

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		



‘And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve Apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.’

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 14th June, 2026: The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

	St Pius X, Alderley Edge	St Benedict’s, Handforth	Sacred Heart & St Teresa’s, Wilmslow
Saturday 13 th Jun <i>The Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>	No Mass	No Mass.	9.30 am Mass (<i>Celeb’s Int</i>) Adoration 10 – 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 14 th Jun <i>The 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00 am <i>Rest of the soul of Padraig Hester</i>	10.00 am <i>People of the Parish</i> 5.30 pm <i>Stephen Groot RIP</i>	11.00 am <i>Pauline McArdle RIP</i>
Monday 15 th Jun <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	No Mass	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Tuesday 16 th Jun <i>Ferial</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	No Mass
Wednesday 17 th Jun <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	9.30 am <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i> Prayer Group 11.15 – 12.15
Thursday 18 th Jun <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	No Mass	10 am (Adoration 9.30 am) <i>Celebrant’s Intention</i>
Friday 19 th Jun <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	No Mass	No Mass
Saturday 20 th Jun <i>Ferial</i>	No Mass	No Mass.	9.30 am Mass (<i>Celeb’s Int</i>) Adoration 10 – 11 am Confessions 10.15 – 10.45 am followed by Marian devotions Confessions 6 pm – 6.20 pm 6.30 pm (Vigil Mass) <i>Geoffrey Brooks RIP</i>
Sunday 21 st Jun <i>The 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time</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>Wedding Anniversary: Ian & Paulette Tildesley</i>



St Pius X Alderley Edge Notices

Coffee Morning The June Coffee Morning will be held this Sunday (14th June). As ever, helpers would be greatly appreciated. (Please contact John R on 07976 361018.)

Weekly Reflections This weekend sees the fourth of six Reflections on Sinning Saints: St Thomas Becket (c1118 – 1170). Our thanks are due to Stephen Stewart.

Churches Together in Alderley (CTiA) Retreat We are planning to arrange a couple of days and nights away next Spring which will be a time of praise and worship, preaching, Bible study and meditation along with fellowship. The venue we have reserved is beautiful with lovely grounds, multiple meeting rooms and a Chapel and is just outside Crewe. Please see <https://www.orc-crewe.org/> The dates that have been reserved are Thursday 27th May - Saturday 29th May 2027. The cost including accommodation, all meals and use of all the facilities and grounds is £195 per person. You can register your interest via <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/LNQxfDN2bw>

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, Long Life Milk (Semi-Skimmed), Tinned Ravioli, Cereal, Cordial, Laundry Softener, 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*



St Benedict's Handforth Notices

FIRST COMMUNION Congratulations to the 11 children who made their First Holy Communion last Saturday at St Benedict's. The Church looked wonderful and many thanks to all who helped prepare for this lovely celebration including the refreshments afterwards.



Sacred Heart & St Teresa's Wilmslow Notices



Parish Garden Party – Sunday 28th June We are planning to hold our annual parish garden party after 11am Mass on Sunday 28th June with pizzas, paella, cakes, strawberries & raffle! If you are able to help set up or volunteer on the day, please speak to Michael or email the parish at wilmslowcatholic@gmail.com. Cake makers particularly welcome!

Notices All Parishes

Sacrament of Confirmation - June 2026

Please pray for the 11 young people from our parishes who have been preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. We pray that the Holy Spirit will fill their hearts with strength and wisdom as they affirm their faith as members of the Church.

There will be five candidates from St Benedict's, four candidates from Sacred Heart & St Teresa's & two candidates from St Pius X.

They will be confirmed on Friday 19th June at Christ Church, Heald Green by Bishop Mark, along with 39 candidates from the Cheadle parishes.



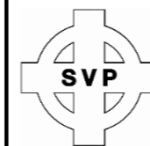
Day for Life – Retiring Collection Next Weekend 21st June 2026

The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death.

This year, *Day for Life*, falls on Sunday, 21st June and the theme is ***The Wonder of the Child in the Womb***. A joint message from the 'Lead Bishops for Life' from the three Episcopal Conferences is available to read on our parish website under "Other Notes."

Parishes are asked to hold a second collection for the "Day for Life Fund." Each year this fund is able to allocate over £200,000 in grants to organisations which promote respect for life in various ways. There will therefore be a retiring collection next weekend in our parishes.

Please give what you can. (You will also be able to donate via the DONA card readers).



Update: SVP Walk for the childrens' summer camp was completed last weekend. A circuit of Derwentwater in the Lake District and a total of 24,000 steps - thankfully in mainly dry conditions. We're hoping to raise at least £350 which is the approximate cost for one child and if you wish to help, please use the SVP envelopes and place in the offertory collection.

