

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

R	O	F	D	E	I	S	A	M	D	WEEK	DOORS	CLOSED
K	E	E	K	E	E	W	H	O	E	FEAR	PEACE	HANDS
E	S	A	E	L	S	A	F	H	R	FORGIVE	THOMAS	HOLES
V	O	R	S	A	M	O	H	T	F	FINGER	EIGHT	BELIEVE
E	C	A	E	P	R	T	L	H	I			
I	S	E	H	G	T	H	A	C	N			
L	K	R	I	O	N	G	I	G	G			
E	E	V	O	I	L	I	F	I	R			
B	E	W	R	O	N	E	F	E	E			
E	L	H	A	N	D	S	S	O	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
 Websites: www.wilmslowcatholic.com
<https://stpiusalderley.com>; <https://stbenedictshandforth.wixsite.com>; www.stteresawilmslow.org

Sunday 12th April, 2026: The Second Sunday of Easter

	St Pius X, Alderley Edge	St Benedict’s, Handforth	Sacred Heart & St Teresa’s, Wilmslow
Saturday 11 th Apr <i>Saturday of Easter Octave</i>	No Mass	No Mass	9.30 am Mass (<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 12th Apr <i>The 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)</i>	9.00 am <i>Prof. Jack Scarisbrick RIP</i>	10.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i> 5.30 pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	11.00 am <i>Andrew & Heather Cursham</i>
Monday 13 th Apr <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	No Mass	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Tuesday 14 th Apr <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 15 th Apr <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	9.30 am (Adoration 9 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	11.15 am <i>Requiem Mass for Marie Bernadette Jordan RIP</i>
Thursday 16 th Apr <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 17 th Apr <i>Ferial (Friday Abstinence)</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Vocations to the Priesthood</i>	No Mass	No Mass
Saturday 18 th Apr <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	No Mass	9.30 am Mass (<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 19th Apr <i>The 3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	9.00 am <i>People of the Parish</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:

Eggs, Sugar, Tinned Spaghetti, Fabric Conditioner...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*



Sacred Heart & St Teresa, Wilmslow Notices

Anthony Mawby RIP Anthony's Mawby's Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday 23rd April at 10 am in our church. May he rest in peace. Please pray for the repose of his soul.

Prayer Group Please note that owing to the funeral on Wednesday next week (15th April), there will be no prayer group meeting that day.

Notices All Parishes

Holy Places Good Friday Collection Our parishes raised the following totals for the Holy Places on Good Friday: St Pius X: £201; St Benedict's: £171; Sacred Heart & St Teresa's: £450. Thank you for your generosity.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT: From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality will be holding our first 2026 Hospitality Members Focus Group on Tuesday 21st April, at 7pm. This will be open to any Hospitality members, even if you haven't attended previous Focus Groups. We will be encouraged to review the commitments made last year to improve our way of working with each other. We are also delighted that Fr Sean Henry, Chaplain to the Hospitality, will join us. This will take place at St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1PL. Please confirm your attendance by emailing the secretary at secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

DAY OF DIVINE MERCY

This special celebration will be held on **Sunday 12th April 2026 at Holy Angels Church, Hale Barns (WA15 0HF)**. The church will be open from 1.30 pm, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 2.00 pm and Confessions from 2.00 pm. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be read at 3 pm and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated at 3.30 pm. You are invited to recite the 9 day Novena Prayers and Chaplet commencing on Good Friday. This can be found at: <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena>

Parish Mission Appeals – Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ **Weekend of the 18th/19th April**

Next weekend we look forward to welcoming two Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who will be carrying out mission appeals in all our parishes. The Sisters support the poor and marginalized in different countries of the world, serving the homeless, destitute, vulnerable children and adults, refugees, widows and elderly people. There will be a retiring collection which will go towards the work of the Sisters. Your generosity will be very much appreciated.

