

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor

Registered Charity no. 234025

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Newsletter for Sunday 23rd February 2025

Sunday Readings Cycle C

Weekday Readings Cycle I

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

Psalm's Response: The Lord is compassionate and gracious

Saturday 22nd Feb 5.30pm 1st MASS of the 7th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 23rd Feb 10.30am MASS of the 7th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Monday 24th Feb 9.15am Mass (

Tuesday 25th Feb

Wednesday 26th Feb 11.30am Mass

Thursday 27th Feb

Friday 28th Feb 1.00pm Mass (in Hospital Chapel)

Saturday 1st March 10.00am Mass *FEAST: ST. DAVID, bishop, patron of Wales*

10.45am Celebration of 1st Sacrament of Forgiveness

Saturday 1st March 5.30pm 1st Mass of the 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 2nd March 10.30am Mass of the 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings for the 8th Ordinary Sunday: Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 27: 4-7; Ps 92(91) 1Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

This Mon 24th Feb 5.00pm: meeting in the Community Room

CELEBRATION of 1st FORGIVENESS

Next Sat 1st March 10.45am after Saturday 10am Mass in the Community Room when children preparing for their *First Holy Communion* for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

STATIONS of the CROSS & LENT SOUP LUNCH

Fridays in Lent 12 noon in the Community Room: the PPC are taking the initiative of organizing *Stations of the Cross* followed by a simple *Lent Soup Lunch* in the Community Room. They are appealing to you to respond to their invitation to join them in this practical way of keeping alive & cherishing the memory of our Lord's suffering & death for us in Lent.

THANK YOU for YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday's Collection £321.60

Piety Stall £19.00

AN INTRODUCTION to CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING



Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) invites parishioners to an Online course on Catholic Social Teaching with **5 one hour Zoom sessions** weekly starting *Tues 4th March*. The course fee is £95 for the five sessions. For more info contact bernardette.durcan@csan.org.uk

JUBILEE YEAR RESOURCE: WE DARE TO HOPE

A small group resource for the weeks of Lent in the Jubilee year composed by the Dominican Sisters of the New Forest. The complete 5 weeks material is available as a pdf file from Fr. Peter at st.edmacc@gmail.com



Marriage Care, a national charity, helps parishes preparing couples for marriage and is looking for both



male & female volunteers to help in presenting our one day marriage preparation courses and/ or providing marriage preparation online. For more information go to <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/get-involved/> or contact *John Worth*, Centre co-ordinator, *Stockport Marriage Care*, on 0161 494 6428.

DIOCESE LOURDES 2025 PILGRIMAGE

Brochures & Booking Forms for this year's pilgrimage to Lourdes at the end of July are now available to download from the pilgrimage website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk and bookings are now open.

FOOD BANK

The *Silk Life* Food Bank appeals for items 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

DIARY OF EVENTS

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

Sun 16th March CAFOD Lent Fast Collection

Sun 30th March Start of British Summer Time (B.S.T.)

Sun 20th April Easter

Sun 18th May Provisional date for 1st Holy Communion



Pastoral Letter

On the Catholic Faith we have received

for Sunday 23rd February 2025

My dear brothers and sisters,

The Gospel speaks to us today of God's overflowing generosity, a generosity we discover anew each Sunday, and indeed every day, in the Holy Eucharist where Christ gives Himself wholly and entirely for usⁱ. We are called to imitate this Divine, Eucharistic generosity in each of our lives and in every vocation. This leads me to reflect today on the gift of faith which we have received in all its fullness in the Church.

I write to you from the Cathedral where even the beauty of wood, glass and stone stand in silent testimony to the faith of all those who have shared the journey of our Shrewsbury Diocese. The Cathedral has become a place of pilgrimage in this Holy Year and my letter today is accompanied by a YouTube video that invites you to join me in a virtual pilgrimage to our Cathedral. This video can be found on the Shrewsbury Diocese websiteⁱⁱ. Yesterday, I met in Chester many adults who will be Baptised and received into the Church at Easter. The first question that will be put to them is: *"What do you ask of the Church?"* Their answer will be a single word: *"Faith."* The Catechism reminds us, that we receive the gift of faith through the Church, since the Church believes first; and she nourishes and sustains our faith through life's journeyⁱⁱⁱ. For we can no more give ourselves this gift of faith than we can give ourselves the gift of life. This vital task of handing on the faith led the first Apostles to describe the Church as *"the pillar and bulwark of the truth"* guarding *"the faith once delivered to the saints"*^{iv}

The faith we ask to share in Baptism was put into the words of the 'Apostles Creed.' These words used at Baptism from earliest centuries profess the faith received from the Apostles beginning with the Latin word 'Credo' meaning "I believe." Today, some of our contemporaries speak disparagingly of what they call 'organised religion.' They suggest a "disorganised religion" is more authentic though it would amount to little more than opinions drawn from ever-changing views around us. Such an answer to the great questions of life can never be a secure foundation. And so, the Creed sets out the unchanging faith received by the Church in all truth, providing the sure foundation on which our lives can be built in faith, hope and love.

