

Contacting Us: All Parishes

If you require assistance from a member of the clergy, please speak to them before or after Mass. The parish email for all three churches is wilmslowcatholic@gmail.com and the office number is 01625-533-268. For the Sacrament of Marriage – please see Fr Tony at least six months before the wedding date.

Contacting St. Pius X, Alderley Edge & St. Teresa’s Wilmslow

For the Sacrament of Reconciliation – on request or as noted in the newsletter.
 For the Sacrament of Baptism - Please speak to Father Tony or Father Moses after any Mass. Baptisms take place on Saturdays at 12 noon.
 For the Newsletter – please email the parish using the address above.

Contacting St. Benedict’s Handforth

There is a contact list in the Church entrance for all enquiries.
 St Benedict’s Catholic Primary School: 01625 520207

For the Sacrament of Reconciliation – on request after the 5.30 pm Sunday Mass.
 For the Sacrament of Baptism - Deacon Tom Chrisp is available after the 10 am Sunday Mass. He can also be contacted by telephone (M: 07925 072270). Baptisms take place after the Sunday 10 am Mass.
 For the Newsletter – please email the parish using the address above.

	St Pius X, Alderley Edge	St. Benedict’s, Handforth	Sacred Heart & St. Teresa’s, Wilmslow
Safeguarding Officer	Shaun Steele 07947-605-448	Eithne Lennon 07915-918-056	Cecilia Tinsley 01625-521-520
SVP		SVP Society 07749-453-776	

St Pius X Church, Stamford Road, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7NS
 St. Benedict's RC Church, Hall Road, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 3AD
 Sacred Heart & St. Teresa’s Church, Green Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 1LD






PARISHES OF
**ST. PIUS X, ALDERLEY EDGE,
 ST. BENEDICT’S, HANDFORTH &
 SACRED HEART & ST. TERESA’S, WILMSLOW**
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Parish Priest: Fr. Tony McGrath / Assistant Priest: Fr. Moses Ibeh
 Retired Priest (St. Benedict’s): Fr. William O’Riordan / Deacon (St. Benedict’s): Rev. Thomas Chrisp
 Telephone (Office): 01625-533-268 / Email: wilmslowcatholic@gmail.com
 Websites: www.wilmslowcatholic.com
<https://stpiusalderley.com>; <https://stbenedictshandforth.wixsite.com>; www.stteresawilmslow.org



Reg. Charity No. 234025

Sunday 1st June, 2025: The Seventh Sunday of Easter

	 St Pius X, Alderley Edge	 St Benedict’s, Handforth	 Sacred Heart & St Teresa’s, Wilmslow
Saturday 31 st May <i>The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	No Mass	No Mass	9.30 am Mass (<i>Celeb’s Int</i>) Adoration 10 am – 11 am Confessions 10.15 – 10.45 am followed by Marian devotions Confessions 6 pm – 6.20 pm 6.30 pm (Vigil Mass) <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 1 st Jun <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>	9.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i>	10.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i> 5.30 pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	11.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 2 nd Jun	No Mass	No Mass	11.00 am <i>Requiem Mass for David Marsden RIP</i>
Tuesday 3 rd Jun <i>St. Charles Lwanga & Companions (Martyrs)</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	6.30 pm (Adoration 6 pm) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Wednesday 4 th Jun	No Mass	9.30 am (Adoration 9 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i> Prayer Group 11.15 – 12.15
Thursday 5 th Jun <i>St. Boniface (Bishop, Martyr)</i>	No Mass	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Friday 6 th Jun	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Vocations to the Priesthood</i>	No Mass	No Mass
Saturday 7 th Jun	No Mass	No Mass	9.30 am Mass (<i>Celeb’s Int</i>) Adoration 10 am – 11 am Confessions 10.15 – 10.45 am followed by Marian devotions Confessions 6 pm – 6.20 pm 6.30 pm (Vigil Mass) <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 8 th Jun <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	9.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i>	10.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i> 5.30 pm <i>People of the Parish</i> 7.00 pm Holy Hour with worship music	11.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i>

NEW WEBSITE

We now have a new and simple website for the three churches at www.wilmslowcatholic.com. The weekly newsletter is posted near the top of the website. There are links to the individual churches websites. Many thanks for the generosity of the two parishioners of St Benedict's who have paid for the initial construction and annual hosting of the website.

YOUTH 2000 SUMMER FESTIVAL 2025

Taking place in the grounds of Ampleforth College from Friday 22nd - Monday 25th August, the Youth 2000 Summer Festival provides young adults (aged 16-35) from across the UK the opportunity to come together and explore faith, build relationships and find hope. This four-day festival includes great speakers, social time, break-out sessions, Daily Mass, 24/7 Adoration and much more! Register your place at: youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2025.