SVP Thank You The SVP wish to thank everyone who contributed to the appeal for toiletries for the ladies who are released from Styal; we had a nice letter of thanks from one of the Deputy Governors. It was a fantastic effort led by the children at St Benedict's School. Have a look at our posters on the Parish noticeboards which also shows our activities during Easter; again thanks to the schoolchildren for their fantastic cards which we distributed.

Two vacancies have arisen within the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team for a Programme Co-ordinator and Youth Mission Team Member. Further details regarding both posts can be found and viewed on the Diocesan Website at <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Interested parties should send their CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date Friday 29 April 2026.**

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026: Bookings are now open for our 2026 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Lourdes. By coach 30 July to 7 August and by air 31 July to 6 August. Brochures can be found on the pilgrimage website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk along with a link to the new online booking system.

Marriage and Family Life Ministry Retreat Day For all those interested in supporting the Vocation of Marriage and Family you are invited to attend our Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Ministry (MFL) Retreat Day to help you find out more about what is involved and what help is needed. There will be presentations on the Mission of Marriage, a Reflection on the Book of Tobit and Holy Mass at Midday. When: 18th April 2026. Where: St. John Vianney Parish Hall, St Wilfrid's Church, Witton Street Northwich Cheshire, CW9 5NP. Time: 9.30pm to 4.00pm Please Register with Monika Golembiewska on 07549 226794 or please email her at: 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 12th April 2026 2nd Sunday after Easter

Err.... How can Jesus have said that? (7):

"I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel"

St Matthew (15:22-28) [also Mark (7:24-30)] recounts an incident between Jesus and a Gentile woman. She begs Him to cast out a demon which possessed her daughter. His answer is: *"I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel"*. The woman persists and He answers: *"It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs"*, to which the woman replies: *"....even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the Master's table."* At that point Jesus grants her wish and her daughter is healed.

The passage, although it has a good ending, appears to (i) challenge our understanding that Jesus came for all, Jews and Gentiles alike, and (ii) put into Jesus' mouth unpleasant words, comparing Gentiles to dogs.

The New Testament has a number of references to the Jews being the first people to whom Jesus' mission was aimed. An example is: *"These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles....but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel'"* (Matthew 10: 5-6). The Jewish people are the historic chosen people of God, the guardians of the Old Testament. As a Jew Jesus comes first to His own people as Messiah and Saviour. As His ministry develops, it becomes apparent that it is for all: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."* (Matthew 28:19) and *"...Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus though the Gospel"* (Ephesians 3:6).

The context, that Jesus' ministry was first to be for the Jews, is important. The Canaanite woman herself understood and did not challenge this statement. She asked for His healing mercy and He gave it. Some interesting features may be noted. First, Canaanites were Israel's traditional enemies; the region was associated with Baal worship. Secondly, the woman refers to Jesus as *'Son of David'*, the Jewish Messianic title. She thus shows faith in that belief and that Jesus is the Messiah – Jesus' response is: *"O woman, great is your faith! Be it done as you desire."* Thirdly, Jesus had deliberately gone to non-Jewish territory (*"He withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon"*). Was He looking to break down traditional barriers, seeking faith among the pagans? He had previously healed the Gentile centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5-13) saying: *"..not even in Israel have I found such faith."*

That still leaves the apparent harshness of Jesus referring to Gentiles as 'dogs'. Some argue that the term is a diminutive, like a reference to a pet dog. In any event, it is hardly a compliment. The term was seemingly one commonly used at the time by Jews of Gentiles. Two points may be made. First, the language would have been familiar to the woman and may not have sounded as severe to her as it does to our modern ear; she did not appear surprised or put off by it. Secondly, Jesus may have been testing her faith. As one commentator writes: *"He cannot be understood as intending to justify or sanction the use of such terms.... He meant to try her faith. As if he had said, "You are a Gentile; I am a Jew. The Jews call themselves children of God. You they vilify and abuse, calling you a dog. Are you willing to receive of a Jew, then, a favour?"* Is a possible further alternative that it was banter in which both joined with a smile on their faces?

Stephen S.