

(died 721) and, more importantly, St Wilfrid of York (633-709).

In 664 King Oswy of Northumbria decided to hold the Synod of Whitby at the Hilda's abbey. He invited clerics from far away Anglo-Saxon kingdoms to attend. One important decision taken was to use the Roman method of calculating Easter, thereby replacing the practice of St Columba. The Council of Nicea had earlier established that Easter should always be celebrated on a Sunday whereas early Christians (and Columba) had celebrated Easter at the same time as the Jewish Passover. The matter was extremely controversial. The king asked if Christ had given to St Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven and if Peter was the rock upon which the Church was built. When both sides agreed, King Oswy decided that the Roman practice should henceforth be followed. The Lindisfarne monks refused to accept the ruling and retired to Iona, then Ireland. Bede says that Hilda was a woman of great energy, a skilled administrator and teacher. Her wisdom was such that monks, kings and other royals travelled great distances to consult her and seek her advice. Bede wrote: "*All who knew her called her mother because of her outstanding devotion and grace*". Hilda died on 17<sup>th</sup> November 680. She is a patron saint of learning, culture and poetry. She had encouraged the poetic talents of the Anglo-Saxon bard Caedmon, one of her herdsmen at the abbey. St Hilda's College, Oxford and St Hilda and St Bede's College, Durham are named after her, a tribute to her renowned wisdom.

**-Stephen S**

**Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia.**

**First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26**

**Responsorial Psalm: 102: Response: The Lord has set his sway in heaven.**

**Second Reading: John 4:11-16**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: John 17: 11-19**

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

**Communion Antiphon: Father, I pray that they may be one as we also are one, alleluia.**



## **Seventh Sunday of Easter, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection: Anglo-Saxon Saints (1)**

**St Hilda of Whitby:** During the liturgical year the Catholic Church celebrates many great saints as examples to us. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the vast majority of these are from continental Europe. However, an 11<sup>th</sup> century old English document ("The Secgan") lists no fewer than 89 English saints and this is not a comprehensive list. This series will outline the lives of six of the best known; all have churches named after them. The first five lived during the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> centuries, an intense period of Christian activity in the kingdoms of which our country was then formed.

What we know of St Hilda of Whitby (618-680) derives largely from the writings of St Bede who was born some 40 years after her. Her father Hereric, the nephew of King Edwin of Northumbria, had been poisoned when she was a child and she was brought up by King Edwin. Edwin married a Catholic princess, Aethelburh, who arrived from Kent to Northumbria with her confessor, St Paulinus, a Roman monk later to become Archbishop of York. Hilda converted to Christianity, aged 13, when the entire King's household was baptised on Easter Day, 12<sup>th</sup> April 627. In 633 disaster struck. The pagan king of Mercia invaded Northumbria and killed Edwin. Queen Aethelburh fled (with Paulinus) back home to Kent, taking Hilda with her. Aethelburh founded a convent at Lyminge, some 5 miles from Folkestone and (now) the Channel Tunnel. It is assumed that Hilda remained with her. The next that Bede tells us is that Hilda, aged 33, was about to join her sister at a convent in Gaul but St Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, recalled her to Northumbria. She practised the religious life at an abbey on the north bank of the Wear, then went to Hartlepool where she became abbess. Later, in 657, at the age of 39, she founded, and became abbess of, an abbey at Streaneshalch, a place which a couple of centuries later the Danes named Whitby. The abbey was a double monastery of monks and nuns. It became extremely famous for its study of the Scriptures and produced under her tutelage no fewer than five bishops, including St John of Hexham/Beverley



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**12-May-2024**

**Eucharistic Prayer – II or III**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**World Communications Day**

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

**Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm**

**Sunday 8.30am**

**10:00am**

**Parishioners**

Daniel Hickey

**Monday 12.45pm Requiem Mass: Peter Wignall**

Tuesday 9.30am St Matthias

Wednesday 9.30am

Thursday 9.30am

Arthur Boyce

Friday 9.30am

Audrey Jones (Intentions)

Saturday 11.30am

Maureen Box

Saturday (Vigil) **6.00pm**

Elizabeth Holmes

Sunday **8.30am Pentecost Sunday**

**Parishioners**

**10.00am**

**Sacrament of reconciliation (Confessions) and Exposition of the Blessed**

**Sacrament: Every Saturday at 11.00am**

**Sick List:** Josh Reeder

**First Holy Communion 2024:** Last Sunday, the 5th May, was a day of much joy when five of our young parishioners: Jacob Donal Beetson, Blake Leonardo Chatterton, Florence Edwards, Kit Rooney and Sophia Sopinski made their First Holy Communion at the 10.00am Mass. Considerable thanks go to Sheila & Hilary, who had guided the children during the many weeks of learning, to David Kingsley the organist, and the large number of parishioners especially John Ryland and David Anten, who arranged a celebratory gathering (tea, coffee, cakes and not forget the flowers) after the Mass in the Parish Hall. Thank you everyone.

**Peter Wignall RIP:** Peter Wignall, beloved husband of Sheila Wignall sadly passed away a few days ago. Please remember Peter and his grieving family

in your prayers and thoughts. The requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 12.45pm in our church.

**Missio Red Box Results 2023:** The total Red Box donations figure for 2023, in the Diocese of Shrewsbury was a remarkable £127,801 to support the global mission of the Church. Bishop Mark expresses his gratitude to everyone who donated to the ongoing work of Missio. Bishop Mark will preside the Shrewsbury Diocesan Mass for Missio on Saturday 1st June 2024 at Saint Michael & All Angels Church, Woodchurch at 11.00 am.

**Diocesan Mass for the celebration of Marriage 2024:** ‘This year’s Diocesan Mass for Marriage will take place on Saturday June 8th, 12 noon at Saint Columba’s Church Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. If any of our parishioners are celebrating a special anniversary in 2024 and wish to receive an invitation please provide the following details: -Names, Address, which anniversary they are celebrating - (this would usually be – 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or a 1st wedding anniversary) to Fr Mathew. Please submit any requests for an invitation through the parish office to avoid private emails ending up in the SPAM folder!’

**Year of Prayer 2024 Come and join our online webinar with Sycamore.**

Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be a ‘Year of Prayer’, as a preparatory year for the Jubilee Year of 2025. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn how to get the most out of the prayer pathway on Sycamore! On Wednesday 15th May 7pm-8pm. Email Natalie Orefice for the link to join: [Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org).

**A Day for Confirmation Catechists:** You are invited to a day with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph and Bishop Mark Davies for confirmation catechists and all those who are interested in supporting the current catechist. It is a day exploring the Sacrament of Confirmation, best practice and an opportunity to network with catechists from across the diocese. Join us on May 18th, 10am-4pm at St Mary’s Parish. Centre, 65 Delamere St, Crewe, CW1 2JX. To find out more contact Natalie Orefice on 07730 526826 or [natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) or sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-day-for-catechists-in-the-diocese-of-shrewsbury-tickets-851383700567>