St. Pius X Alderley Edge Notices

Coffee Morning Please note that the June Coffee Morning will be on 8th June (not 1st June.) Helpers welcome - please call John on 07976 361018

Food Bank Thank you for your continued support. Items can be left in the box in the church porch. Donations are taken to the food bank in Brownley Green in Wythenshawe. Please note no perishable foods. Thank you.



St. Benedict's Handforth Notices

Help required - we require several people to join the church cleaning team at St Benedict's. The commitment is only for an hour once a month (usually on a weekday morning). Please contact Moira on 07870 467078 if you can help to serve your parish in this way. Thank you

HELP urgently needed for collection of flowers on a Friday from Wilmslow (takes around 1 hour). Also we need flower arrangers and church cleaners. Please let one of the stewards know if you can assist with these key roles.

FOODBANK items Collection for Foodbank and 'My pantry,' Saturdays between 10.00 - 11.00 - St Benedict's Church car park. Priority foodbank items, please help if you can: long life milk (semi-skimmed), packet soups, tinned meat, tinned ravioli, baked beans, toilet rolls & eggs. NB - no perishable foods. You can also donate direct to the Foodbank (side door at St Chads) from 11.00 - 12.00 on weekdays except Tuesday.



St. Teresa's Wilmslow Notices

New Sunday Car Parking Charges at the Cheshire East Car Parks in Wilmslow Now in Force Please note that parking charges now apply on Sundays - these will be based on the weekday tariffs for each car park. The car parks include the Rex/Hoopers car park & Broadway Meadow car park.

Wilmslow Wells for Africa Gardens Day Saturday June 28th 10.30am to 4.30pm. As summer arrives why not have a day exploring 18 beautiful gardens across Wilmslow, Alderley Edge, Mobberley and Mottram St Andrew. Some will serve refreshments, whilst others will have plant sales. At the same time, help to raise money that makes an enormous difference to the lives of many people who can't do something we simply take for granted - the luxury of being able to turn on a tap whenever we want some water. Tickets, giving access to all 18 gardens, are available on the day for £15 from the first garden visited, or in advance for £12 from Chelsea Flowers (Chapel Lane, Wilmslow), The Potting Shed (Alderley Edge), Primrose Cottage Nursery (Styal Village), Jenny Morris Bridge (Mobberley) or from Shan (01625 520193). Children welcome for free and no dogs please.

FOODBANK Please see Hope Central collection times & needed items above. (Items can also be left in porch box).

'...and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit' (Acts 2:38)

You are welcome to join us for a Holy Hour for Pentecost. A time of prayer with worship music with scripture readings in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament at St Benedict's, Hall Lane, Handforth, SK9 3AD on Sunday 8th June 2025 at 7pm followed by refreshments in the hall.

Other Notices for All Parishes / Diocesan Notices

Diocesan Red Box Mission Mass - all are welcome! On: Saturday 7 June 2025 at 12.15 pm. Venue: Shrewsbury Cathedral, Town Walls, Shrewsbury SY1 1UE. Mass with Bishop Mark Davies, Fr Anthony Chantry (National Director of Missio), Fr Anthony Grace (Missio Diocesan Director for Shrewsbury), and Fr Dermot Byrne MHM (British Regional of the Mill Hill Missionaries). Mass will be followed by refreshments.

Supporting the Vocation to Marriage & Family Life

Calling all those interested in supporting the vocation of marriage and family to join Jane Deegan Director of Marriage and Family Life Vocation for a retreat day to find out more about this important work and the various different ways you can help. When: 7th June 2025 9.30 am - 4.00 pm. Where: Parish Hall, Holy Angels Church, Wicker Lane, Hale Barnes WA15 0HG. To Register and for More Information please contact: Monika at monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Mobile: 07549226794 or Jane at jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Mobile: 07517 906435.

Retreat Day - Why Get Married A Retreat Day has been organised with the title 'Why Get Married' on Saturday 28th of June 2025 at Our Lady and the Apostles Church Hall 39 Shaw Heath, Stockport SK3 8BD. The retreat is aimed at anyone wondering about the marriage vocation, including young adults who may be dating but not living together, cohabitees and those who are unmarried and seeking baptism for their child. See flyer or poster in Church for more details. Time Retreat Start 10.30am (Mass 9.30am) Finish: 1.30pm. To register and for more Information please contact: Monika at monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Mobile: 07549226794 or Jane at jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Mobile: 07517 906435.

