

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		

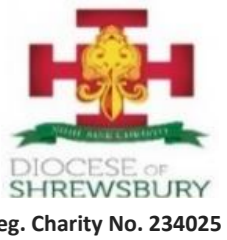
Weekly Wordsearch

A	T	I	Y	R	O	H	T	U	A	ELEVEN	MOUNTAIN	FELL
N	A	M	T	I	R	I	P	S	M	AUTHORITY	HEAVEN	EARTH
S	N	O	I	T	A	N	E	P	E	NATIONS	BAPTISE	NAME
R	B	N	R	A	E	T	M	R	A	FATHER	SON	SPIRIT
E	A	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N			
H	P	E	H	S	H	R	N	E	F			
T	T	I	T	P	F	A	V	N	A			
A	I	R	U	A	V	E	N	S	T			
F	S	S	A	B	L	O	L	R	H			
N	E	V	A	E	H	F	E	L	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 17th May, 2026: The Seventh Sunday of Easter

	St Pius X, Alderley Edge	St Benedict’s, Handforth	Sacred Heart & St Teresa’s, Wilmslow
Saturday 16 th May <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 17 th May <i>The 7th Sunday of Easter</i> <i>World Communications Day</i>	9.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i>	10.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i> (<i>Marian Procession follows</i>) 5.30 pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	11.00 am <i>Mary Mass RIP</i>
Monday 18 th May <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	No Mass	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Tuesday 19 th May <i>St Milburga, Abbess, Virgin</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Mass of Thanksgiving</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 20 th May <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 21 st May <i>The Dedication of the Cathedral</i>	Evening Prayer 7.00 pm <i>Followed by parish meeting</i>	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Friday 22 nd May <i>Ferial</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Vocations to the Priesthood</i>	No Mass	No Mass
Saturday 23 rd May <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 24 th May <i>Pentecost Sunday</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> 7.00 pm <i>Holy Hour: Praise & Worship</i>	11.00 am <i>Maria Passagno RIP</i>



St Pius X Alderley Edge Notices

Use of St Pius X Presbytery Following last Sunday's announcement concerning use of the presbytery, there will be a meeting in St Pius X Church beginning with Evening Prayer at 7pm on Thursday 21st May. All parishioners are welcome.

Ray Connolly RIP The Requiem Mass for Ray Connolly will be at St Pius X on Thursday 4th June at 11am. May he rest in peace.

St Pius X Church Choir A group of parishioners sing at Mass at St Pius X on the first Sunday of each month, accompanied by Catherine on the piano. We would love more people to join the choir – if interested please arrive early to Mass for a practice on the first Sunday of the month.

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, Squash, Packet Soup, Tinned Meat, Milk, Honey, Tinned Ravioli, Cereal, Cordial, Pot Noodles, Toilet Rolls, Fabric Conditioner, Carrier Bags (Plastic)

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*



St Benedict's Handforth Notices

Children's Liturgy Notice Please note - No children's liturgy at 10 am Mass until 31st May.

Marian Procession The Marian Procession to our shrine for prayers and devotions will immediately follow the 10 am Mass on Sunday 17th May.

Notices All Parishes

EASTER FAITH FORMATION: ST BENEDICT'S PARISH HALL, HANDFORTH

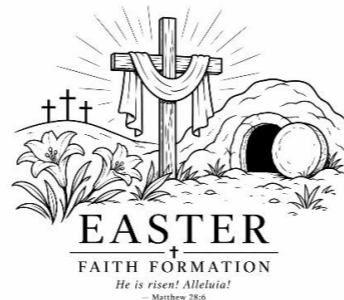
From 7.00 – 8.15 pm

Session 3: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH (WED 20TH MAY)

- *How the Holy Spirit can change your life*
- *No one gets into heaven alone*
- *Why we need signs, symbols and sacraments?*

Session 4: THE SOCIAL TEACHING OF THE CHURCH (WED 27TH MAY)

- *The dignity of the human person and the right to life*
- *Christian teaching about family and society*
- *Speaking the truth and following conscience*



Notices All Parishes

Sunday, 17 May 2026 is World Communications Day. The theme for this year, chosen by Pope Leo, is Preserving Human Voices and Faces. In his message, Pope Leo XIV highlights the importance of ensuring that technological innovation, particularly artificial intelligence, serves the human person rather than replacing or diminishing human dignity. You can read his full message at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-leos-message-for-world-communications-day-2026/>

