

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 07541-946-670	

Weekly Wordsearch

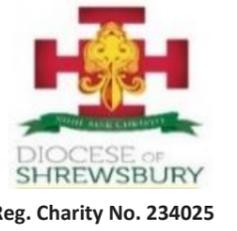
T	N	A	E	D	V	O	I	E	C	JESUS	JORDAN	JOHN
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U	D	R	O	J	I	R	N	T	S	WATER	HEAVENS	SPIRIT
E	M	S	I	T	P	A	B	A	S	DOVE	VOICE	SON
S	C	S	T	P	D	T	A	W	D			
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St Pius X Church, Stamford Road, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, 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
S T. 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

Sunday 18th January, 2026: The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

	St Pius X, Alderley Edge	St Benedict’s, Handforth	Sacred Heart & St Teresa’s, Wilmslow
Saturday 17 th Jan <i>St Anthony, Abbot</i>	No Mass	No Mass	9.30 am (<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>Louise Dunkerley RIP</i>
Sunday 18 th Jan <i>The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00 am <i>Cyril & Phyllis Stewart</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 19 th Jan <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	No Mass	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Tuesday 20 th Jan <i>Ferial</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Christopher Keegan RIP</i>	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	No Mass
Wednesday 21 st Jan <i>St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr</i>	No Mass	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i> Prayer Group: 11.15 – 12.15
Thursday 22 nd Jan <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Mary Henesy RIP</i>
Friday 23 rd Jan <i>Ferial</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Vocations to the Priesthood</i>	No Mass	No Mass
Saturday 24 th Jan <i>St Francis De Sales, Bishop, Doctor</i>	No Mass	No Mass	9.30 am (<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 25 th Jan <i>The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00 am <i>Martyn & Anne Dyer</i>	10.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i> 5.30 pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	11.00 am <i>Philip Craven RIP</i>



St Pius X Alderley Edge Notices

Helen Pitt RIP We are sorry to report the death of Helen Pitt. May she rest in peace. Following her funeral in the USA, there will be a requiem Mass for Helen on Tuesday 27th Jan at 10 am.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity All parishioners are welcome to the Churches Together in Alderley AGM at 5pm & the Prayer Service at 6.30pm at St Catherine's Birtles on Sun 18th Jan.

Food Bank 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.

FOODBANK St Benedict's Handforth and Sacred Heart & St. Teresa's Wilmslow

Collection for Hope Central Foodbank & 'My pantry,' Saturdays between 10 am – 11 am at St Benedict's Church car park. Priority foodbank items for this week, please help if you can:

Tinned Meat, Eggs, Toilet Rolls, Cat Food

NB – no perishable foods. You can also donate direct to the Foodbank (side door at St Chads) from 11 am – 12 pm on weekdays except Tuesday.

Items can also be left in the box in St Teresa's church porch.



St Benedict's, Handforth Notices

Sierra Leone Immersion Fundraiser I'm James - I live in Handforth and am part of a team of students at St Ambrose College who are undertaking immersion to our sister school in Sierra Leone during February half term. This continues the annual effort to fulfil our role in the community to use our privileged position to aid those less fortunate. We were tasked with raising £2,500 for the trip so I undertook the challenge to run 1,495 km (to represent the perimeter of Sierra Leone) last year as a means of fundraising. The QR code on the noticeboard shares more details (and proof) of the actual challenge, trip and how to donate. Thank you.



Sacred Heart & St. Teresa's Wilmslow Notices

ACN Christmas Cards We raised £378 in Christmas card sales, of which 75% will go to Aid to the Church in Need, with the remainder going to parish funds. Thank you for your support.

Catherine Whyte RIP We are sorry to report the death of Catherine Whyte. May she rest in peace. Her funeral service will be on Wednesday 28th January at 1.30 pm.

Elizabeth Parr-Head RIP We are sorry to report the death of Elizabeth Parr-Head. May she rest in peace. Her Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 28th January at 11 am.

Notices All Parishes

Cheque Donations

The Diocese has recently advised us that the cost to process cheques by our bank has increased significantly. The methods to deposit cheques have also become more restricted to us. If you usually donate to us by cheque, we kindly ask you to consider alternative donation methods – these include:

- setting up a standing order (forms are available on request)
- cash donations
- DONA card payments (using the card readers in all our church porches)

Thank You

Mass Offerings



We now have Mass Offering envelopes in all our church porches to make the process easier to request Mass intentions.



Once completed, please pass to the priest, drop into the Sunday collection plate or post through the presbytery letterbox.

Retired Priests' Fund - Special Collection This Weekend – 17th/18th January 2026

This weekend the annual collection for the Retired Priests' Fund will be held. With your help, we can build up the Fund to help meet the future needs of our sick and retired priests. You can also donate by card using the Dona card readers in our parishes. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please make your donation Online - please go to the following link & select "Retired Priest Fund." <https://donate.mydona.com/shrewsbury-rc-diocesan-trust/>

Five-week Lenten Course: We Dare to Ask is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each exploring our baptismal vocation, preparing us for the renewal of our baptismal promises at Easter. The booklets can be ordered by emailing aec@rcaos.org - the deadline is 19th January 2026.

