

enthusiasm of Franciscans such as St Leonard (1676-1751) who erected some 600 sets in Italy. In 1731, Pope Clement XII permitted and encouraged stations to be erected inside churches generally, but still on condition that a Franciscan friar had to erect them, with the consent of the local bishop. He stipulated that the number of stations was to be fixed at 14. It was as late as 1857 that the bishops in England were first allowed to erect the stations without a Franciscan priest. In 1862 this right was extended to bishops throughout the church. Thus the Stations evolved over many centuries until they crystallised in their present form. Their early evolution was recently described by Carmen Butcher in this way: *“From the first surviving narrative by the anonymous early fourth century Pilgrim of Bordeaux to the famous travelogue-memoir dictated by fifteenth century Margery Kempe, Holy Land pilgrimages make fascinating reading, but not all aspiring pilgrims could manage this arduous, costly trip; therefore, pictures or sculptures representing stages of Christ’s journey to the cross were erected in or near local churches or other public venues, and medieval practitioners of the stations increased. Starting in the fifteenth century, open-air Via Dolorosa processions occurred throughout Europe, made concrete by measuring actual distances in Jerusalem and setting up memorials at relevant spots. ...”*

-Stephen S.

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

First Reading: Genesis 9 8-15

Responsorial Psalm: 24 Response: Yours ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3 18-22

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel: Mark 1:1-12

Memorial Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.



First Sunday of Lent, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection: The Stations of the Cross (1): A historical overview:

Tradition held that Our Lady set up stone markers at her home outside Jerusalem so that the Passion could be retraced in prayer and that she daily visited the scenes

of the Passion. However, the origin of the Stations is shrouded in mystery. After Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire under Constantine, the Way of the Cross was marked out in Jerusalem. Early Christian pilgrims to Jerusalem were desirous of retracing the Via Dolorosa which Christ trod beneath the weight of His cross towards His crucifixion, death and entombment. St Jerome (342-420 AD) tells of crowds of pilgrims following its route. Then in the 5th century a practice began of reproducing the holy places locally, so that pilgrims who could not travel to Jerusalem could partake in devotion inspired by them. For example, St Petronius, Bishop of Bologna, built chapels in the monastery of Santo Stefano reflecting important Holy Land shrines, including some which would become Stations of the Cross. In 1187 Jerusalem fell to Muslim rule. Some 40 years later Franciscans were allowed back into the Holy Land. In 1342 Pope Clement VI officially appointed them custodians of the holy places, with a duty to promote devotion there. The first historical mention of the word ‘Station’ was by William Wey, a 15th century English pilgrim. He described the practice of pilgrims following the way from Pilate’s house to Golgotha. During the 15th and 16th centuries, seemingly inspired at least in part by Muslim restrictions on Christian worship in Jerusalem, reproductions of the Stations were constructed in shrines elsewhere in Europe, eg, in Cordoba, Messina, Nuremberg and Leuven. The number of Stations originally observed in Jerusalem was much smaller than 14. The early set of seven scenes was usually numbers 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 14 from the modern list. William Wey refers to 14 stations, but only 5 corresponding to our own. Over time the number of Stations varied between 5 to 30 plus. In 1686 Pope Innocent XI gave Franciscans the right to put up Stations in their churches, recognising the continuing serious restrictions imposed by the Muslims on Christians visiting Jerusalem. The devotion of the Stations was spread by the



**St Pius X Church, Stamford Road,
Alderley Edge, SK9 7NS, Cheshire**

Clergy: Fr Mathew

01625 582386

stpiusalderley@gmail.com

stpiusalderley.com

18- February-2024

Eucharistic Prayer – II or III

First Sunday of Lent

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

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	Parishioners
Sunday 8.30am	Jack & Carmel Byrne
10:00am	Ana-Maria California
Monday 10.00am <i>(Please note change of time)</i>	
Tuesday 9.30am	
Wednesday 9.30am	
Thursday 9.30am	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
Friday 9.30am	St Polycarp Elizabeth Holmes <i>(Family Fast: Day of prayer for the needy & hungry of the world)</i>
Saturday 11.30am	
Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	Colin Heywood
Sunday 8.30am	Second Sunday of Lent Parishioners
10.00am	Sinzia (Thanksgiving)

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

Vincent Killeen RIP: Sadly, Vincent passed away a few days ago after a short illness. Please remember Vincent and his grieving family in your prayers and thoughts. A requiem Mass will be celebrated in our church on Monday 26th February at 12.00 pm.

Family Fast and Lenten offerings: Lent is a season of penance, reflection and fasting which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday. There is opportunity for generous giving from the fast for which **CAFOD envelopes** are available at the back of church. Donations can be done online at www.cafod.org.uk/lent or by using a CAFOD envelope. This can be returned via collection plates or can be send them directly to CAFOD’s head office.

Lenten Alms can be offered in the church wall box marked **-Lenten Alms.**

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Mark: A pastoral letter from Bishop Mark will be read at all Masses this weekend.

Extra devotions during Lent: Lenten reflection on Tuesdays- a prayerful reflection on ‘We dare to say’, Study on the Our Father- with prayers, readings, and reflections. This has been prepared by the Southwark Evangelisation &Catechetical team for every parish in England and Wales for the Year of Prayer. This will be held just after the Mass from 10.00am to 11.00am -starting on Tuesday 20th February. Please join us on Tuesdays!

On Wednesdays - reflections on two stations of Cross during the Mass.

On Saturday 23rd March at 11.00am: Mary’s Way of The Cross in the Church.

Chrism Mass: The Chrism Mass will be celebrated this year in Birkenhead at Saint Michael and All Angels Woodchurch on Wednesday of Holy Week, 27th March at 7.00 pm. Parishioners are welcome.

Churches Together Lenten Reflections: Please see details on the notice board.

Year of Prayer 2024: The Holy Father has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee - an event that happens every 25 years. The theme of the Jubilee year is **“Pilgrims of Hope”**. To help us prepare, the Holy Father has established 2024 as a Year of Prayer dedicated “to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer, prayer in personal life and in the life of the Church”. Resources are available on the diocesan website to help us to prepare for this event. Please visit <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/faith-and-life/year-of-prayer-resources/>

Bishop Mark’s Visitation to the Parish. Masses Saturday 9th March (6pm) and Sunday 10th March (8.30 and 10am): Bishop Mark will preside at all these masses during his visit to our Parish. After each mass he would like to meet parishioners in the parish hall. This is a wonderful occasion to welcome and speak to our bishop. We hope that as many as possible will benefit from the opportunity to show that we at St Pius are an active, devoted parish who appreciate his pastoral care.

The (Women’s) World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 01st March at St. Mary’s Church, Nether Alderley at 6.30pm. This years’ Service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine. All are welcome.