

the Immaculate Conception in 1854. This is in keeping with what Professor Duffy says about papal infallibility, namely that from early times it was believed that the Church could not fall into error about the fundamental truths of the faith; that infallibility is a negative concept in that it does not mean that the Church or any of its teachers are inspired, but that in certain circumstances they will be protected from fundamental error. Finally, and importantly, that infallibility was attributed from the earliest times to the collective teaching of the Church and hence to the decrees of general councils.

None of this implies that Catholics are free to disregard matters of faith and morals on which pronouncements have been made, though not made *ex cathedra*. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains (para 892): *“Divine assistance is also given to the successors of the apostles, teaching in communion with the successor of Peter, and, in a particular way, to the bishop of Rome, pastor of the whole Church, when, without arriving at an infallible definition and without pronouncing in a “definitive manner,” they propose in the exercise of the ordinary Magisterium a teaching that leads to better understanding of Revelation in matters of faith and morals. To this ordinary teaching the faithful “are to adhere to it with religious assent” which, though distinct from the assent of faith, is nonetheless an extension of it.”*

-Stephen S

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3: 3-10,19

Responsorial Psalm: 39 Response: Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6 13-15, 17-20

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:35-42

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection: Papal Infallibility:

An Overview : Some people wrongly mistakenly that everything the Pope says on Catholic issues have to be regarded by Catholics as infallible statements. A brief history of the defining of papal infallibility is contained in *“Saints and Sinners: A History of the Popes”* by Professor Eamonn Duffy. Papal infallibility

was defined at the First Vatican Council in 1870 after serious and prolonged debate. A draft decree headed: *“On the infallibility of the Roman Pontiff”* was criticised as erroneous by Cardinal Gaudi of Bologna. He insisted that the Pope was not infallible, though his teaching might be. The final decree took account of this objection and was headed *“On the infallible teaching office of the Roman Pontiff”*. The decree itself was carefully hedged round with restrictions. It declared: *“..when the Roman pontiff speaks ex cathedra, that is, when, in the exercise of his office as shepherd and teacher of all Christians.... he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole church, he possesses, by the divine assistance promised to him in blessed Peter, that infallibility which the divine Redeemer willed his church to enjoy in defining doctrine concerning faith or morals. Therefore, such definitions of the Roman pontiff are of themselves, and not by the consent of the church, irreformable.”*

The important point is that general papal pronouncements are not infallible. The pope has to be speaking in an especially solemn form (*ex cathedra*). His teaching has to be on a matter of faith and morals; this excludes any comment made e.g. on world affairs. It also has to be about fundamentals, a matter *“held by the whole church”*, so not addressed to some passing debate. It is significant that, since the declaration of papal infallibility at the first Vatican Council, the only example of such an *ex cathedra* statement stated to be infallible was when Pius XII in 1950 defined the Assumption of Our Lady as an article of faith. It is noteworthy that the First Vatican Council did not state that the pope could make infallible statements without consultation. Pius XII consulted Catholic bishops before promulgating the doctrine of the Assumption, as Pius IX had also done before declaring the doctrine of



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14- January-2024

Eucharistic Prayer II or III

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Day of Special Prayer for World Peace

R.C DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY REG. CHARITY No.234025

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	Fr Paul Lomas
Sunday 8.30am	Parishioners
10:00am	Beattie Smith
Monday 10.00am	<i>(Please note change of time)</i>
Tuesday 9.30am	
Wednesday 9.30am	St Anthony, Ab Kate Flanagan
Thursday 9.30am	<i>The octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins Today)</i>
Friday 9.30am	
Saturday 11.30am	St Sebastian Jean Owans (Sick)
Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	Louise Dunkerley
Sunday 8.30am	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Parishioners
10.00am	Betty Fish

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions - Every Saturday at 11.00am. Morning Prayers 9.15am -Monday to Friday

Peace Sunday 14 January, 2024: Peace Sunday 2024 is Sunday 14th January and the theme chosen by Pope Francis is 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. To read the full text please visit : <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>

Fr Paul Lomas RIP (Funeral Arrangements) Father Paul's mortal remains will be received into Christ Church, Heald Green on Thursday 1st February with a Vigil Mass at 7.00pm. The Requiem Mass will be offered on Friday 2nd February at 12 noon followed by committal at Manchester Crematorium.

Dates for your diary: Sunday 21st January: This year's Churches together Christian Unity service will be held in our church. The Service will start at 6.00pm. We would encourage as many St Pius parishioners to attend as possible since we are the hosts of this service only once every few years and

it would be nice to have a good 'home' turnout. We are planning to serve coffee/tea in the parish hall after the Service (an occasion for socializing with churches together members). We need help from volunteers. If anyone is willing, please speak to Maureen Stynes, Maura Ryland or Fr Mathew. CTIA committee member from Methodist Church, Pam Thompson, will be setting up a fairtrade stall in the church hall for the Unity Service.

Saturday/Sunday 9th & 10 March: Bishop Mark's Visitation to the Parish. Bishop Mark will preside over all the weekend Masses. More information will be shared later.

Diocesan Yearbook 2024: Available at the back of the church. Cost £6.00. Money can be posted in the church porch wall box marked -Piety stall. Also, it can be brought from other parishes if there are more requirements.

Caritas Shrewsbury/ (Christmas Appeal & Crib Offerings): £336.00 has been sent to Caritas Shrewsbury from the Parish including **£100.00** raised from the **Catenian** Carol Service. Thank you very much for your generous support **Lourdes Hospitality Next Meeting:** A meeting of the Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality will take place at St Columba's Church (meeting room), Plas Newton Lane , Chester CH2 1PL on Saturday 20th January at 2pm . All members of the Hospitality are welcome to attend.

Oblate Retreat Centre, Crew: 2024 brochure for the Oblate Retreat Centre, Wistaston Hall, Crew available at the back of the church.

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s) Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life: Dates: 16-18 February 2024 Location: Liverpool .The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit www.fcjsisters.org