

**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 |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Safeguarding Officer</b> | Shaun Steele<br>07947-605-448               | Eithne Lennon<br>07915-918-056 | Merry Lylyana<br>07501-696-768        |
| <b>SVP</b>                  | SVP Society (All Parishes)<br>07541-946-670 |                                |                                       |

**Weekly Wordsearch**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |           |          |           |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|----------|-----------|
| C | A | P | U | R | P | O | S | E | Y | ABOLISH   | COMPLETE | PURPOSE   |
| O | N | U | E | L | O | A | R | F | R | KINGDOM   | HEAVEN   | VIRTUE    |
| M | C | R | N | L | V | B | O | A | G | ANCESTORS | KILL     | ANGRY     |
| P | E | P | O | I | L | O | T | F | N | ALTAR     | THRONE   | FOOTSTOOL |
| L | S | O | R | K | T | L | S | O | A |           |          |           |
| E | T | H | S | A | I | E | O | L |   |           |          |           |
| T | U | S | T | A | E | S | C | T | I |           |          |           |
| E | R | O | M | O | D | G | N | I | K |           |          |           |
| T | O | E | H | N | E | V | A | E | H |           |          |           |
| L | S | H | S | I | L | O | B | A | S |           |          |           |

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](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 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2026: The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

|  | St Pius X, Alderley Edge  | St Benedict’s, Handforth   | Sacred Heart & St Teresa’s, Wilmslow  |
|--|---|--|---|
| Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb<br><i>Ss Cyril, Monk &amp; Methodius, Bishop</i>                   | No Mass   | No Mass  | 9.30 am (Celeb’s Int)<br>Adoration 10 am – 11 am<br>Confessions 10.15 – 10.45 am followed by Marian devotions<br>Confessions 6 pm – 6.20 pm<br><b>6.30 pm (Vigil Mass)</b><br><i>People of the Parish</i> |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb<br><i>The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>                 | 9.00 am<br><i>People of the Parish</i>                                      | 10.00 am<br><i>Joan Heneghan</i><br>5.30 pm<br><i>People of the Parish</i>   | 11.00 am<br><i>People of the Parish</i>   |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb<br><i>Ferial</i>   | No Mass   | No Mass  | 10 am (Adoration 9.30 am)<br><i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>   |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb<br><i>Ferial</i>  | 9.00 am<br>(note different time)<br><i>Victoria &amp; Mario Rosetti</i>     | 9.30 am<br><i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>  | No Mass   |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb<br><b>Ash Wednesday</b><br><i>Day of Fasting &amp; Abstinence</i> | 12.15 pm<br><i>Celebrant’s Intention</i><br>Confession available after Mass | 9.30 am<br><i>Celebrant’s Intention</i><br>7.00 pm<br><i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>   | 10.00 am<br><i>Jeff Grayson</i><br>Confession available after Mass<br>Prayer Group: 11.15 – 12.15   |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb<br><i>Thursday after Ash Wednesday</i>                             | No Mass   | 9.30 am<br><i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>  | 10 am (Adoration 9.30 am)<br><i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>   |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb<br><i>Friday after Ash Wednesday</i>                                 | 10 am (Adoration 9.30 am)<br><i>Lawrence Henry Fielder RIP</i>              | No Mass  | <i>Stations of the Cross</i><br>7.30 pm   |
| Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb<br><i>Saturday after Ash Wednesday</i>                             | No Mass   | No Mass  | 9.30 am (Celeb’s Int)<br>Adoration 10 am – 11 am<br>Confessions 10.15 – 10.45 am followed by Marian devotions<br>Confessions 6 pm – 6.20 pm<br><b>6.30 pm (Vigil Mass)</b><br><i>Marie Ange Butt RIP</i>  |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb<br><i>The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>                          | 9.00 am<br><i>People of the Parish</i>                                      | 10.00 am<br><i>James &amp; Seamus Lally RIP</i><br>Stations of the Cross 4.30 pm<br>5.30 pm<br><i>People of the Parish</i> | 11.00 am<br><i>Lena Gatt</i>  |



### St Pius X Alderley Edge Notices

**Moira Ainsworth RIP** We are sorry to report the recent death of Moira Ainsworth. May she rest in peace. Please pray for the repose of her soul. Details of her funeral will follow.

**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.

**Churches Together in Alderley - Thought for the Day**: start (or finish) the day with a Bible-based reflection from our Thought for the Day team. The reflection will be sent out by email every day (except Sundays) during Lent. Just email Loveday to make sure of receiving yours: [Loveday.alexander@btinternet.com](mailto:Loveday.alexander@btinternet.com)

**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](mailto: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 Meat, Sandwich Paste, Weetabix, Long life Milk (Semi-skimmed),  
Sauces (Tomato/Mayonnaise), Toilet Rolls***

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*

### Notices All Parishes

**Online Five-week Lenten Course: We Dare to Ask** This year's Lenten resource is inviting parishioners to prepare their hearts and minds to renew their Baptismal promises during the Easter celebrations. The whole course can be found here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/we-dare-to-ask/> with the 5 sessions at the page bottom.

