

**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

R	E	H	T	A	F	D	E	I	S
D	D	G	N	I	N	E	V	E	R
Y	I	E	F	I	T	R	Y	J	O
O	S	E	H	I	N	I	S	A	O
J	C	V	R	T	I	E	T	A	D
D	I	I	P	E	A	C	E	Y	E
I	P	G	E	Y	T	E	O	D	S
S	L	R	J	O	E	R	R	O	O
C	E	O	T	S	R	I	F	B	L
E	S	F	O	J	Y	O	D	A	C

EVENING  
DOORS  
PEACE  
BREADED

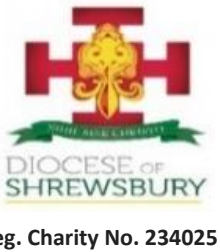
FIRST  
CLOSED  
SIDE  
FORGIVE

DAY  
DISCIPLES  
FATHER  
RETAIN

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

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2025: Pentecost Sunday

	St Pius X, Alderley Edge	St Benedict’s, Handforth	Sacred Heart & St Teresa’s, Wilmslow
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> 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 <b>6.30 pm (Vigil Mass)</b> <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> Jun <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	9.00 am <i>Leigh Noftle</i>	10.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i>	11.00 am <i>David &amp; Patricia Marsden RIP</i>
		5.30 pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	
		7.00 pm Holy Hour with worship music	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Jun <i>Mary, Mother of the Church</i>	No Mass	No Mass	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> Jun	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 11 <sup>th</sup> Jun <i>St. Barnabas, Apostle, Martyr</i>	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 12 <sup>th</sup> Jun <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest</i>	No Mass	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> Jun <i>St. Anthony of Padua Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Vocations to the Priesthood</i>	No Mass	No Mass
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> Jun	No Mass	No Mass	No Morning Mass or devotions Wedding 12.30 pm (Elizabeth & Jack) Confessions 6 pm – 6.20 pm <b>6.30 pm (Vigil Mass)</b> <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Jun <i>The Most Holy Trinity</i>	9.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i>	10.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i>	11.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i>
		5.30 pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	

### **From Bishop Mark: Statement from Archbishop Sherrington on the Assisted Dying Bill**

Please find copies in your church porches of the statement from the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales on the now fast approaching and crucial parliamentary vote on assisted suicide expected either a week tomorrow, Friday 13th June, or the following Friday, 20th June. The statement is written by Archbishop John Sherrington and reiterates our opposition to the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill in both principle and practice while high-lighting three areas of grave concern relating to the impact of the proposed legislation on hospices and care homes; on health and social care workers; and the wholly inadequate 'safeguards' against the coercion of some of the most vulnerable all of which should be brought to the attention of Members of Parliament who are undecided or considering supporting this dangerous and deeply flawed Bill at Third Reading.

### **NEW WEBSITE**

We now have a new and simple website for the three churches at [www.wilmslowcatholic.com](http://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.



### **St. Pius X Alderley Edge Notices**

**Readers for Weekday Masses** Going forward there will be a blank rota sheet in the vestibule at St Pius X for those who would like to sign up to read at the Tuesday and Friday weekday Masses. Please consider signing up to one or several of the available slots over the coming months to cover the readings at these weekday Masses.\_

**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.

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

**Pentecost Family Resources** - see the Celebrate Trust resources at <https://www.celebratetrust.org/onlinefamilyactivitypacks>

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

**Shrewsbury Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage** Currently we have 15 seats available on the coach, 1 seat left on the pilgrimage plane, and 3 seats left on a flight from Luton (coach travel transfer included). This is the last call for any pilgrims wishing to travel to Lourdes with the Diocese this year, we are very close to now closing the bookings for our 2025 pilgrimage. Booking forms are still available on our website at the following [www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk)

**Reflection Day led by CAFOD** Faith in action during the Jubilee Year. Join us to reflect on the theme of hope and how we can make a difference to our global family and more locally. Hear from various parish groups who have already taken on this challenge and be inspired to be a Pilgrim of Hope. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 10-3.30 at St Alban's RC Church, Liscard, Wallasey. For more info and to register: [kkeenan@cafod.org.uk](mailto:kkeenan@cafod.org.uk) or call 07920 232 936. Light refreshments provided but please bring a packed lunch.