Upcoming Visit of the Relics of St Gerard Majella to the Diocese In the last week of May, our Diocese will be privileged to host the relics of St Gerard Majella on their tour of England and Wales. This is to mark St Gerard's 300th anniversary. He was a Redemptorist lay-brother from Southern Italy who died at 29. There will be four locations across the Diocese; The Cathedral, Chester, New Brighton, and Stockport (Friday 29th May St Joseph's Stockport: 7pm Mass). Please see the poster for details. St Gerard is popularly invoked as the patron of mothers, couples trying to conceive, those looking for work, and making a good confession.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026 There are still some spaces available to travel over land by coach. For further information, please go to: <https://www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk/> If you plan to travel independently and organise your own accommodation in Lourdes, you will still need to register with our pilgrimage, especially if you wish to volunteer or join us for our pilgrimage Masses, liturgies and events. You can register via our new online booking system at the following link: <https://shrewsburylourdes.fillout.com/application>

St Ambrose College, Hale Barns Open Day will be on Saturday 27th June 2026 from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm for those in Years 4 & 5. <https://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk/> Tel: 0161 980 2711



'...and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

You are welcome to join us for a Holy Hour for Pentecost. A time of prayer with worship music and scripture in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament at St Benedict's, Hall Lane, Handforth, SK9 3AD on Sunday 24th May at 7 pm. *Followed by refreshments in the hall.*

The SVP are looking to help a single Mum to equip a flat. Kitchen items required - fridge, electric cooker, tumble dryer. Contact Maurice 07541946670 or Mark 07770443893.

Please also have a look at the posters on the notice board as to how we support SVP communities in India and Guyana.

Screening of 'Gosnell: The Trial of America's Biggest Serial Killer' Sun 17 May, 6.30pm, at Holy Angels Parish Hall, Hale Barns. Hosted by Sale & Altrincham branch of SPUC with drinks and snacks. The film is a drama based on the police investigation and trial of Kermit Gosnell, a doctor and abortion provider who has convicted of murder. All welcome!

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

Sunday 17th May 2026 Ascension of the Lord
If God cannot change his mind, what is the point of prayer?¹

What is going to happen to us in the future is already known and willed by God. This, for reasons not explored here, does not mean that we lack free will. But God exists outside time and change is something that takes place in time. God, being eternal, is changeless. All this means that we cannot change God's mind.

There are passages in the Bible which might suggest that God does change his mind: an example is where the Ninevites repented of their sins after Jonah's preaching and it is said (Jonah 3:10): "*God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do them, and he did not do it.*" In reality, it cannot be the case that God changed His mind. He cannot literally have been surprised at the repentance of the Ninevites. Nevertheless, there are many such Old Testament passages which speak – figuratively we would have to say – about God changing His mind and relenting.

Further, Christ instructs his disciples to petition God when he says: "*Ask, and it will be given to you*" and "*If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven*"². The Lord's prayer, itself, is replete with requests to God: "give us", "forgive us" and "deliver us".

Yet, if God truly cannot change his mind, what is the point of prayer? If someone (say Aunt Mabel) is very sick, we pray for her and she gets better, what has been the effect of prayer? We have ruled out that we have changed God's mind. Thus, what has happened is that Aunt Mabel was always going to recover – that was both known and willed by God from all eternity. Crucially, however, our prayer for her was also both known and willed by God in the same way. Moreover, it was always the will of God that our prayer for Aunt Mabel should be part of the reason she got better.

¹ This is a synopsis of an article titled "The Point of Prayer" by Richard J Ounsworth OP in the Catholic Herald September 2025

² Matthew 7:7 and 18:19

Prayers do not have magical powers. Rather, our prayer makes us participants in Divine Providence. The article of which this is (so far) a synopsis draws a conclusion which I shall now quote verbatim.

It is not – or, at least, not usually – that God gives us the ability to interfere in the natural order of things, but rather that by His will and knowledge all natural causes take place. When we pray out of love, our natural concern for others – or indeed ourselves – is elevated to the level of the divine, the supernatural. In short, we should pray for things we want because to do so raises our human wills up to participate in God's loving care for the world and for all His children. We do not change his mind, but He changes ours, and if we pray honestly for the things we care about, we open ourselves to the possibility that He will shape our minds to care about the things that really matter.

Stephen S.