Betrothed Marriage Preparation Course The 2026 courses take place over two consecutive Saturdays at three locations: St Clare's Church Parish Hall in Chester (February 7 & 14), St Vincent de Paul Church Westleigh Parish Hall in Altrincham (February 28 & March 7), and Shrewsbury Cathedral Parish Hall in Shrewsbury (March 21 & 28). For more information please contact Jane Deegan at jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Mobile:07517 906435. Registration is essential. To register please contact MONIKA at the following email address: monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Vacancies - Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team Vacancies have arisen within the SYMT for a Programme Coordinator, Youth Mission Team Member and an Administration Assistant. More info <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Interested parties should send their CV to Pauline McCulloch at recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Closing Date: 23 Jan.

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

**Sunday 18th January 2026 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Benediction**

Since exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass has been introduced more frequently at St Pius X, I have thought about my time as an altar boy at Benediction on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. I knew the Latin and my role in the service but not much if anything of the history behind it. This reflection explores the history and meaning behind benediction.

Benediction (meaning blessing) is a special way of receiving the blessing of Jesus directly from a consecrated host instead of through His minister, the priest or bishop. The humeral veil that removes the priests' hands from direct contact with the monstrance holding the host brings emphasis to the fact that the blessing is being received as if Jesus were physically standing before us offering it Himself, because He actually is doing just that, through His sacramental Real Presence. Through Benediction we receive the same direct blessing from our Lord that the disciples received 2,000 years ago.

There are of two distinct elements to the ordinary Benediction service. There is the direct veneration of the Blessed Sacrament, which appears in the exposition, blessing, "Tantum ergo", etc. There is also the litany to the Blessed Virgin composed in the middle ages and approved by Pope Sixtus in 1587), or of popular hymns in honour of Our Lady. These two features are derived from different sources. The idea of exposing the Blessed Sacrament for veneration in a monstrance appears to have been first evolved at the end of the thirteenth or the beginning of the fourteenth century. The elevation of the Host at Mass was introduced in the early years of the thirteenth century and by degrees took firm hold in people's mind that special virtue and merit were attached to the act of looking at the Blessed Sacrament. To such extremes did this go, that the seeing of the Host at the moment of the elevation was judged to be the most vital part of attendance at Mass. In certain churches in Spain a screen of black velvet was held up behind the altar in order that the priest's hands and the Host might be more easily seen from afar; in others strict injunctions were given to the thurifer that he should on no account allow the smoke of the thurible to obstruct the view of the Host."

The Blessed Sacrament in the processions which became common after the institution of the feast of Corpus Christi in 1246, came by degrees to be carried in

transparent vessels, resembling our present monstrances. Moreover, a custom grew up, especially in Germany, of keeping the Blessed Sacrament continually exposed to view in churches. It was forbidden by many synods, but a sort of compromise was arrived at through the construction of the *Sakramentshäuschen* of which so many examples still exist in central Europe. These tabernacles, of great height and imposing appearance, were erected in the most conspicuous part of the church, and there the Blessed Sacrament was reserved in a monstrance behind a metal door of lattice-work which allowed a more or less free view of the interior.

From the beginning of the thirteenth century, a custom prevailed among the confraternities and guilds which were established at that period in great numbers, of singing canticles in the evening before a statue of Our Lady. Confraternities were formed for the express purpose of singing these canticles and their members were called *Laudesi*. It was such a company of *Laudesi* that brought together the seven holy founders who, in the first half of the thirteenth century, established the Order of Servites, or Servants of Mary. Although the *laude* hardly flourished outside Italy, where both the language and the character of the people lent themselves readily to the composition of innumerable canticles, the idea of an evening service of a popular character sung before the statue of Our Lady, spread throughout Europe. In particular, the "Salve Regina", a special devotion of the Servites, Dominicans, Carmelites, and other orders, was consecrated by usage to this rite, and traces can be found everywhere of its being sung, often by choirs of boys, for whom a special endowment was provided, as a separate evening service. In France, this service was commonly known as a *Salut*, in the Low Countries as the *Lof*, in England and Germany, simply as the *Salve*.

Now it seems certain that our present Benediction service has resulted from the general adoption of this evening singing of canticles before the statue of Our Lady, enhanced as it often came to be in the course of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries by the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to lend it additional solemnity. The blessing at the close seems to have been added simply because the custom gained ground of making the sign of the cross over the people whenever the Blessed Sacrament was replaced in the tabernacle after a procession or after being carried to the sick or any kind of an exposition. But in the course of the seventeenth century there were a great number of bequests for *Saluts* in French wills, being minutely specified, and among these the condition were frequently appended that the Blessed Sacrament should be exposed during the whole time of the *Salut*.

Little did I realise when serving at Benediction that there was such a history to the service. I recited or sang the Latin and swung the thurible. Unfortunately, on one occasion at a convent Benediction, I hit the floor spreading hot coals across the highly polished chapel floor, much to the consternation of the nuns!

Bernard Kellett