed steak, beef casserole, chili con carne, instant mash - also toiletries and baby items.

**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

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> March 10.45am 1<sup>st</sup> Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> March Ash Wednesday Mass with Ashes 11.30am (in church) & 7.00pm (in Community Room)

Sun 16<sup>th</sup> March CAFOD Lent Fast Collection

Sun 30<sup>th</sup> March Start of British Summer Time ( B.S.T.)

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> April Easter

Sun 18<sup>th</sup> May Provisional date for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion



## Foreword to **We Dare To Hope**

Lent is often thought of as a time for giving something up, in order to engage with a penitential practice. The liturgy reminds us, Lent is also a season for the Lord to pour out his grace and blessing upon us. The renewal within our lives which we seek, is the fruit of God's saving grace, and not something we may achieve by ourselves. It is good for us to keep these things in mind, as we receive the gift of this five week Lenten programme during this Jubilee Year.

Our thanks go to Mark Nash of the Archdiocese of Southwark for producing the booklet and to Sr Hyacinthe OP and the Dominican Sisters for preparing these five sessions and reflections on the mystery of Christian Hope.

During our journey through Lent, these reflections invite us to enter five familiar Gospel moments. Through these stories of Hope: --- - the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, - the return of Our Lady and St Joseph for the Finding of Jesus in the Temple, - the encounter of Jesus with the Canaanite Woman, - the meeting of the repentant thief with Jesus at Calvary, - the journey of two disciples to Emmaus and their meeting with Jesus, we discover much about the virtue of Hope. We too are pilgrims of the good news, engaged with a journey into missionary discipleship.

Whether we are following these resources in a group or on our own, may these beautiful prayers and reflections help us to encounter the Hope which Christ Jesus offers each and every one of us. And please remember me in your prayers.

**Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley**  
Chair of the Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship  
Bishop of Northampton

## CONTENTS

### 1 / CHRISTIAN HOPE

Christian hope is unique: it is a gift from God, it is a desire for God, and it is fulfilled by God who calls us to trust him. It is first received at baptism.

### 2 / THE DECISION TO HOPE

Hope is a gift of God, but it is also a human act, a decision to trust God and rely on Him, especially in moments of anxiety, when the absence of God is felt. These are opportunities to grow in hope.

### 3 / THE PRAYER OF HOPE

Hope and prayer are inseparable. Prayer is always an act of hope in God, an act of desire for God and of trust in Him. We exercise hope in prayer, as we come to God in our poverty.

2

### 4 / HOPE AGAINST HOPE

The virtue of hope enables us to desire things that are naturally impossible to us, such as holiness, eternal life and beatitude in God. We hope because God makes these things possible for us to obtain.

### 5 / CHRIST, OUR HOPE

The resurrection of Christ is the motive for our hope. He is risen and invites us to share in his eternal glory. This hope impels us to build his Kingdom here on earth without being defeated by apparent failure

## Why Share Your Faith in Small Groups?

In St Luke's account of the Early Church we hear that three thousand were baptised following Pentecost (Acts 2:41). Guided by the Holy Spirit, the newly baptised '*devoted themselves to the apostles, teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers*' (Acts 2:42). In a similar fashion thousands of people have found spiritual nourishment in faith-sharing, in reflecting on Scripture and prayer as part of a small group.

This resource feeds such small groups drawing on the Scriptures with each session clearly rooted in a passage from the Bible. As the Second Vatican Council Fathers emphasised '*in the sacred books the Father comes lovingly to meet his children and talks with them*' (Dei Verbum, 21).

Fellowship is a vital part of small group participation. In these small groups you are able to get to know your fellow Christians better and to form strong, mutually supportive bonds. We are a living community: '*God does not make men holy and save them merely as individuals, without bond or link ...*' (Lumen Gentium, 9).

Members of small groups are encouraged to share and gain confidence in talking about their faith. It is this confidence building in a trusting environment that helps participants to '*love in all the circumstances of ordinary life*' (Gaudium et Spes, 38). Our prayers together help us to become the dwelling places of the Holy Spirit that we are called to be (Sacrosanctum Concilium,

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 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 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025

##### THE BEATITUDES

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.

**Taken from Luke 6:17. 20-26 The Sixth 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.**

Matthew's Sermon on the Mount and Luke's Sermon on the Plain are both collections of sayings of Jesus about the basic conditions of Christian living. Each begins with a set of 'Beatitudes', announcing who is specially blessed by the Lord. One frisky modern translation renders them, 'Congratulations to you who are...!' Matthew's set of eight Beatitudes focuses more on spiritual qualities, poor in spirit, hunger and thirst for justice, whereas Luke's four are more directly on the circumstances of life. The stress is therefore on the reversal of values which Jesus brings. Jesus turns the world upside-down. His gospel or 'good news' comes to the poor, the neglected, the oppressed. True blessedness does not consist in wealth, fame or festivities. It is those who struggle now who will receive a lasting reward. Are the four negatives which follow too hard on the rich, the contented, the frivolous, the famous? Through this gospel runs a thread of warning about the dangers of contentment, and we seldom pay attention to warnings unless they are overstated! The worry of those who have plenty (about how they should use their advantages responsibly for others) must be at least as great as those who worry to survive. **Is money a positive bar to eternal happiness, or a challenge?**

*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 TRUST!**

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](http://wednesdayword.org)

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 16th February 2025**



**1st Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8**

## A Curse and a Blessing

The Lord says this: 'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited. A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'



Actually, this passage is neither a curse nor a blessing. It is not invoking or wishing upon a person the blessing or the curse. Instead, the prophet is here saying that people who behave in these two ways are respectively blessed and accursed. There is no need to wish it on them, for their own behaviour merits it and brings it on themselves. Such statements of blessing and its opposite are frequent in the Bible; an example very similar to this is in Psalm One. In Jeremiah's prophecy here, unlike most of the instances in the Bible of 'beatitudes' in both Old and New Testaments, there is no list of ways of moral conduct; blessing is simply a matter of trust or faith. It is not a person's achievements which count, for we cannot earn blessedness; we can only trust in God. However, if God is the real centre of our trust and reliance, we will try to behave as we were created, in the image of God, imitating the divine generosity, forgiveness, attentiveness to human need, fostering life rather than restricting it. This will mean that our heart is truly turned to the Lord, and the Lord will care for us, as the stream does the tree.

**How true is it that we bring blessing and curse on ourselves?**



**2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12. 16-20**

## A People of the Resurrection

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.



As he nears the end of his great letter to the Corinthians, which we have been reading for five Sundays, Paul teaches about the resurrection, the bedrock of Christian faith. Last Sunday he was rehearsing the most primitive proclamation, that Christ had truly risen from the dead and had encountered a host of witnesses. Now Paul tackles the resurrection of Christians, of which Christ's resurrection is the first fruits and the model. The importance of Christ's resurrection is not only that it places him in glory at his Father's right hand, but also that it is the forerunner of our own resurrection. We can know little about the transformation which will take place in us at the resurrection. We will be physical, but physical in a quite different way. The glorified body is a body, but not like any body which we know. The traditional Christian picture of clouds and harps is not to be taken too seriously. The only important thing is that we will be wrapped or rapt in the joy of the presence of God, enveloped in utter contentment. Nothing else will matter but the enjoyment of the most lovable of all beings.

**Why will it not be possible to get bored in heaven?**

**« We will be wrapped in the joy of the presence of God. »**

**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**