

Passion of Christ, as one of the holy women who accompanied Him to Calvary, offered Him a towel on which he left the imprint of His face. She went to Rome, bringing with her this image of Christ, which was long exposed to public veneration..... These pious traditions cannot be documented, but there is no reason why the belief that such an act of compassion did occur should not find expression in the veneration paid to one called Veronica..."

Finally, Station 13 which depicts Jesus' body taken down from the Cross and laid in His mother's arms is not specifically in any Gospel account. For example, Luke 24:53 tells us that Joseph of Arimathea took down His body, wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid Him in a rock-hewn tomb. Nevertheless, it would be inconceivable if His mother, who had followed Him and was at the foot of the Cross when He died, would not spend those final moments with Him once He was taken down. The Pietà, an artistic representation of a sorrowful Virgin with the dead Christ in her arms, developed in Germany about 1300 and quickly spread to Italy. One of the most famous Pietà sculptures, that of Michelangelo, is to be found in St Peter's Rome. Whatever the strict scriptural basis of some Stations all of them are reminders that Jesus suffered more than we can even imagine, because of His love for us.

- **Stephen S.**

Entrance Antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

First Reading: Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13,15-18

Responsorial Psalm: 115 Response: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Second Reading: Romans 8 31-34

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel: Mark 9: 2-10

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

Communion Antiphon: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.



Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection):

The Stations of the Cross (2): The Traditional Stations: Last week we considered a short historical overview of the Stations and established that the 14 with which we are familiar crystallised in 1731. Before then the

number of Stations and their depictions varied substantially. Yet from these 14 only 8 are specifically scripturally based. What of the other 6? First, Stations 3,7 and 9, the three falls of Jesus, are not found in sacred scripture. The Gospel accounts of Christ carrying His Cross (Station 2-9 inclusive) are brief. Matthew (27:31-35), Mark (15:20-24) and John (19:17-18) tell us that He was led away to be crucified and then they came to Golgotha where He was crucified. Matthew and Mark add that as He was marched out Simon of Cyrene was compelled to carry the Cross. Luke (23:26-31) is in similar vein but adds that Jesus was followed by a great multitude and Jesus spoke to the women of Jerusalem (Station 8). Among other things He said: *"Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and your children"*.

Station 4 (Jesus meets His mother) is not in the Gospels. The first scriptural mention of Mary on the Via Dolorosa is when she is at the foot of the Cross to which He has been nailed and before He dies. John 19:25-27 states: *"..standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalene"*. This presence of Our Lady would be between Stations 11 and 12, since Jesus is nailed to the Cross but is alive and speaks to His mother and to the disciple Jesus loved. That said, there is every reason to believe that Mary followed Her Son on his Way along with the others on her way to the foot of the Cross. Hence the perfectly understandable tradition that He spoke to Our Lady near the beginning of His procession while she stood and observed His sufferings. Station 6, Veronica wiping Jesus' face, is not mentioned in scripture. The Catholic Encyclopaedia says of St Veronica: *"In several regions of Christendom there is honoured under this name a pious matron of Jerusalem who, during the*



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25- February-2024

Eucharistic Prayer – II or III

Second Sunday of Lent

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

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| Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm | Colin Heywood |
| Sunday 8.30am | Parishioners |
| 10:00am | Sinzia (Thanksgiving) |
| Monday 12.00pm | Requiem Mass: Vincent Killeen |
| Tuesday 9.30am | |
| Wednesday 9.30am | |
| Thursday 9.30am | |
| Friday 9.30am | St David, Patron of Wales. |
| Saturday 11.30am | Eamonn McSweeney |
| Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm | Josephine Curley |
| Sunday 8.30am | Third Sunday of Lent Parishioners |
| 10.00am | Michael Houlihan (sick) |

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

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.**

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. 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.

Sacred Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday 7.00pm (Washing of the feet and the Mass of The Lord’s Supper) No morning Mass

Good Friday: 3.00pm (The Celebration of The Lord’s passion and veneration of the Cross/Congregation will be invited for a genuflection or a deep bow)

Holy Saturday 7.00pm (Easter Vigil and the First Mass of Easter/ Service will start outside the church with the blessing of new fire)

Easter Sunday Mass at 8.30 am and 10.00am