**Eucharistic Adoration at Christ Church Heald Green on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025** This will begin at 10 am; Rosary at 11 am & 1 pm; Divine Mercy Hour at 3 – 4 pm (Divine Mercy Chaplet, Sorrowful Mysteries). Petitions can be emailed to [davidmarshall271@gmail.com](mailto:davidmarshall271@gmail.com) (There will also be a basket on the steps to the altar for petitions).

**Women in Fellowship: Fun, Faith and Fellowship** We are an ecumenical organisation for Christian Women. Our activities are spiritual, intellectual and social. Whatever we do, we uphold and share the Christian ideals of fellowship and family life. We meet in local branches, regionally and nationally, with programmes consisting of church services, talks on a wide range of subjects, parties, outings, coffee and chat. With shared interests and common values, we become friends. Interested in Joining us? Send an email to our local East Cheshire Secretary Tress Attwell: [tressattwell@gmail.com](mailto:tressattwell@gmail.com) Please include your name and address, telephone number and email address and we will be in touch to arrange an introduction. We look forward to meeting you!

**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 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](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Mobile: 07549226794 or Jane at [jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto: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 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)

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

**Sunday 8th June 2025: Pentecost Sunday**  
**Jewish Views of Gentiles at the Time of Jesus:**  
**(4) Conversion to Judaism**

The final part of Dr Ben Shahar's essay on Jewish views of Gentiles at the time of Christ (1) deals with how Gentiles who so wished were integrated into Judaism. He notes that, historically, non-Israelite women had been accepted into their Jewish husband's family and faith without any apparent process of conversion. Thus Ruth, the Moabite's, simple and celebrated statement (Ruth 1.16): "*your people shall be my people and your God my God*". How men who wished to become part of the Jewish community were accepted is less clear. Much later, during the period of the Hasmonean kings (137 B.C. – 37 B.C.), some Gentiles were forcibly converted, though this was not to proselytise them but rather to achieve religious homogeneity throughout the kingdom of Judea.

By the time of Jesus there are a number of reports of Gentiles from various parts of the Roman Empire voluntarily expressing interest in the Jewish religion and even considered conversion to it. Queen Helena of Adiabene [northern Mesopotamia] converted to Judaism about 30 A.D, and strictly observed the Jewish laws. Also, Gentile princes who wished to marry into the Herodian family underwent conversion.

In addition there were many Gentiles, attracted by the Jewish single, indivisible God, who partially accepted the Jewish faith. One notable example appears to have been Petronius, Roman Governor of Syria. The Emperor Caligula (37-41 A.D.) had ordered Petronius to convert the Temple at Jerusalem into an imperial shrine containing an enormous statue of the Emperor. Petronius played for time, at least in part [it is thought] because he agreed with the fundamentals of the Jewish faith. At real risk to himself from Caligula, he managed to delay long enough until the Emperor was assassinated.

More generally, the Jewish historian Josephus (37-100 A.D.) reflected the influence of Judaism and the Jewish God when writing: "*there is not one city of the Greeks, nor a single barbarian nation, where the custom of the seventh day, on which we rest, has not permeated and where our fasts and lighting lamps and many of our prohibitions with regard to food have not been observed*".

Dr Ben Shahar's essay concludes that Jewish views of Gentiles changed over time and varied across a spectrum from extremely positive to highly hostile, with many views in between these two extremes existing throughout. He ends with what I believe is an interesting observation for us Christians: *"..it is important to remember that the New Testament texts that reflect the Jewish-Gentile relationships were part of a complex attempt at self-definition...therefore one must read the New Testament bearing in mind the full complexity of how Jews evaluated Gentiles and how Gentiles evaluated Jews"*.

Nowhere, perhaps, is this complexity more apparent than in St Paul's epistles. Paul, the Pharisee, spent much time on the subject. He may have considered that Jewish believers in Jesus should keep the law, while for Gentile believers it was unnecessary. A good example is in a long passage in Romans 2:12-3.31. which concludes with the words: *"For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one; and he will justify the circumcised on the ground of their faith and the uncircumcised through their faith<sup>1</sup> Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law."*

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

Stephen S.