Day of Formation in Liturgical Prayer & Sacred Music: A day of study, prayer, music and reflection. Led by Fr Guy Nicholls, Director of the St John Henry Newman Institute of Liturgical Music. Saturday 28th June at St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton Street, Stockport, SK1 1EJ. A practical day course on understanding the Liturgy and use of Sacred Music within Mass. Begins at 11am and ends with a sung Mass at 5pm. Cost £5 per person (suggested donation payable on the day). Bring a packed lunch. Tea/coffee and biscuits provided. To book or for more information, please email stockportshrine@gmail.com

Diocesan Mass for Marriage The 2025 Diocesan Mass for Marriage will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 21st June at Holy Angels, Hale Barns, followed by a buffet lunch for invited guests. Parishioners celebrating a significant marriage anniversary can apply for an invitation from the Bishop's Office via their parish administrator or by emailing wilmslowcatholic@gmail.com

An Evening Talk on The Shroud of Turin with Michael Kowalski Author and Editor of The British Society for the Turin Shroud Including a full-sized replica of the world-famous Shroud of Turin. Entry Fee: By donation; Refreshments are Included. Thursday 26th June 2025. Talk starts at 7.30pm doors open at 7pm. St Peter's Church, Green Lane, Hazel Grove, SK7 4EA

PARISHES OF
ST PIUS X, ALDERLEY EDGE, ST BENEDICT'S, HANDFORTH
AND
SACRED HEART & ST TERESA'S WILMSLOW
WEEKLY REFLECTION

Sunday 1st June 2025: Seventh Sunday of Easter
Jewish Views of Gentiles at the Time of Jesus: (3) Gentile Impurity

At the time of Jesus did the Jewish people consider Gentiles to be impure? The answer to this question is not straightforward as Dr Ben Shahar (1) makes clear. This article will attempt to summarise his exploration of the matter.

The Torah (2) defines many states of impurity [e.g. contact with unclean objects, principally human corpses and animal carcasses] and how they are to be ritually cleansed. An impure person, unless and until cleansed, was forbidden from entering the Temple. In the books of the Torah and of some of the prophets, Gentiles are characterised by concepts of purity and impurity. So, in Leviticus (18: 6-28) the Lord lists a number of sexual practices which are unclean, saying "*by all these the nations I am casting out before you defiled themselves*". However, nowhere in the Torah does it say that ritual impurity can be contracted through contact with Gentiles. Dr Ben Shahar concludes: "*it is best to view these biblical passages as metaphorical, where immorality, especially sexual immorality is compared to 'impurity'*".

However, Rabbinic writings in the early centuries after Christ suggest that a Gentile who converts to Judaism must undergo ritual purification. This has led some scholars to suggest that those sources believed that Gentiles were inherently impure. Whether or not this is so, it is difficult to find any firm evidence for such a belief existing at the time of Jesus. It seems that one strict Jewish sect, the Essenes, stipulated ritual immersion for anyone who had touched a Gentile, though it is not clear whether this applied just to Gentiles or also to those Jews who did not adhere to the Essene sect. The Dead Sea Scrolls, which date from the 3rd century B.C. to 68 A.D., are mostly identified with the Essenes. In them there is confirmation that sect members regarded as unclean Gentile vessels, food and sacrifices. Yet the inferences from this evidence may not be generalised to Jewish people outside the Essene sect. Gentiles were permitted to enter the outer court of the Temple (known as the Court of the Gentiles) but were prohibited from going any further to the inner and even more holy areas. With the assent of the Romans, even a Roman citizen could be punished by death for transgression. St Paul, a Pharisee as well as a

Roman citizen, was attacked for bringing Greeks beyond the Outer Court - See Acts 21:27-32 where Paul was accused of defiling the holy Temple in this way.

The sources do not therefore prove that, at the time of Jesus, the Jewish people assessed Gentiles as impure per se, though their access to the holy of holies in the Temple was prohibited and there is evidence that Essene sect may well have regarded Gentiles as such. Dr Ben Shahar concludes: *“In sum, it is difficult to put together a clear picture of whether or not Gentiles were considered impure in the New Testament period, and if their status changed in the early rabbinic period, perhaps as a result of Jewish resentment of the Gentiles after the failures of the great Jewish revolts”* – [the first of these revolts against Rome is dated between 66-73 A.D. and includes the Roman destruction of the Temple].

Next week the final article in this series will examine what Dr Ben Shahar tells us about Gentile conversion to Judaism at and prior to the time of Christ.

- (1) *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* Second edition 2017, Levine & Brettler; (2) The first five books of the Old Testament

Stephen S.