

Then, before the proclamation of the Gospel, the Lectionary may be incensed, containing as it does the holy words of Scripture. At the Offertory, incense may be used on the offerings of bread and wine, the altar, the priest and the people. The gifts of bread and wine are to be transformed into Christ's body and blood on the altar through the priest's sacred ministry, in front of and for the benefit of the faithful baptised in the congregation. At the elevation, the (now) Body and Blood of Christ Jesus may be incensed. At a funeral Mass burnt incense may also be used over the earthly remains of the deceased and again at the graveside. At Easter, five grains of unburnt incense are placed into the Paschal candle, symbolising Jesus' five wounds, those in each of His hands and feet and the wound in His side.

The heavenly significance of incense in prayer is attested to in this extract from the Book of Revelation (8:3-4): *"And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer; and he was given much incense to mingle with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar before the throne; and the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God."*
-Stephen S

Entrance antiphon: These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.

First Reading: Acts 12: 1-11

Responsorial Psalm: 33: From all my terrors the Lord set me free. /R

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4: 6-8,17-18

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-19

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

Communion Antiphon: Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.



Ss Peter & Paul, Cycle B, 2024

Weekly Reflection: Sacramentals

(2): Incense: Incense has long been used for both religious and secular purposes. It is regularly referred to in the Old Testament. For example, in God's instruction to Moses as to how to

build the tabernacle (Exodus 25-31) He says (30:1): *"You shall make an altar to burn incense upon; of acacia wood shall you make it."* In the first chapter of St Luke's Gospel it is said of the priest Zechariah, prior to the birth of his son, John the Baptist: *"according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense."* Also, frankincense was one of the gifts brought by the wise men to Jesus after His birth; this symbolised His role as priest, prophet and deity. Nevertheless, it cannot be said with confidence that incense was used prior to the 5th century in Christian ritual, It might be inferred that Christians may have followed the Jewish use from the outset. However, the fact that incense was also used in pagan sacrifices in the Roman world, including for paying homage to the Emperor as a God, may be a reason for Christians having avoided its use until after Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire in the 4th century.

Incense is regularly associated with prayer to God. In Psalm 141:2 it is written: *"Let my prayer be counted as incense before thee..."* Our prayers can involve all the five senses, not just those of speech and of hearing the Word of God. Christians use the sense of sight to read the Word of God and also to look at and venerate holy images, for example the crucifix and icons. Touch is used, for example, in the laying on of hands by a priest or when we make the sign of the cross as a blessing. We can see incense, but we also use our sense of smell to appreciate its effect in assisting us to glimpse the divinity of God.

Incense may feature at various stages of any Mass. At the beginning it may accompany an entrance procession and be used on the cross and the altar.



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30-June-2024

Eucharistic Prayer – II or III

Ss Peter & Paul

Peter's Pence

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

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm

Parishioners

Sunday 8.30am

10:00am

Monday 10.00am

Bernard Eccles RIP

Tuesday 9.30am

Wednesday 9.30am St Thomas, Ap

Thursday 9.30am

Friday 9.30am Intentions of Maureen & Kevin Hanrahan

Saturday 11.30am St Maria Goretti

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm

Parishioners

Sunday 8.30am

10.00am 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sacrament of reconciliation (Confessions) and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Saturday at 11.00am {Sick List: Fr Anthony Cogliolo.}

The Peter's Pence collection (This Sunday): This annual collection directly supports the activities of the Holy See and the charitable works of Pope Francis to assist the victims of wars, oppression, and natural disaster around the world. Please use the white envelope at the back of the church if you wish to help the Holy Father to help others and return the sealed envelopes through the collection plates.

Gloria Hayhurst RIP: Sadly Gloria beloved wife of Tony Hayhurst passed away a few days ago. Gloria attended the Saturday mid-day Mass regularly and also supported our parish as a Marriage Registrar in the past. Please remember her and her grieving family in your Prayers and thoughts.

Bernard Eccles RIP: After several years of poor health Bernard (brother of Mary Fielder) died in Wythenshawe Hospital on Monday evening. Please remember his wife and family in your prayers.

Annual Finance Statement 2023/24: Copies are available at the back of the church. Since April we have paid for a new Church heater costing £2840.00. We are currently getting quotes for emergency lights as part of mandatory fire and safety feature for the Church and hall, five-year electric testing for all three buildings, security lights for the church, burglar alarm for the house, CCTV cameras for the church and house and some carpentry work to secure the passage way connecting to the church after the recent burglary.

Parish Finance Committee Meeting: On Sunday 07th July after the 10.00am Mass. The members are: Paul Keenan, Bernard Kellett, Mary Fielder, John Ryland and Louise Jones.

Hearty Welcome to all our new parishioners: Only now, many years after the first appearance of COVID, is life in our country slowly starting to return more to what we considered to be 'normal' some 5 years ago. Apart from the celebration of mass, which was also interrupted for several months, it has now been noted that there has been an overall small increase in our total weekly congregation. However, many of our activities associated with the church have not as yet returned to what we considered to be normal prior to COVID. E.G., we still do not have persons providing a 'welcome at the door' immediately prior to the "Sunday" services. Consequently, there have been a number of new "parishioners", who should have received a Hearty Welcome, which somewhat belatedly, we would now like to give them.

Appeal for volunteers: Time has also not stopped 'ticking' and many of our very active parishioners, for a variety of reasons, are now no longer able to continue to do the work that they have done for many, many years to help to keep the parish functioning. e.g. Audrey Jones, who has been our Missio-Representative (Red Box) for over 40 years, has recently resigned from this role. Very considerable thanks go to Audrey for this dedication and commitment, but we are now looking for a volunteer to take on this work. Please speak to Audrey for information as to what is involved in this if you might be interested. *(For more roles -appeal will be continued in the coming weeks)*

Apostleship of the Sea-14th July. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460. Or use the envelopes at the church porch- return by the collection plates.