South Manchester Catholic Young Adults Group Weekend Retreat for 18-35s

We're delighted to announce that registration for our Castlerigg Weekend from 11th-13th September 2026 is now open! We will be heading to the Lake District for a weekend of spiritual formation, prayer time, opportunities for reconciliation and spiritual direction, social time and time outdoors. Price per person is £75 for accommodation and all meals for the weekend. We will be organising lift shares from Altrincham on the Friday late afternoon/evening. Sign up via Google Forms by 30th June: <https://forms.gle/sGwx3RhWR4e7wytAA> Any questions, please email southmanccatholicyoungadults@gmail.com

WEBELIEVE | Festival of Catholic Life - St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham

WeBelieve Festival brings the Church together in England and Wales. It is an unmissable opportunity to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to experience the joy of community, and to encounter personally the Lord Jesus, our salvation. Join us from 24–27 July 2026 at the historic and beautiful setting of St Mary's College, Oscott, for a feast of the True, the Good and the Beautiful. Book your tickets at webeliefefestival.com

ST PIUS X WEEKLY REFLECTION

Sinning Saints (4):

St Thomas Becket (c1118 – 1170)

Thomas was born in Cheapside, London, into a modest family with Norman roots. He was educated to a certain level at Merton Priory and later in Paris, though he could not be described as highly educated and was by no means a scholar. On leaving school he became a secretary in London and then part of the household of Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury. This was a turning point for him since the household included many erudite people, some of whom later became bishops. Further, Theobald sent Thomas to study civil and canon law at Bologna and Auxerre.

Theobald's patronage of Thomas continued and in 1154 he named him Archdeacon of Canterbury and bestowed on him other lucrative offices. Thomas succeeded quickly in these posts such that Theobald then recommended him to the new King Henry II as Lord Chancellor, a position to which he was appointed in 1155.

Henry and Becket became friends, albeit the King was some 15 years the younger. Inconsistent with his clerical offices, Becket gained a reputation as a proud, arrogant and worldly man who wallowed in immense wealth and luxury. He embraced hunting, gaming and other lavish entertainment. He attracted serious contemporary criticism for continuing as Archdeacon without performing the necessary duties and, in particular, for failing to respond to the dying Theobald's summons to visit him. Becket was also punctilious in extracting the maximum revenue from the King's traditional sources, namely landowners such as the church and bishops.

The King, with Thomas' support, resisted the Gregorian Reform which had gathered clerical support in England. The object was to give the church more control over matters such as church posts and property and immunity for the clergy from secular courts. Insofar as the Church had partially succeeded, Henry and Thomas wanted to turn back the clock to regain the authority which Henry I had had in these areas.

Archbishop Theobald died in 1161. Since Thomas was so closely allied to him, the King had the [seemingly] neat solution of appointing him as Archbishop of Canterbury, despite his reputation as a worldly and hedonistic cleric. Thomas warned the King saying: "*I know your plans for the Church, you will assert claims which I, if I were archbishop, must needs oppose.*" Yet Henry persisted and in 1162 Becket was ordained a priest and consecrated Archbishop. He resigned his chancellorship and became an ascetic. He set about protecting the Church from Henry's reforms. In 1164 at the Constitutions of Clarendon, Henry demanded that Becket agree to the King's rights. Becket refused and Henry summoned him with allegations of contempt of royal authority and malfeasance in the office of Chancellor. He was convicted whereupon he fled to France where he obtained protection.

ST PIUS X WEEKLY REFLECTION

After 6 years of hostility from both sides - until 1170 - and following diplomatic intervention by the Pope, Henry permitted Thomas to return from exile. However, the King had recently had his son crowned by other bishops as heir apparent, this being a breach of Canterbury's right to crown. On Thomas' return, he proceeded with the excommunication of the bishops responsible. Henry, then in Normandy, uttered some words which traditionally are recorded as: "*Will nobody rid me of this meddling priest?*"; the words were interpreted by four knights as a royal command. They sailed back to England, entered Canterbury Cathedral and there murdered Thomas on 29th December 1170. Just before death the knights asked: "*Where is the traitor?*" and Thomas' responded: "*Here I am, no traitor, but archbishop and priest of God.*"

Very quickly Thomas' tomb became a site of popular pilgrimage, attracting pilgrims from across Europe. He was canonised in 1173. In 1174 Henry famously made reparation at Thomas' tomb and was absolved. Henry walked barefoot through Canterbury to the tomb, where he publicly confessed his sins. Then each bishop present flogged him with 5 blows of a rod, followed by 3 blows from each of 80 Cathedral monks. Henry offered gifts at Thomas' shrine and spent a vigil at the tomb.

Given the tension between Catholic Church and state represented by the Becket history, it is perhaps unsurprising that in 1538 Henry VIII ordered that Thomas' shrine be despoiled, his bones burned and his name eliminated from all service books.

Stephen S

