

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

T	S	E	N	O	T	S	E	S	E
E	T	H	U	N	G	R	Y	S	T
Y	T	R	O	F	A	S	T	E	D
P	S	L	E	G	N	A	S	N	E
L	I	A	N	T	A	S	E	R	V
I	L	H	D	E	T	P	M	E	T
V	D	I	S	T	A	L	F	D	I
E	V	I	L	R	S	O	T	L	L
D	S	E	V	A	O	L	O	I	E
T	P	M	E	T	E	W	O	W	L

WILDERNESS
TEMPTED
DEVIL
FASTED
FORTY
HUNGRY
STONES
LOAVES
ANGELS
FOOT
SATAN
WORSHIP



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

Websites: www.wilmslowcatholic.com

<https://stpiusalderley.com>; <https://stbenedictshandforth.wixsite.com>; www.stteresawilmslow.org

Sunday 22nd February, 2026: The First Sunday of Lent

	St Pius X, Alderley Edge	St Benedict’s, Handforth	Sacred Heart & St Teresa’s, Wilmslow
Saturday 21 st Feb <i>Saturday after Ash Wednesday</i>	No Mass	No Mass	9.30 am (Celeb’s Int) 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) • Marie Ange Butt RIP • Jim & Winnie Thorpe
Sunday 22 nd Feb <i>The 1st Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am <i>Kathleen McSorley</i>	10.00 am <i>James & Seamus Lally RIP</i> Stations of the Cross 4.30 pm 5.30 pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	11.00 am <i>Lena Gatt</i>
Monday 23 rd Feb <i>St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr</i>	No Mass	No Mass	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Thanksgiving</i>
Tuesday 24 th Feb <i>Ferial</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	9.30 am (Adoration 9 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	6.30 pm (Adoration 6 pm) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i> with sung missal tone in English
Wednesday 25 th Feb <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	9.30 am (Adoration 9 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>John Anthony McDonald RIP</i> Prayer Group: 11.15 – 12.15
Thursday 26 th Feb <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Charity Ibeh RIP</i>
Friday 27 th Feb <i>Ferial</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Vocations to the Priesthood</i> Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm	No Mass	No Mass
Saturday 28 th Feb <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	No Mass	9.30 am <i>Elizabeth & John Riordan</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 1 st Mar <i>The 2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am <i>For the Robson family</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 <i>Alan & Deborah Parry RIP</i>



St Pius X Alderley Edge Notices

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

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 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

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.

Wilmslow Churches Together - 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 17th March (St Patrick's Day). The other lunch dates are Tuesdays 24th February, 3rd March, 10th March, and 24th March. All lunches are held in the hall at the Dean Row Chapel, SK9 2BX, and begin at 12pm.



A better world needs all of us

CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day – Retiring Collection Next 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.



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 – Note Wednesday Venue Update 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 1 pm. The venue for the Monday 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 venue for the Wednesday sessions will be Wilmslow Methodist Church, Kings Cl, Wilmslow SK9 5AR.** 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.

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

Sunday 22nd February 2026 First Sunday of Lent
Err.... How can Jesus have said that? (5)

In Matthew 12: 31-32, Jesus says: *"...every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.."*

How do we reconcile this statement with paragraph 982 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church which says: *'There is no offence, however serious, that the Church cannot forgive. "There is no one, however wicked and guilty, who may not confidently hope for forgiveness, provided his repentance is honest."* '?

The answer is that the Catechism is correct, and the statement of Jesus needs explanation. Shortly before Jesus made the statement, He had healed a blind and dumb demoniac. The response of some Pharisees was that He had done this by Beelzebub, prince of demons. After further discussion, including Jesus clearly implying that He cast out demons by the power of the Holy Spirit, He makes the statement that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. Therefore, the specific blasphemy Jesus had in mind was that of attributing to Satan the healing power of the Holy Spirit.

Even then, Jesus did not accuse these particular Pharisees of the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. His words were in the nature of a warning. The import of that warning can be understood as follows: A person who attributes to the power of evil something which has been done by the power of good suggests that that person is so influenced by evil as to be closed to goodness and mercy. If so, then repentance and forgiveness will not ensue. Since repentance will not be forthcoming, the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

Doctors of the Catholic Church have interpreted the passage in this way. Absence of sorrow and repentance is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit since, as St Augustine tells us, God forgives us through the Holy Spirit. Rejecting repentance is rejection of the Holy Spirit such that forgiveness is excluded. It implies that a person's heart has become so hardened to God that they will reject Him permanently

The permanency of the following of evil rather than good helps explain the next words of Jesus that *"...whoever says a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven..."*. Even when the Son of Man was being crucified, St Luke (23:34) tells us that He said: *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."* His mercy and forgiveness were available to those who committed this most heinous sin.

St Thomas Aquinas (1) synthesises the position in these two short extracts: *“Therefore we must say simply that, in this life, every sin can be blotted out by true penance..”* and *“The word or blasphemy spoken against the Holy spirit is final impenitence...which is altogether unpardonable, because after this life has ended, there is no pardon of sins...”*

(1) Summa Theologica Pt III Q86

Stephen S.