

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor

Registered Charity no. 234025

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Newsletter for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

Sunday Readings Cycle C

Weekday Readings Cycle I

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

**Psalm's Response: It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 5.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> MASS of the 8<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME – Day of Prayer for the Unemployed

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar 10.30am MASS of the 8<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME – Day of Prayer for the Unemployed

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar 9.15am Mass

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Mar (St. Casimir, ruler)

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Mar **11.30am Mass (in church) & 7.00pm (in C. Room) Mass** with Blessing & Distribution of Ashes

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Mar

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Mar 1.00pm Mass (in Hospital Chapel) (Optional: Ss. Perpetua & Felicity, north African martyrs)

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Mar 10.00am (Optional: St. John of God, layman, religious founder)

10.30-11am<sup>1</sup> Sacrament of Forgiveness

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Mar 5.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Mar 10.30am Mass of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

Readings for the Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Ps 91(90);Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

**ASH WEDNESDAY: START of LENT**

-Next Wed 5<sup>th</sup> March Mass at 11.30am (in church) & 7.00pm (in Community Room – enter by C. Room door only);

- Ashes will be blessed and distributed at each Mass.

-Also Wed 9.15am in Christ the King Pr. Sch Service of Word and Blessing & Distribution of Ashes;

-Ash Wednesday( & Good Friday also) is a Day of Fasting & Abstinence for all well- bodied adults over 16 years.

(Fasting is having just one full meal in the day; abstinence is abstaining from fresh & processed meat for the day).

**STATIONS of the CROSS & LENT SOUP LUNCH**

**Lent Fridays** 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> in March & 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> in April: at **12 noon** in the Community Room: the PPC are organizing & leading *Stations of the Cross* in the Community Room followed by a simple *Lent Soup Lunch*. It's a good, simple way of joining together to keep alive in our hearts during Lent our Lord's suffering & death for us. The PPC members invite you to join! They also request volunteers, particularly during March. to help with heating soup, handing out & clearing up. Contact Steve James [sjames2@btinternet.com](mailto:sjames2@btinternet.com) [john.mears@outlook.com](mailto:john.mears@outlook.com) [the.tribalhq@gmail.com](mailto:the.tribalhq@gmail.com)

**WELCOME into the CHURCH COMMUNITY**

**Last Sunday Lando Druce**, son of Annabel & Elliot, was baptised & welcomed into the community of Jesus' disciples.

**REST IN PEACE**

-*Lionel Moss* died last Monday evening 24<sup>th</sup> Feb in Henning Hall, Lyme Green where he spent his last days: the Funeral Mass will take place in St. Edward's in about a fortnight's time with burial afterwards in St. James Sutton graveyard.

**PREPARATION for 1<sup>st</sup> HOLY COMMUNION**

Congratulations to the two boys *Collins & Jubith* who have now completed their preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and are now begin their preparation for their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion. Please pray for them.

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of PRAYER** Fri 7<sup>th</sup> March Women's World Day of Prayer 2pm at St. James, Gawsworth

**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](http://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.

**THANK YOU for YOUR GENEROSITY**

Last Sunday's Collection £201.01

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

**Tues 18<sup>th</sup> March** 7pm Parish Pastoral Council meeting

**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

# **Pope Francis' intimate experience of sickness and suffering**

The Pope's personal history has shaped his life and his vision of illness, the medical profession, and those who are sick and suffering.

The Pope's lung weakness has been public since the beginning of his pontificate and even since the conclave of 2005. It has caused [repeated bouts of illness](#) since then. However, the information that the Argentine Pontiff has "only one lung" is inaccurate: He actually has two lungs, but underwent a major operation at the age of 20 to have cysts removed from the lobe of his right lung.

In his [recent autobiography](#) *Hope*, the Pope evokes this painful memory of August 1957, in the now almost forgotten context of the Asian flu epidemic "which would cause millions of deaths that year throughout the world," he recalls. Sick like all his fellow seminarians, Jorge Mario Bergoglio saw his condition deteriorate more than the others. The institute's doctor, whom the seminarians viciously nicknamed "the Animal," didn't take his situation seriously.

## **Saved by a nun**

Thanks to a late decision of the prefect of studies of the seminary, the future pope was finally transferred to the Syrian Lebanese Hospital in Buenos Aires.

"But my survival was mainly thanks to a nun," Pope Francis says in this account, paying a vibrant tribute to the Dominican nun *Cornelia Caraglio*. It was she who ordered his dose of antibiotics to be doubled.

The specialist, summoned by the nun, "drained one and a half litres of fluid from my lungs," the Pope says in his autobiography. This procedure "began a slow and unsteady climb back from the brink between life and death. To perform the endoscopy to my lungs without affecting my heart, they filled me with morphine: The world seemed distorted, people became miniature; that too was a terrible experience, one aspect of the nightmare into which I had fallen," says Francis.

"My companions came from the seminary to visit me; some also gave me their blood for transfusions," the Pope continues, grateful for this community solidarity. "Gradually the fevers decided to leave me, and the light began to return."

This health incident was a major turning point in the life of the future pope. "I enjoyed the seminary, even though I left it. Or rather, they carried me out of the seminary: on a stretcher, on the point of death," he recalls. It was after his recovery that Jorge Mario Bergoglio joined the Society of Jesus the following year, for a very long period of training that would lead to his ordination as a priest in 1969 and his final vows in 1973.