When the bishops of the world first gathered in the City of Nicaea in 325 AD after centuries of persecution, they made the great profession of the Catholic faith which we call the 'Nicene Creed.' Gathered in ecumenical council they declared the faith which the Church had received from the beginning and had everywhere believed. It is a moving thought that when you and I declare *"I believe"* at Mass, we are repeating those same words. The need for such a profession of faith was occasioned by the error of one priest, Arius, who taught that while Jesus was the highest and most exalted, he was less than God. This dark error occasioned a luminous profession of the Church's faith, that has echoed through the centuries. For with all the Church we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ who is *"God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father;"* and *"through him all things were made."* Pope Francis, who we are accompanying with our prayer in his time of illness, has asked in this Holy Year of 2025 that we especially celebrate the anniversary of the Creed first professed at Nicaea in AD 325^v.

Fifteen years ago, I became a bishop for you. At the heart of this mission, like every bishop before me, was handing on the faith of the Church. I promised I would always *"Guard the deposit of faith pure and entire according to the tradition preserved always and everywhere in the Church from the time of the Apostles"*^{vi}. By Baptism and Confirmation, we all share in this apostolic task by imitating God's overflowing generosity in our readiness to share and defend the Catholic faith in all its fullness^{vii}. In our Cathedral church, we remember the courage and generosity of the founding generation of this Diocese, who in the face of every difficulty and contradiction, handed down the faith to us. Let us ask Our Lady's help in this sacred trust of handing on the faith we have received to all generations to come.

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

i Cf. Lk. 6: 27-38 & Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 1374

ii <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/>

iii Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church No 168

iv Cf. I Tim. 3: 15, Jude 3

v The Bull of Induction for the Jubilee 2025

vi The Roman Pontifical for the Ordination of Bishops

vii Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church Nos. 863 & 1303

Wednesday 19th 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 23rd February 2025

UNLIMITED LOVE

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Taken from Luke 6:27-38 The Seventh 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.

Luke's version of the Beatitudes, which formed last Sunday's reading, puts the emphasis not on Christian attitudes, as Matthew's version does, but on the blessing on those in real, dire need. Now he continues this with out duty to respond to those in need, even if they are hostile, even if they hate us. There must be no calculation whether we will get back money or property lent, no limit to how much we lend or give. At first it seems as if Luke is concerned only with money, and indeed he is so concerned, for he is always warning of the danger of possessions and the need to use them for those who have none. Luke is proclaiming Christ's Good News to a more affluent society than do Mark and Matthew, and places all the more emphasis on the danger of wealth. But, after dealing with money, Luke goes on to other acts of generosity. We must not judge, but must forgive in order to obtain forgiveness. Most of all, we must be compassionate. Whereas Matthew ends his instructions here with a general, 'Be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect', Luke focuses on compassion, 'Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.' It is an affair of the heart: we must be emotionally involved with those in need. **Which is more important, compassion or generosity?**

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 KINDNESS !

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

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 23rd February 2025**



1st Reading: 1 Samuel 26.2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 **David Spares Saul**

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them, David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

This delightful story of David occurs when Saul is pursuing the young David in the wilderness of Judah, above the dead sea. The successful young warrior was getting too ambitious for the liking of King Saul, who, in a bad mood, tried to pin him to the wall with a spear, and then threw him out of court. David then gathered a band of outlaws, and Saul attempted to hunt him down. The result was this story. Was David Magnanimous, or was he already thinking that one day he, in his turn, would be the Lord's anointed? The assassination of the king would be a bad precedent! David was a fantastic leader, the sort of person whom anyone would follow anywhere. He was also a great sinner, committing adultery and murdering the cuckolded husband to make his own guilt seem less. But he was a great penitent too, a loveable and very human figure. Above all, he was the real founder of the Israelite monarchy and of the 'line of David' from which Jesus would come. To him were the promises made that God would be a father to the Son who would reign for ever on his throne. **Was David calculating or generous?**



2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15.45-49 **Transformation in the Resurrection**

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

This is the third of the four Sundays on which Paul is explaining the meaning of the Resurrection of Christians. The Resurrection of Christians follows the model of Jesus' own Resurrection. As the firstborn from the dead, Christ is the founder of the new humanity, just as Adam is the founder of the fallen humanity. 'Adam' means 'man', and the story of the fall in the Book of Genesis is not so much a story of an event long ago as the story of every human temptation and sin. However, the obedience of Christ, the Second Adam, undoes the disobedience of the First Adam. Just before this passage, Paul has explained that in the Resurrection we will all be changed, and transformed into the heavenly sphere, in the image of the Risen Christ. What was weak will be strong with the strength of God, what was contemptible will be glorious with the glory of God. He refuses to say what sort of bodies we will have, but he sums up the other changes by saying that whereas the life principle was the soul, in the Resurrection it will be the spirit of God.

What does the Resurrection of the body mean in the light of this teaching?

The Resurrection of Christians follows the model of Jesus' own Resurrection.

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**