

PARISHES OF  
**ST PIUS X, ALDERLEY EDGE, ST BENEDICT'S, HANDFORTH**

**AND**

**SACRED HEART & ST TERESA'S WILMSLOW**

**WEEKLY REFLECTION**

**Sunday 16th November 2025: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Prayer (5)**

**Prayer of Faith**

What is faith? The Scriptures inform us; 'faith is sure of what we hope for and certain of what we cannot see' (Hebrews 11:1). Jesus declared, "Blessed are those who have not seen yet believe" (John 20:29) Faith is not a blind leap into the dark but rooted in the death of Jesus and in the witness to his resurrection from the dead, and in the promise of his return.

We live by faith not by sight, trusting our past to God's mercy, the present to God's love and the future to God's providence. We are Pilgrims of Hope and Pilgrims of Love (Bible Alive).

Our main prayer of faith is the Apostle's Creed. Thoughtfully and slowly read it now:

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us:

Faith is the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said, and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself. By faith man freely commits his entire life to God. For this reason the believer seeks to know and do God's will. 'The righteous shall live by faith,' (Romans 1:17). Living faith 'works through charity.' (Galatians 5:6) (*CCC para. 1814*)

The gift of faith remains in one who has not sinned against it. But 'faith apart from works in dead,' (James 2:26): when it is deprived of hope and love, faith does not fully unite the believer to Christ and does not make him a living member of his Body (*CCC para. 1815*)

The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it and spread it; 'All however must be prepared to confess Christ before men and to follow Him along the way of the Cross, amidst the persecutions which the Church never lacks' (Lumen Gentium 42). Service of and witness to the faith are necessary for salvation: 'So everyone who acknowledges me before men I will also acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven.' (Matt 10:32-33) (*CCC para. 1816*)

Kevin H.