## **"Jesus shared our suffering"**

This youthful experience shaped Pope Francis' reflection on suffering. In his recent [message](#) for the World Day of the Sick on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025, Pope Francis emphasized how we "experience the closeness and compassion of God, who, in Jesus, shared in our human suffering. God does not abandon us and often amazes us by granting us a strength that we never have expected, and would never have found on our own."

"Sickness, then, becomes an occasion for a transformative encounter, the discovery of a solid rock to which we can hold fast amid the tempests of life," says the Pope. His whole message is full of a positive vision of hospitalization as a place of solidarity and fraternity.

"Places of suffering are frequently also places of sharing and mutual enrichment," he goes on to say. Through all those involved in care, "we discover love," he explains.

"We realize that we are 'angels' of hope and messengers of God for one another, all of us together: whether patients, physicians, nurses, family members, friends, priests, men and women religious, no matter where we are, whether in the family or in clinics, nursing homes, hospitals or medical centres," Francis adds.

## **Messages from the hospital**

Now some years ago, Pope Francis delivered the [Angelus](#) of 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021, from the Gemelli hospital, where he had just undergone major colon and intestinal surgery. The Pope urged his listeners to "pray for all those who are sick, especially for those in the most difficult conditions: may no one be left alone, may everyone receive the anointing of listening, closeness, tenderness and care."

He expressed his thanks to the doctors, but also his compassion for the sick children he had met during his hospitalization.

This experience of the hospital as a community of life was also reflected, to some extent, in Sunday's communiqué on his state of health. It was stated that, during that Sunday morning, in the apartment on the 10th floor of the Gemelli, Pope Francis had "participated in Holy Mass, with those who are taking care of him during these days of hospitalization." It was a way, even in his suffering and vulnerability, of assuming his pontifical function in a dynamic of faith and gratitude for the medical profession.

Wednesday 26<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 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

##### JUDGING OTHERS

Jesus told a parable to his disciples. 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. "There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit; people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out from what fills his heart.'

**Taken from Luke 6:39-45 The Eighth 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 gathered together the teaching of Jesus on the basic requirements of Christian morality into the Sermon on the Mount; that formed a sort of manifesto for the Kingdom of Heaven, starting with the eight Beatitudes. Luke gathers many of the same teachings into his 'Sermon on the Plain', starting with four Beatitudes. This has provided the gospel readings for the last three Sundays. Matthew, writing for Christians of Jewish origin, stressed Jesus' teaching on law, and how Jesus made it more interior and often more demanding. Luke, always aware of the needs of the poor, stresses more our social obligations. As he draws to a conclusion, he gives us two of Jesus' warnings, expressed in the vivid language and with the fierce exaggeration and wit that is so characteristic of Jesus' teachings. The first, the splinter and the log, warns us to use the same standards in judging ourselves as we use in judging others. The second, the sound and rotten fruit, is perhaps a double warning. You can judge people only by their actions. More profoundly, it is also a challenge: don't flatter yourself on your achievements until you are good through and through, until the store of goodness in your heart is really overflowing.

Is it ever helpful to point out people's faults?

*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 ACTION !**

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 2nd March 2025**



**1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7**

## The Test of Speech

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the trees grow is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.



The wise sage of Jerusalem collected many proverbs and pithy sayings. Most of them are severely practical, as in this short reading. Here he presents us with four images of testing someone by their speech. He does not deny that there are other ways of proving a person's worth and generosity, but these four aspects of testing by speech are as clear as any. This reading is chosen to introduce the sayings of the gospel reading on discerning people by their fruits. There is no way of telling what people are, except by how they act.

In fact, the Book of Sirach is rather a favourite with Luke. He takes at least two of his sayings and transforms them into parables to illustrate two of his special emphases in Jesus' teaching. Luke is the evangelist of prayer, and a saying on a widow's earnest prayers (Sirach 35.14) illustrates the need to persevere in prayer in Luke 18.1-8 (the Parable of the Unjust Judge), and the Rich Fool (Sirach 11.19) is used to illustrate the acute dangers of hoarding wealth in Luke 12.16-21.

**Which is the most testing of the criteria in this reading?**



**2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58**

## Christ's Victory over Death

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.



For most people, death is terror: the one thing certain about life is that it will end in death. For Paul, death is a triumph which he awaits eagerly, longing to be fully united with Christ and to share fully in Christ's victory. This Christian attitude, totally at variance with the views of those who do not know Christ, and with our natural human instincts, is the reason why the Church has given the last four Sundays to meditation on the transformation that will take place at Christian death. Paul is so convinced of the overwhelming power of Christ and his victory over sin that there is no hesitation: this mortal body will put on immortality. Quite how this will be is still not entirely clear: Paul says it is foolish even to ask what sort of body the dead will have. But he insists that there is continuity: the seed that dies is transformed, but 'each kind of seed has its own kind of body'; the risen person is in continuity with the person in this life. There are no conditions attached, no threat or fear of hell, being cast into outer darkness 'where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth', as in so many of Matthew's parables.

**Why does Paul never mention the word 'hell' or consider it?**

**For Paul, death is a triumph which he awaits eagerly, longing to be fully united with 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**