

After Etheldreda's death her reputation for saintliness grew and attracted pilgrims to Ely. She became one of the best known and most popular of the English saints throughout the Middle Ages. During the Reformation her monastery was closed and the shrine in her honour destroyed. Many churches are dedicated to her. One which I frequented when I lived in London, is St Etheldreda's, Ely Place. It is one of the very few pre-Reformation Catholic churches in England, having been recovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Church was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by John de Kirkeby, the Bishop of Ely and became the London chapel of the Bishops of Ely, which it remained until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is one of only two buildings in London which date back to the reign of Edward I. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century, one Bishop of Ely and priest at the church, was Mathew Wren, uncle of Christopher Wren the architect of St Paul's. Bishop Wren lost his episcopacy and was imprisoned in the Tower of London between 1642-1660, having been reported to the Puritan Parliament for his "Popish practices". Over time St Etheldreda's name had simplified into "St. Audrey," and an annual fair commemorating her began to be held selling cheap goods, including *St. Audrey's lace*. This eventually became *tawdry lace* and in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the word *tawdry* entered the vocabulary with its present meaning. (1). (1) Source: Merriam-Webster online dictionary

-Stephen S

**Entrance Antiphon: Blest be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love.**

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 4: 32-34, 39-40**

**Responsorial Psalm: 32: Response: Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.**

**Second Reading: Romans 8: 14-17**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, the God who is, who was, and who is to come. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20**

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

**Communion Antiphon: Since you are children of God, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out: Abba Father.**



**The Most Holy Trinity, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection: Anglo-Saxon Saints (3)) St Etheldreda:** St Etheldreda (c636-679) was one, perhaps the most famous, of four daughters of King Anna of East Anglia, her sisters including St Sexburga of Ely. Etheldreda was probably

born near Newmarket, at Exning. She was subject to two politically arranged marriages, the first in 652 to a local prince of the southern fens who died in 655. Upon his death she retired to the Isle of Ely. She was remarried in 660, aged about 23 years, to Egfrith, the 15-year-old future king of Northumbria. Etheldreda had insisted on remaining chaste during her first marriage and her second husband, at the outset, agreed to respect those same wishes. However, c.670, Etheldreda wanted to become a nun and to be released from her marriage vows, whereupon Egfrith unsuccessfully petitioned (St.) Wilfred, Bishop of York and Etheldreda's spiritual adviser, for permission to exercise his marital rights in preference to his wife's continuing desire to preserve her virginity. Wilfred, however, persuaded Egfrith to allow Etheldreda to enter a convent at Coldingham (now in the Borders) which had been founded by the king's aunt. In about 673, aware that her husband had regretted his decision to let her enter the convent and frightened that she might be forcibly removed, Etheldreda returned to Ely, where she founded a double monastery (i.e. one for both monks and nuns) on land which she owned. The monastery was destroyed after a Danish invasion in 870.

Wilfred visited Etheldreda regularly and obtained special privileges for her monastery from the Pope. She obtained a reputation for her simple life and the spiritual counselling she gave. She wore only woollen clothes, ate sparingly and prayed for long periods. Many men and women followed her example, came to her monastery and placed daughters under her care. St Sexburga, her sister, who had become Queen of Kent, was widowed in 664, then, after bringing up her children, became a nun. Shortly afterwards she returned to East Anglia to enter her sister's monastery. When Etheldreda died on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 697, Sexburga succeeded her as abbess.



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**26-May-2024**

**Eucharistic Prayer – II or III**

**The Most Holy Trinity**

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

<b>Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm</b>		Louise Dunkerley
<b>Sunday 8.30am</b>		<b>Parishioners</b>
	<b>10:00am</b>	
Monday	10.00am	St Augustine of Canterbury
Tuesday	9.30am	Special Intention
Wednesday	9.30am	
Thursday	9.30am	
<b>Friday 9.15am</b>	<b>(Please notice the change of time)</b>	The visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Saturday	11.30am	St Justin John Kilroe
Saturday (Vigil) <b>6.00pm</b>		Teresa Hernon
Sunday	<b>8.30am</b>	Thanksgiving (The Wignall Family)
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>The Body and Blood of Christ</b> Parishioners

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

**Sacrament: Every Saturday at 11.00am**

**Sick List:** Josh Reeder

**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.

**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).

**Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea)** Catholic maritime charity Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) is very grateful for this parish's prayer and financial support of its work on Sea Sunday last year. To report back on the use of those funds, it invites parishioners to join an online update and thank you webinar on Tuesday 28th May from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. To register for this virtual event, please visit [www.stellamaris.org.uk/thankyou2024](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/thankyou2024)

**SOCIETY OF SAINT GREGORY - ANNUAL SUMMER SCHOOL** This year's Summer School is titled 'A Symphony of Praise in Word and Music' and will be held from the afternoon of Wednesday 31st July to lunchtime on Saturday 3rd August at Liverpool Hope University L16 9JD. The Society welcome both residential and day delegates and bursary funding is available. Further details, including the programme, and online booking are available at <https://www.ssg.org.uk/summer-school-2024> or by emailing [summerschool@ssg.org.uk](mailto:summerschool@ssg.org.uk)

**SVP and CAFOD working together in the run up to the General Election.** 'As Catholics, we know that tackling poverty and injustice are among the most important issues politicians should act on. St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD have produced a guide for Catholics for the General Election, with suggested questions to ask candidates. Please see [cafod.org.uk/encounter](http://cafod.org.uk/encounter) or [svp.org.uk/encounter](http://svp.org.uk/encounter) for more information'.

**Visit of Pilgrim Virgin Statue and Fatima Relics.** 'Saturday 15th June, from 10 am - 4 pm, the World Apostolate of Fatima will visit the parish of Our Lady & St Christopher, Romiley, with the relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco and the Centenary Pilgrim Statute of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The statue was blessed at the Chapel of the Apparitions in Fatima. Pope St John Paul II invited us to receive the light of Fatima. The Fatima message of reparation, repentance and peace is still relevant to us today. The day includes Mass, Confession, film on the story of Fatima and Investiture and Enrolment of the Brown Scapular for those who wish to receive it. Please bring a packed lunch – hot and cold drinks provided'. For full details see [www.ourladyandstchristophersromiley.org.uk/visit-of-fatima-relics](http://www.ourladyandstchristophersromiley.org.uk/visit-of-fatima-relics)