**SVP Appeal** The SVP are still looking for a double wardrobe for the single mum and her daughter. A very kind parishioner has provided the chest of drawers - many thanks. Please contact Maurice on 07541946670.

### Notices All Parishes



#### **LENTEN FAITH FORMATION COURSE – All Welcome**

Venue: St Benedict's Church, Handforth

Time: Wednesdays 7.00 - 8:15 pm

WEEK 1: Wednesday 25th Feb

THE SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION: The power of the sacraments and the liturgy. How baptism can change your life. Confirmation and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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.

WEEK 3: Wednesday 11th March

FORGIVENESS, HEALING AND MISSION: Forgiveness and the Sacrament of Confession. Healing and the Sacrament of the Sick. Christian mission and the call to share our faith.

WEEK 4: Wednesday 18th March

HOW TO PRAY: The amazing adventure of prayer. Four basic ways of praying. Prayers and devotions to help you through the day. The Holy Rosary.

#### **Churches Together in Wilmslow – All Welcome**

**Lent Courses** Churches Together in Wilmslow will be hosting a series of Lent Courses with the theme 'Draw Near - life giving habits for Lent' across five weeks in Lent. The sessions will take place on Monday evenings at 7.30pm and be repeated on Wednesdays at 1pm. The venue for all the sessions will be the meetings rooms (which are accessed via the car park, and not the main church) at Wilmslow United Reformed Church Chapel Lane Wilmslow SK9 1PR. The Monday evening sessions will be on 23rd February and 2,9th, 16th and 23rd March and will be co-presented by one of our parishioners, and the Wednesday evening sessions will be on 25th February and 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March. Parishioners from all three churches are very welcome to attend all or any of the sessions.

**Lent soup lunches** All are welcome and offerings go towards the work of Christian Aid. Many thanks to the parishioners of Sacred Heart and St Teresa's who have kindly organised provision for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March (St Patrick's Day). The other lunch dates are Tuesdays 24<sup>th</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 10<sup>th</sup> March, and 24<sup>th</sup> March. All lunches are held in the hall at the Dean Row Chapel, SK9 2BX, and begin at 12pm.

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

**Sunday 15th February 2026 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Err.... How can Jesus have said that? (4)**

"Another of the disciples said to Him, 'Lord, let me go first and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead'" (Matthew 8.22).

To many, Jesus' response may sound uncaring, the very antithesis of what we might expect from Him. Of course, every follower of Jesus knows that nothing can come between the primary duty of obedience to Him and to the faith. Nevertheless, would a kind Jesus not have allowed a little leeway such that the disciple could just bury his own father? And why does He add the words "*leave the dead to bury the dead*"?

The first point is that Jesus would be able to see into the man's heart. Was he truly committed to Jesus? Jesus' words may be seen as putting that question fully in the spotlight. Secondly what is likely to have been the context? Jesus would not be disrespectful of the dead and of their need for proper and dignified burial. Many commentators argue that the father was not yet dead and that the man was asking Jesus to allow discipleship to be deferred until some future, indeterminate date. It is noted that Jewish people buried (and still do bury) their dead within 24 hours of death. It is unlikely that the man would be there with Jesus had his father died that very day. If this is correct, then the man was in effect saying to Jesus, "*Let me follow You when it suits me*". His father might not die for years to come. Other worldly things may well supervene and take precedence to the single, most important duty of discipleship. It is the wrong that is echoed in the youthfully wayward statement of St Augustine: "*Master, make me chaste and celibate, but not yet.*"

Even if the man's father was dead, Jesus may have considered that, if the man went to the burial, he may not return to Jesus. Then, as now, close relatives of a deceased Jewish person are obliged to '*sit Shiva*', which means remaining at home for 7 days so that relatives and friends may come and mourn. If so, Jesus may have been concerned that the man would be distracted from the true path.

I tend to favour the explanation that the father was not dead both for the reasons given and for the fact that Jesus would have been respectful of the dead and of the Jewish mourning period.

*"Leave the dead to bury their dead"* seems not only harsh but nonsensical. However, Jewish people used the word *'dead'* as meaning wholly indifferent to something, such that it has no control over us. This is what St Paul meant when he said (Romans 6:11) that we must consider ourselves as *"dead to sin"*. Jesus seems to be saying that other relatives who were dead to His calling could carry out the worldly duties of burying the dead (in due course). As for the man, he was told to seize the most important moment of his life and not let it slip through his hands. This is confirmed by Jesus additional words in St Luke's account of the same incident (9:60): *"...but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."*

Stephen S.