

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	Merry Lylyana 07501-696-768
SVP	SVP Society (All Parishes) 07541-946-670		

Weekly Wordsearch

P	E	R	T	E	T	E	P	I	N	JESUS	PETER	JAMES
E	F	A	N	E	C	F	E	S	A	JOHN	MOUNTAIN	FACE
H	A	J	I	L	E	L	T	U	I	SUN	MOSES	ELIJAH
E	C	E	A	W	J	I	E	S	T	TENTS	CLOUD	SHADOW
R	E	S	T	T	O	S	R	E	N			
T	U	N	N	D	E	D	H	J	U			
E	S	H	U	S	E	N	A	J	O			
P	O	O	O	S	U	M	T	H	M			
J	L	M	M	O	E	M	O	S	S			
C	A	S	E	S	S	E	O	M	E			

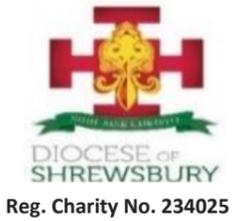


St Pius X Church, Stamford Road, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7NS
 St. Benedict's RC Church, Hall Road, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 3AD
 Sacred Heart & St. Teresa's Church, Green Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 1LD



**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 1st March, 2026: The Second Sunday of Lent

	St Pius X, Alderley Edge	St Benedict’s, Handforth	Sacred Heart & St Teresa’s, Wilmslow
Saturday 28 th Feb <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	No Mass	9.30 am Elizabeth & John Riordan 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 Mar <i>The 2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am • For the Robson family • Brian Box	10.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i> Stations of the Cross 4.30 pm 5.30 pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	11.00 am Alan & Deborah Parry RIP
Monday 2 nd Mar <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	No Mass	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Tuesday 3 rd Mar <i>Ferial</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> with sung missal tone in English
Wednesday 4 th Mar <i>Ferial</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 5 th Mar <i>Ferial</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 Mar <i>Ferial</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Vocations to the Priesthood</i>	Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm	No Mass
Saturday 7 th Mar <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	No Mass	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</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 Mar <i>The 3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i>	10.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i> Stations of the Cross 4.30 pm 5.30 pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	11.00 am Noel McMahon



St Pius X Alderley Edge Notices

Moira Ainsworth RIP The Requiem Mass for Moira Ainsworth will be at 12 pm on Tuesday 17th March at St Pius X; may she rest in peace.

Cancer Research Donations in Memory of Helen Pitt RIP Clive would like to thank the parishioners for their kind donations to Cancer Research in memory of Helen which raised £360.

Churches Together in Alderley (CTiA) Many thanks to Stephen Stewart who has now ended his term, after some 5 years, in the role of St Pius X lay representative for the CTiA. We would be grateful for a member of our congregation to volunteer as our lay representative on the committee. Stephen would be available to speak by telephone to anyone about the role but assures me that it is not an onerous task. Please speak to Fr Tony or send an email if you would like to find out more.

Presbytery Cleaning We would be grateful for a volunteer to help with the house cleaning at the presbytery. Please speak to Fr Moses if you can help or please email the parish. Thank you.

World Day of Prayer Service: 6 pm on Friday 6th March at St Catherine's Church, Birtles - This annual ecumenical service brings together the four churches of Churches Together in Alderley. The 2026 service has been prepared by the women of Nigeria, with the theme: "I will give you rest, come." Following the service, refreshments with a Nigerian theme will be served. Everyone is most welcome to join us for this special evening of prayer and fellowship.

Church Cleaning The cleaning team would be grateful for some extra help with cleaning the church which involves approximately 1 hour or less every 2 weeks on a Wednesday morning from 9.15 am. If you are able to volunteer and join the friendly team your help would be appreciated. To find out more please either speak to Margaret Bilsborough or email Louise Jones at Louise.jones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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 Ravioli, Weetabix, Long life Milk (Semi-skimmed),

Mayonnaise, Toilet Rolls...also any spare plastic carrier bags

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. *Thank You*

SVP Appeal

The SVP are still looking for a double wardrobe for the single mum & her daughter.

Please contact Maurice on 07541946670.



CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day – Retiring Collection This Weekend

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought.

Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

Pro-life Conference for men - Calling men of all ages and states of life: book your place at 'Commissioned', the National Men's Pro-life Conference, on April 18th at Birmingham Christian College. Through compelling talks on fatherhood, marriage, post-abortion healing, spiritual warfare and sexual responsibility learn to live out your vocation with humility, courage and integrity. For more info including speakers or to book your place go to <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/commissioned-pro-life-mens-conference/> or please contact info@marchforlife.co.uk



LENTEN FAITH FORMATION COURSE – All Welcome

Venue: St Benedict's Church, Handforth

Time: Wednesdays 7.00 - 8:15 pm

WEEK 2: Wednesday 4th March

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: The meaning of the Mass. The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Hope Central Handforth

Children's Concert Upcoming Following the success of their concert at Christmas, there is a children's concert happening on 21st March at 3pm at St Benedict's School Hall (SK9 3AE). This concert will raise money for Hope Central with a raffle and refreshments on offer too. Tickets are £5 for adults and £1 for children.

Volunteer Roles

Alongsiders at our Handforth and Knutsford Hope Centres This role involves engaging clients in conversation, building relationships, and occasionally joining in games such as dominoes or Scrabble.

English Class Volunteers We run weekly English classes for people who are displaced, whether asylum seekers, refugees, or those new to the community for other reasons.

Trustees We are looking for Christians from a range of backgrounds to help steer and support the work of Hope Central. Trustee meetings take place quarterly. If someone is interested in volunteering, they can email info@hopecentral.org.uk or call 01625 724133 for more information. www.hopecentral.org.uk

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

Sunday 1st March 2026 Second Sunday of Lent
Err.... How can Jesus have said that? (6)
The Gadarene Swine

"Come out of the man you unclean spirit". Thus Mark (5:13) reports Jesus exorcising the man who lived among the tombs. After saying: *"What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?"* the man had asked Jesus not to torment him. The unclean spirits begged to enter the 2000 swine. Jesus permitted this and the pigs rushed into the sea. The onlookers begged Him to leave their neighbourhood. The exorcised man wanted to follow Jesus, but He told him to go home and tell his friends about the Lord's mercy.

Here it is what Jesus did rather than what He said that perhaps calls for discussion. Questions which arise are: (1) What is the significance of the event? (2) Why did 2000 pigs die? (3) Why did Jesus not let the man follow Him?

The man is a naked outcast, living in the cemetery, a place which Jewish people regarded as unclean, yet he does not at the outset behave as might be expected from one possessed. He recognises Jesus as Son of God. After exorcism he sits *'clothed and in his right mind'*. In Luke's Gospel the incident is recounted shortly after the people in the synagogue led Jesus to the brow of the hill so that they might throw Him down headlong (Luke 4:29). Is there a comparison between Jesus as potential victim of the crowd, and 2000 evil spirits, perhaps representing evil in the crowd, who are defeated by Jesus? - A triumph of good over evil?

Why were pigs, a forbidden meat for Jewish people, there at all? The area had a Greco-Roman population. Perhaps certain Jewish farmers were (wrongly) producing pig meat for them? The unclean spirits' request was granted. They were despatched into ritually unclean animals. The significance of this would not be lost on those carrying on an illegitimate trade. Nevertheless, for centuries there has been debate as to whether the passage demonstrates that animals are to be regarded as expendable. There is not space to explore this debate.

One scholarly theory is that the name of the spirit, *'Legion'*, was a reference to the Roman army of occupation. Other words are said to support this: *'agelē'* (herd) was also a term for a band of trainees; *'epetrepesen autois'* (He gave them permission) also signified a military command and *'hormaō'* (the swine 'rushing') suggests troops rushing into battle. The 10th Roman legion occupied the relevant area. Its ensign was a boar. The pigs (Roman soldiers)

rushing into the lake and drowning may hark back to Pharaoh's army drowning in the Red Sea. The suggested subtext is that God is more powerful than the world-dominant Roman army.

Two final points: (i) Jesus did not allow the man to follow Him because He accepted the man's offer to serve Him, but with a mission to tell the Good News to His own people. They would see him transformed from wild demoniac into a follower of Jesus. (ii) The people beg Jesus to depart their territory. Apparently, they do not consider the man's deliverance, at the cost of their herd of pigs, to be worth the loss. As an Orthodox priest once asked: "*..are we really willing in every individual case to sacrifice our prosperity and property so that one person becomes well, enters into life, regains consciousness?*"

Stephen S.