

**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 07947-605-448	Eithne Lennon 07915-918-056	Cecilia Tinsley 01625-521-520
<b>SVP</b>		SVP Society 07541-946-670	

**Weekly Wordsearch**

M	I	W	E	R	D	N	A	P	M	GALILEE	CAPERNAUM	ZEBULUN
S	U	L	E	D	E	B	E	Z	E	NAPHTALI	JORDAN	ISAIAH
E	J	A	M	E	S	T	N	E	U	SIMON	PETER	ANDREW
E	A	E	N	I	E	H		B	A	JAMES	ZEBEDEE	JOHN
D	E	E	A	R	O	J	H	U	N			
E	M	L	R	J	E	N	A	L	R			
B	S	I	M	O	N	P	I	U	E			
E	I	L	A	T	H	P	A	N	P			
Z	N	A	D	R	O	J	S	C	A			
N	U	G	U	B	E	Z	I	N	C			



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 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2026: The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

	St Pius X, Alderley Edge	St Benedict’s, Handforth	Sacred Heart & St Teresa’s, Wilmslow
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> 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 <b>6.30 pm (Vigil Mass)</b> <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan <i>The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00 am <i>Martyn &amp; 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>
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan <i>Ss Timothy &amp; Titus, Bishops</i>	No Mass	No Mass	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Charity Ibeh RIP &amp; family</i>
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan <i>Ferial</i>	10.00 am <i>Requiem Mass for Helen Pitt RIP</i>	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	No Mass
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan <i>St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor</i>	No Mass	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	11.00 am <i>Requiem Mass for Elizabeth Parr-Head RIP</i> 1.30 pm <i>Requiem Mass for Catherine Whyte RIP</i>
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	9.30 am <i>Marie Coyle</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan <i>Ferial</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Vocations to the Priesthood</i>	No Mass	No Mass
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan <i>St John Bosco, Priest</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 <b>6.30 pm (Vigil Mass)</b> <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb <i>The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00 am <i>Irene MacLeman RIP</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>



## St Pius X Alderley Edge Notices

**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, Long-life Milk (Semi-skimmed)**

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.

### **Notices All Parishes**

#### **Matthew Hickson**

*Matthew Hickson, who has been on placement with us for January, returns to seminary this week. Thank you to Matthew for his work and presence in the parishes. We ask the Lord to continue to guide his discernment and formation as he prepares for ordination to the diaconate in December this year.*

#### **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.



**The SVP** had a busy Christmas period and were able to provide items for our families and for all those we support. Please have a look at the information on the notice boards and we're so grateful in particular to the children at school who again produced some wonderful Christmas Cards. Many thanks also to all parishioners who support us - we couldn't do it without you!

#### **Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026**

2026 will be the 75th anniversary of the first Shrewsbury Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage. There are three 'drop in' sessions planned for people to find out more about our pilgrimage:

Saturday 31st January 10am to 12 noon at Our Lady & Saint Christopher's in Romiley

Saturday 21st February 11am to 12.30pm at Christ the King in Bromborough

Saturday 7th March 12.30pm to 2pm Saint Patrick's in Wellington.

The dates for this year's pilgrimage are as follows:

- By Air - Friday 31st July to Thursday 6th August
- By Coach - Thursday 30th July to Friday 7th August
- Youth Pilgrimage - Wednesday 29th July to Friday 7th August

#### **Marriage Week 7th - 14th February 2026**

Marriage Week is an annual celebration offering the opportunity to support and promote marriage and family life. Jane Deegan the Director for Marriage and Family Life Vocation is seeking to build a team of volunteers to support this vital ministry in the Diocese. Two Retreat days have been run to date with another being arranged for April 2026.

If you would like to volunteer in any capacity and/or would like to find out more please contact Monika Golembiewska -Email : [monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Jane Deegan- Email: [jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Resources for couples and parishes can be found on the Bishops Conference website <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/marriage-week/> A link to these resources has also been created on the Shrewsbury Diocese website.

**Diocesan Mass for Marriage 2026** The Diocesan Mass for Marriage is always a very happy occasion for couples celebrating significant anniversaries and for their families. I will be celebrating the Mass for 2026 on **Saturday 13th June at 12 noon at Saint Columba's, Chester**, followed by a buffet lunch for invited guests in the Parish Hall. All parishioners celebrating a significant marriage anniversary can apply for an invitation from the Bishop's Office via their Parish Priest or Parish Secretary.

**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](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Mobile:07517 906435. Registration is essential. To register please contact MONIKA at the following email address: [monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

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

**Sunday 25th January 2026 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Err.... How can Jesus have said that? (1)**

Are there times when you have heard something attributed to Jesus in the Gospel and wondered how He could have said such a thing, or at least what He really meant? In this series of articles I will explore some passages which have struck me in this way.

The first is a lengthy extract at Matthew 10:34-39. I cannot reproduce all of it, but a key section is: *"Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father.....He who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.."*

How does the statement of Him coming to bring a sword, not peace and to 'set a man against his father' fit in? It is not the normal perception we have of Jesus. This perception is evident from His title as 'Prince of Peace', and throughout His conduct during the Passion; it is encapsulated, for example, in St Paul's words (Ephesians 2:14): "For He is our peace".

There is a strong consensus among scholars as to the proper interpretation of this passage. I will try to summarise it.

The expectation of the Jewish people was that the arrival of the Messiah would bring peace to the world. This is apparent, for example, in the well-known passage in Isaiah 2:4, "...they shall beat their swords into ploughshares...nation shall not lift up sword against nation..". In Matthew Chapter 10, Jesus starts by telling His disciples to go out and preach. He warns them that many will not accept them and there will be strife (*"..Beware of men...you will be hated by all for my sake.. do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul..."*). The context of the whole chapter, therefore, is warning the disciples that the hostile reception of men is a necessary step on the road to the universal peace which will come in due time, and which we still await.

Jesus makes it clear that the animosity of men to His message means that the consequence of His word will be strife, even if His word and teaching is one of peace. Even close relatives may turn against those who follow His message of truth and peace. As one commentator puts it: *"The wickedness of men, and not the religion of the Gospel, is the cause of this*

*hostility...no prophecy has been more strikingly fulfilled; and it will continue to be fulfilled until all unite in obeying His commandments...”.*

One other possibility is that ‘sword’ is not a weapon but a metaphor for the Gospel itself. The Gospel is rejected by many. It thus separates the people of Christ from those who reject Him. Jesus warns that, though it is not His intention to bring discord, this will be the effect of His teaching because of the wrongdoing of those who do not follow Him.

Stephen S.