

tapers to use at the funerals of the poor.

The word "paschal" is the equivalent of the Greek paschs, derived from the Aramaic pashā and Hebrew pesah, meaning the passing over. In the Old Testament it refers to the night the Israelites left Egypt for the Promised Land, when God struck the houses of the Egyptians but left the Israelites untouched, thus "passing over" or sparing them. With Christianity the word "paschal" took on a new meaning, referring to Our Lord's passion, death, resurrection, and glorification. These events stand at the centre of our faith. God's saving plan for us was accomplished by the redemptive suffering and death of Jesus. His resurrection and glorification are our assurances of eternal life - if we follow His words and His way. **-Bernard Kellett**

Entrance Antiphon: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 10.25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Responsorial Psalm: 97 Response: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

Second Reading: 1 John 4: 7-10

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.' Alleluia!

Gospel: John 15: 9-17

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

Communion Antiphon: If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.



Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection:

Reflection: Paschal Candle (ii) This candle, also called the Easter Candle, originated in the earliest days of Christianity, when evening prayer began with the lighting of a candle.

This practice was probably inspired by the Jewish custom of lighting a lamp at the conclusion of the Sabbath. Historical references mention the Lucernarium, the evening prayer rite with which the early Christians began each Sunday vigil. The lighting of the candle dispelled the darkness and represented Christ – the Light of the World. This solemn rite was carried out with even greater reverence during the Easter Vigil. In the time of Constantine we are told by the historian Eusebius that the emperor "transformed the night of the sacred Easter Vigil into the brilliancy of day, by lighting throughout the whole city pillars of wax, so that this mystic vigil was rendered brighter than the brightest daylight."

In Italian basilicas the paschal candle stand was made of marble and designed as a permanent attachment to the ambo (a large pulpit or reading desk in early churches). Several of these candle stands still survive, as in the Basilica of San Lorenzo fuori le Mura (Saint Lawrence outside the Walls) in Rome, which was built in the 3rd century. By the second half of the 4th century, a hymn in praise of the candle and the Easter mystery was sung, as referenced by Saint Jerome in 384 AD. Saints Ambrose and Augustine are known to have composed these hymns of praise. The precise use of the Paschal candle has varied over the centuries. Initially it was broken up after the Easter Vigil and fragments were given to the faithful, but from the 10th century onward it was kept in a place of honour near the Gospel until the Feast of the Ascension. By the 12th century, it was common to inscribe the candle with the current year. Over time the candle grew in size to merit the description of "pillar". By the mid-sixteenth century, some Paschal candles weighed as much as three hundred pounds, and, after use, were melted into tapers as much as three hundred pounds, and, after use, were melted into



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05-May-2024

Eucharistic Prayer – II or III

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	Austn Queenan
Sunday 8.30am	Parishioners
10:00am	First Communicants & their Families
Monday 10.00am	
Tuesday 9.30am	
Wednesday 7.00pm (Vigil)	Marie Gould
Thursday 9.30am	The Ascension of the Lord (Holyday of Obligation)
Friday 9.30am	Elizabeth Holmes
Saturday 11.30am	Josh Reeder
Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	
Sunday 8.30am	Parishioners
10.00am	Seventh Sunday of Easter Daniel Hickey

Sacrament of reconciliation (Confessions) and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Saturday at 11.00am

Sick List: Josh Reeder

First Holy Communion 2024: A warm welcome to families and friends attending the First Communion Mass of our young children this weekend. Thank you to Sheila and Hilary our catechists, and parents for their active participation and bringing children very faithfully to every class and making this day memorable in their lives. Please join us in the Parish Hall to celebrate after the Mass.

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Mark: A pastoral letter from Bishop Mark on the Month of Mary will be read at all Masses this weekend.

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!

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.

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.

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 or sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-day-for-catechists-in-the-diocese-of-shrewsbury-tickets-851383700567>

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. 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