

our discipleship: weeping like Peter for sins committed; opening our hearts to faith in the suffering Jesus, like the Good Thief; remaining there at the foot of the Cross of Christ like the Mother and the Disciple. Importantly, Cardinal Marini clarifies that the intention of the new version is not to change the traditional text, which remains fully valid, but simply to highlight a few important stations which in the Gospels are either absent or in the background. He adds that this only emphasises the extraordinary richness of the Way of the Cross which no schema can ever fully express. In 2000, Pope St. John Paul II suggested that Catholics add a 15th station, Christ's Resurrection, to the Stations of the Cross. As he taught, Christ's resurrection reveals *"the entire Christian mystery in all its newness"*. Whatever the evolution of the Stations across the centuries, these quotations from Carmen Butcher perhaps help to convey their impact upon us: *"Its tableaux of Christ's passion—painted, engraved, carved, or sculptured, using stone, wood, or metal—create a literal prayerful path that helps spiritual seekers put on Christ's sandals as they move slowly from station to station, reflecting on his life"*; and *"walking the stations is increasingly embraced by Christians of all denominations seeking an "interior Jerusalem" where we can know God as "more inward than [our] most inward part," as Augustine wrote"*

- Stephen S.

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he recues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

First Reading: Exodus 20 1-17

Responsorial Psalm: 18 **Response:** You , Lord, have the message of eternal life.

Second Reading: 1Corinthians 1 22-25

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal gory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel: John 2: 13-25

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

Communion Antiphon: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.



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

The Stations of the Cross (3): The Biblical Way:

This is the final article in this short series. In the last article we considered the 6 stations which are based on tradition and not on specific scriptural reference in the Gospels. These 6

Stations are: the 3 falls of Jesus (Nos. 3,7 and 9), Jesus meets his mother (No. 4), Veronica wipes the face of Jesus (No. 6) and the representation of Our Lady cradling Jesus when He is taken down (No. 13). Pope St John Paul II first celebrated a new devotion of the Stations on Good Friday 1991. This is called the Biblical Way of the Cross and its rationale is to make available to Christians a version more closely aligned with the Gospel account of the Passion, omitting the 6 Stations based on tradition. In 2007 Pope Benedict approved this new devotion for meditation and public celebration.

The Stations in the Biblical Way are: **1, Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane; 2, Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested; 3, Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin; 4, Jesus is denied by Peter 3 times; 5, Jesus is judged by Pilate; 6, Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns; 7, Jesus takes up his cross; 8, Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross; 9, Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem; 10, Jesus is crucified; 11, Jesus promises his kingdom to the repentant thief; 12, Jesus entrusts Mary and John to each other; 13, Jesus dies on the cross; and 14, Jesus is laid in the tomb.**

Archbishop Piero Marini comments on the Biblical Way on the Vatican website(https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/documents/ns_lit_doc_via-crucis_en.html). He describes the variations in the Stations over the centuries and says that the new Stations are, if anything, simply rediscovered from versions which predate our modern Stations. He says that the new Stations are of great salvific import and theological significance for the drama of Christ's Passion, which he says is *"an ever-present drama in which every man and woman, knowingly or unknowingly, plays a part"*. He tells us that making the new Way of the Cross, we must declare once more



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03- March-2024

Eucharistic Prayer – II or III

Third Sunday of Lent

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

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	Josephine Curley
Sunday 8.30am	Parishioners
10:00am	Michael Houlihan (sick)
Monday 10.00pm	Fred and Veira Edwards
Tuesday 9.30am	Fr John
Wednesday 9.30am	
Thursday 9.30am	
Friday 9.30am	Brian Box
Saturday 11.30am	
Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	Kathleen McSorley
Sunday 8.30am	Fourth Sunday of Lent Parishioners
10.00am	Jack and Carmel Byrne

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

Bishop Mark's Visitation to the Parish. Next weekend we will welcome Bishop Mark to our parish. It will be a great opportunity for all of us to meet the bishop as he is making his pastoral visitation to our parish. Bishop Mark will be available in the parish hall after the Vigil Mass (Saturday 6.00pm) and 10.00am Mass on Sunday.

Family Fast and Lenten offerings: There is opportunity for generous giving from the fast for which **CAFOD envelopes** are available at the back of church. This can be returned via collection plates or can be send them directly to CAFOD's head office. Donations can be done online at www.cafod.org.uk/lent or by using a CAFOD envelope.

Lenten Alms can be offered in the church wall box marked **-Lenten Alms.**
Lenten reflection on Tuesdays- a prayerful reflection on 'We dare to say',

Study on the Our Father- with prayers, readings, and reflections. This will be held at 10.00am just after the Mass. (40mnts)

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.
Irish Coffee morning: We celebrate St Patrick's Day with an Irish Coffee morning on a Sunday in March. Those who can assist Kevin to organise this on Sunday 17th March after the 10.00am Mass please telephone Kevin on 584430

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

Wilmslow Wells for Africa Souperday, Saturday, 9 March at Wilmslow Methodist Church Hall, Water Lane, Wilmslow, 11.30am to 2.00pm, admission £6 - includes choice of four home-made soups and bread. Further details on poster on Noticeboard in church porch. Wilmslow Wells raises money to help supply clean water and sanitation to the poorest parts of Africa. 99% of the money raised goes to funding projects. Your support is most appreciated.

Further threat to the unborn of abortion up to birth: *In the next couple of weeks an attempt is to be made to widely decriminalise abortion up to the birth. This is a further assault on the sanctity of human life in our society. ...Please contact your Member of Parliament to ask that they oppose the decriminalization of abortion up to birth. ...The Right to Life website has details under 'Take Action' which enables you to find and contact your MP directly and the website of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children has helpful information under 'Resources' <https://righttolife.org.uk/littlefighters> . <https://www.spuc.org.uk/>*

Year of Prayer 2024. Resources are available on the diocesan website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/faith-and-life/year-of-prayer-resources/>