

**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](mailto: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	

Weekly Wordsearch

T	F	I	G	O	U	R	D	O	W
O	A	I	N	R	U	T	E	R	E
D	T	D	R	O	W	Y	I	P	S
N	H	E	V	E	I	L	E	B	S
I	E	L	O	O	S	O	L	T	P
M	R	B	L	E	C	H	R	I	I
E	P	U	V	E	C	A	E	P	R
R	L	O	E	A	E	S	T	S	I
E	L	R	E	H	O	M	E	E	T
T	H	T	A	E	U	Q	E	B	E

LOVES

FATHER

ADVOCATE

SPIRIT

REMINDE

BEQUEATH

HEARTS

RETURN

WORD

HOME

HOLY

TEACH

PEACE

GIFT

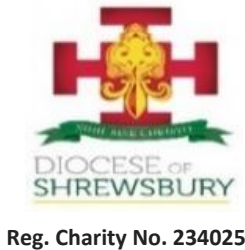
TROUBLED

BELIEVE

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](mailto:wilmslowcatholic@gmail.com)  
 Websites: <https://stpiusalderley.com>; <https://stbenedictshandforth.wixsite.com>  
[www.stteresawilmslow.org](http://www.stteresawilmslow.org)

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2025: The Sixth Sunday of Easter

	St Pius X, Alderley Edge	St Benedict’s, Handforth	Sacred Heart & St Teresa’s, Wilmslow
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> May <i>Our Lady Help of Christians (Principal Patron of the Diocese)</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 <b>6.30 pm (Vigil Mass)</b> <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> May <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	9.00 am <i>Louise Dunkerley</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 26 <sup>th</sup> May <i>St. Philip Neri, Priest</i>	No Mass	No Mass	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Lucille Fredericks</i>
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May <i>St. Augustine of Canterbury</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	No Mass
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00 pm (Vigil Mass) <i>Ascension Day Vigil Mass</i>	9.30 am (Adoration 9 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Mary Moss RIP</i> Prayer Group 11.15 – 12.15
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> May <i>The Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)</i>	12.00 pm <i>Requiem Mass for Anne Mary Grace RIP</i>	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i> 7.00 pm <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	No Mass	No Mass	No Mass
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> 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 <b>6.30 pm (Vigil Mass)</b> <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> 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>

**Advance notice of funerals - Let us pray for those in our parishes who have recently died**

- **Anne Mary Grace** who died on 28<sup>th</sup> April. Her requiem Mass will be offered at St Pius X at 12 noon on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Please contact Susie Burrows if attending on 07971 276111
- **David Marsden** who died recently. His requiem Mass will be offered at St Teresa's at 11 am on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Retreat Day – Why Get Married**

A **Retreat Day** has been organised with the title '**Why Get Married**' on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 at Our Lady and the Apostles, Stockport. 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.



**St. Pius X Alderley Edge Notices**

**Coffee Morning** Please note that the June Coffee Morning will be on 8<sup>th</sup> June (not 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 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 from 26<sup>th</sup> May** Please note that from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May, parking charges will 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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).

**The Solemnity of the Ascension on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May is a Holyday of Obligation**

in the three churches, there will be four Ascension Masses:  
a Vigil on Wednesday evening at 7 pm & Thursday at 9.30 am, 10 am, and 7 pm  
(please note that the requiem is not an Ascension Mass).

**'...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 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7pm followed by refreshments in the hall.

**Other Notices for All Parishes / Diocesan Notices**

**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: 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Mobile: 07549226794 or Jane at [jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Mobile: 07517 906435.

**St Joseph's Football Tournament Update:** Due to unforeseen circumstances, this event has been postponed and will now take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 10 am-3 pm. We are still in need of teams, referees, marshals to help with the day, so please get in touch [stockportshrine@gmail.com](mailto:stockportshrine@gmail.com) if you are able to help. Thank you.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:stockportshrine@gmail.com)

**Diocesan Mass for Marriage** The 2025 Diocesan Mass for Marriage will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:wilmslowcatholic@gmail.com)

**Youth ministry job opportunity // Castlerigg Manor** Castlerigg Manor is a Catholic retreat Centre in the Lake District run by the Diocese of Lancaster Youth Service. They are looking for a Programme Leader to help look after the residential team of young interns and to lead programmes both at Castlerigg and occasionally around the area. Competitive salary, as well as accommodation and food provided. Anyone interested can contact [jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk)

**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 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Talk starts at 7.30pm doors open at 7pm. St Peters 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 25th May 2025: Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Jewish Views of Gentiles at the Time of Jesus:**  
**(2) Social contacts and prohibited relationships**

In last week's article we saw how, at the time of Jesus, there was neither full separation nor full integration of Jews and Gentiles. The exigencies of life meant that Jews and Gentiles coexisted and had dealings (not just economic) with each other. Dr Ben Shahr's essay upon which my articles are based (1) tells us that the Jewish dietary laws, which were fully in place and widely observed at the time of Jesus, were, however, a severe impediment to social relationships between Jews and Gentiles. Indeed, the commitment to dietary laws became the hallmark of Jewish separatism among many Jewish groups. So, for example, in the Book of Daniel, written in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C. and set in the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. during the Babylonian exile, it is recounted that Daniel and 3 other young Israelites abstained from eating 'impure' food provided for them by King Nebuchadnezzar's eunuch. Later, both Greeks and Romans considered the Jewish people to be different since they would not share meals with Gentiles.

Perhaps even more significant than the impediments to social contacts, intermarriage with Gentiles had become prohibited to Jews. Intermarriage has an interesting history. The Book of Deuteronomy (7: 3-4), reflecting the time when Moses addressed his people prior to their entry into the Promised Land, lists 7 gentile nations and continues: *"You shall not make marriages with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons. For they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods"*. Nevertheless, it is difficult to see this as a prohibition on intermarriage with all Gentiles. Moses himself and Joseph, son of Jacob, did not have Israelite wives. The context of such intermarriage was probably that the wives would adopt the religious practices of their husbands. In the Book of Ruth, Ruth, a Moabite, left her people to marry an Israelite, fully accepting the Israelites and their God. However, by the 4<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> centuries B.C., the separatist approach, which forbade marriages outside the Jewish community, had become entrenched. Around the time of Jesus, the Hellenistic Jewish philosopher, Philo of Alexandria, wrote that the prohibition in Deuteronomy on intermarriage with the 7 Gentile nations of Canaan extended to all Gentiles (2).

In reality, at the time of Jesus the social contacts of the ordinary Jewish people were naturally much more confined than those who moved in higher Greco-Roman society. For the ordinary people, the question of intermarriage did not really arise. As for those in higher society, by and large they refrained from marrying Gentiles. Herod the Great stopped his sister, Salome, from marrying Sylleus who refused to adopt Jewish practices. An interesting person is Berenice, daughter of Herod Agrippa, born in 28 A.D. She married Polemon, king of Cilicia, but only on condition that he convert to Judaism. The marriage did not last and Berenice subsequently became the lover of the Roman, Titus, the general responsible for the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. Titus, probably on his accession as Emperor in 79 A.D. refused to marry her and sent her away, fearful of the Romans' reaction to a member of a foreign royal family.

A more relevant example of the prohibition on intermarriage not being absolute is that the Acts of the Apostles (16:1) informs us that Timothy was *"the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer; but his father was a Greek."*

(1) *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* Second edition 2017, Levine & Brettler.

(2) De Specialibus Legibus

Stephen S.