

place of rest. It is said that on her death, however, the Trentham nuns refused to deliver up her remains, locked them in a coffin in the crypt and placed a guard over them. One night the nuns guarding the body fell into a deep slumber and the locks yielded to the touch of people from Hanbury who arrived under cover of darkness to take Werburgh to her desired resting place in Hanbury. Her relics remained there as a place of pilgrimage until 875 when they were taken to Chester to safeguard them from the Danish invaders. At Chester the existing church was rededicated to Saints Werburgh and Oswald. This church was replaced by a Benedictine Abbey in 1093 and the abbey later became the Cathedral. In 1538, during the dissolution of the monasteries, the monastery was disbanded, the shrine to St Werburgh sacked and her relics scattered and destroyed. Many churches are dedicated to St Werburgh, the most local being in Chorlton-cum-Hardy. Perhaps the most interesting is that in Warburton, near Lymm, dating from the 13th century and one of fewer than 30 timber-framed churches in England. It is on the site of a previous Saxon church. The village of Warburton is recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Warburgtune', i.e. 'settlement or farmstead of Werburgh', whence comes the surname 'Warburton' and explains its prevalence in the North West of England.(1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhWq2ZS3XkE>

-Stephen S

Entrance Antiphon: He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

First Reading: Exodus 24: 3-8

Responsorial Psalm:115: Response: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

Second Reading: Hebrews 9: 11-15

*Sequence*** (shorter form)*

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 14: 12-16, 22-26

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.



The Body and Blood of Christ, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection: Anglo-Saxon Saints (4) St. Werburgh:

St Werburgh was born in Stone, Staffordshire, in the mid-7th century. Her maternal grandmother was St Sexburga, sister of St

Ethedreda. Her mother, St. Ermenilda, was the daughter of the Christian King of Kent and her father the son of the pagan King of Mercia whom his wife converted into a Christian King. Werburgh, who was much sought in marriage, persuaded her father to allow her to enter the renowned Ely Abbey, founded by her great-aunt, St Ethedreda. Soon afterwards her father died and her mother followed her to Ely where in due course she became Abbess.

The new Mercian King, her uncle Ethelred (not the Unready) requested Werburgh to leave Ely and return to Mercia so as to bring all the convents in his kingdom up to the Ely standard of discipline and spiritual perfection. Werburgh agreed with reluctance since she treasured the solitude at Ely. Benefiting from the heritage of her family of saintly nuns and from having been trained at home by St Chad, she set to the task. She reformed the existing monasteries in Mercia and, with the King's endowment, founded new ones at Trentham and Hanbury (Staffs) and at Weedon (Northants). She became famous for her devotion, her simplicity and her humility. A story about the saint is that she asked a servant to lock in a farmhouse wild geese which were causing havoc in the cornfields. He did this but stole and ate one of them. When Werburgh returned she resurrected the goose. Dr Thomas Pickles of the University of Chester (1) argues that such stories are an important window into medieval society and the moral tensions between the value of the harvest and damage caused by creatures such as geese. In Chester Cathedral is a misericord, a statue and a stained glass window reflecting this story.

Werburgh died in about 700 AD. Apparently aware that her different communities would each try to lay claim to her relics, she chose Hanbury as her



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02-June-2024

Eucharistic Prayer – II or III

The Body and Blood of Christ

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

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	Teresa Hernon
Sunday 8.30am	Thanksgiving (The Wignall Family)
10:00am	Parishioners
Monday 10.00am	St Charles Lwanga & Companions
Tuesday 9.30am	
Wednesday 9.30am	St Boniface
Thursday 9.30am	
Friday 9.30am	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday 11.30am	The immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary Intentions of Mathew Delany
Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm	Elizabeth Holmes
Sunday 8.30am	Jack & Carmel Byrne
10.00am	10th Sunday in Ordinary Time Parishioners

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

Sick List: Josh Reeder

An Evening with Dr Bill Keimig on Monday 24th June at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Holy Angels Church, Wicker Ln, Hale Barns, Altrincham WA15 0HG. Dr Bill Keimig, from the Franciscan University of Steubenville in the USA, will lead an evening filled with laughter, inspiration and wisdom as he shares his insights and experiences of parish renewal and leading RCIA. This is open to all and especially to volunteers, catechists and those who are curious! This promises to be a fantastic evening, so please sign up early via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/evening-with-dr-bill-keimig-tickets-902343853757>. For any further details please contact Natalie Orefice, Diocesan Mission Catechist natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or telephone 07730 526826.

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

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 or svp.org.uk/encounter for more information'.

Papal Audience, 29 May 2024 (From Vatican news): The Spirit and the Bride. Pope Francis launched a new catechetical cycle on Wednesday, beginning a series of teachings on "The Spirit and the Bride: focusing on how the Holy Spirit guides God's people throughout salvation history". From the very beginning, the Spirit of God is at work, bringing order and beauty out of chaos. This ongoing transformation is fully realized in Jesus Christ. Saint Paul tells us that "creation has been groaning in travail," (Rom 8:22) a reality that remains true, and emphasizes our need to address both our internal and external chaos. In light of this, Saint Francis of Assisi offers contemplation and praise as a remedy and demonstrates how to embrace creation freely. Let us then invite the Spirit of God into our lives, to transform our hearts and heal our world: "Come Holy Spirit, Creator come, enlighten our minds and fill with heavenly grace the hearts you have created."

St Charles Lwanga & Companions, martyrs. Charles Lwanga and his twenty-one companions (the youngest, Kitizo, was only 13) were executed for being Christians. Within a year of their deaths the number of Christians in Uganda quadrupled. St Charles Lwanga is the patron of Catholic Action and Black African Youth.