

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor
Registered Charity no. 234025

Father Peter Cryan Tel: 01625 423576 E-mail: st.edmacc@gmail.com

Parish website: <https://www.st-edward-macclesfield.org.uk/>

145 London Road, Macclesfield Cheshire SK11 7RL (For Parking SK11 7RZ)

Christ the King Pr. School Tel: 01625 466833; web-site www.christthekingcheshire.sch.uk



Newsletter for the week of 21st July 2024 Sunday Readings Cycle B Weekday Readings Cycle II

Readings for 15th Ordinary Sunday: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 22; Ephesians 2:13-18; Mark 6:6 30-34

Saturday 20th July 5.30pm 1st Mass of the 16th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 21st July 10.30am Mass of the 16th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Monday 22nd July FEAST: ST. MARY MAGDALENE

Tuesday 23rd July FEAST: ST. BRIDGET, religious

Wednesday 24th July No Mass 11.30am Instead 1.00pm Nuptial Mass: Emma Hartley & Andrew Sim

Thursday 25th July FEAST: ST. JAMES, Apostle

Friday 26th July 1.00pm Mass (in St. Luke's Chapel, Macclesfield Hospital) Ss. Joachim & Ann, parents of BVM

Saturday 27th July 10.00am Mass

10.30-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 27th July 5.30pm 1st Mass of 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 28th July 10.30am Mass of the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings for 17th Ordinary: 2 Kings 4:42-44 ; Psalm 144; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:1-15

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE Fri 26th July – Thurs 1st Aug

The Pilgrimage Intentions are:- *the renewal of Eucharistic faith & love in all our parishes & families;- the peace of the world amid threats of war & terror;- the unity of the Church and of our Shrewsbury Diocese- the upholding of the sanctity of every human life;- vocations to Marriage, to the Priesthood & to the Consecrated Life*. On Mon 29th July at 9am UK time Mass at the Grotto with other English Dioceses will be celebrated by the Shrewsbury Pilgrimage present in Lourdes. It can be viewed via Lourdes TV <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/tv-lourdes/>. Some other Masses & liturgies may be on Lourdes TV too, including the International Mass on Sun 28th July at 8.30am UK time.



4th WORLD DAY for GRANDPARENTS & the ELDERLY

Next Sun 28th July Pope Francis in his message to people for the World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly asks young people to visit an elderly person stating that *"their prayers will protect you and you will carry in your heart the blessing of that encounter."* Next Sunday is the closest the memorial day of Ss. Joachim & Ann. Pope Francis chose this year's theme: *"Do not cast me off in my old age"* (cf. Ps 71:9). He says that *we should cherish the elderly and recognise that there's no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to grandchildren.*

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE EVENTS

-Thu 1st – Sun 4th Aug "Living Catholicism Today" How do we interpret the sources of Christian morality? What is the significance of the virtues? Part of the *Christian Heritage Centre* 's (CHC) "Faith & Reason" series exploring morality & the Christian Life with *Dr Caroline Farey, Dr Andrew Beard* and *Stefan Kaminski*. For more information visit

- Fri 23rd – Mon 26th Aug 'What is knowing?' Divine Human & Artificial Intelligence(AI): short Summer course with tutors *Fr. John Gove* of St. Mary's Uni. Twickenham & *Prof. George Corbett* of St. Andrew's Uni,

-Fri 13th-Sun 15th Sept "What we have seen and heard in heaven": A Retreat on Art & Catholic Culture. Join *Fr. Dominic White OP* and *Dr Joey Belleza* at the Christian Heritage Centre

For full information for the two short Summer courses and the retreat visit <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday Collection £311.60

Stella Maris (Sea Sunday) £47.60

GET IN TOUCH QUICKLY –IF YOU ARE SICK If you or your relative enters Macclesfield Hospital let Fr. Peter know as soon as possible tel: 01625 423576 or by e-mail st.edmacc@gmail.com

DIARY OF EVENTS

Wed 24th July 1.00pm Wedding of *Andrew Sim & Emma Hartley*

Thurs 15th Aug The Assumption of Our Lady – Holiday of Obligation

Thurs 5th Sept Christ the King Pr. Sch reopens (All Hallows College opens Tues 3rd Sept Yrs.7&12; Wed 4th Sept all students)

Tues 10th Sept PPC meeting 7.00pm in the Community Room

Sun 27th Aug Nominations open for 2 PPC members

Sun 15th Sept Nominations close for 2 PPC members

Sat 21st Sept PPC nominations announced

Sun 29th Sept Parish Annual General Meeting

INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS for the 2nd-27th October Synod assembly on Synodality

"How to be a missionary synodal Church" is the big question posed by the *Instrumentum Laboris* (henceforward: *IL*) published 9th July. This is the "working document" which is intended to guide the work of participants in the 2nd assembly of the Synod on Synodality next October. It calls for new processes of participation to be devised and for the development of ministries for the laity, particularly for women. It is interesting both for what it contains and for what it excludes from discussion. As a progress report this document is a working document ahead of the XVI Synod assembly next October, has no magisterial value. Last week the 1st half of the report was given here. It included: *Refocusing on the mission & Women in positions of responsibility*. This week the 2nd half of the report is given now with: *Inclusion of women as teachers and formators, Developing lay ministries & Participatory and transparent decision-making*

Inclusion of women as teachers and formators

The Synod outlined including the participation of women in formation programs alongside clergy, and women's access to teaching and training positions in theological faculties and institutes, and in seminaries. It also envisages offering "formation to make them aware of the roles and tasks women can already perform in the Church." On the other hand, the possible opening of the diaconate to women — one of the subjects that caused debate among the members of the October 2023 session — "will not be the subject" of the work of the second session. The *IL* points out this topic will continue in the study group set up by the Pope who, himself, has already closed this door, clearly ruling out the possibility of ordaining women deaconesses, in an interview with the American channel CBS last May

Developing lay ministries

According to the *IL*, reflection on the role of women highlights "the desire to strengthen all the ministries exercised by the laity (men and women)."

Examples of these regular services "offered to and recognized by the community" are listed: "the ministry of coordinating a small church community, the ministry of leading moments of prayer (at funerals or otherwise), the extraordinary ministry of communion, or other services not necessarily liturgical." The Synod proposes the creation of a "recognised and properly instituted ministry of listening and accompaniment." This ministry, which would be like "an 'open door' of the community [...] allowing people to enter without feeling threatened or judged," would be in addition to the ministries of lectors, acolytes, and catechists.

While Church law already provides for the possibility of lay people celebrating baptisms and assisting in the sacrament of marriage, the document recommends continuing to reflect "on how to entrust these ministries to the laity in a more stable form." The *IL* notes that many voices are calling for "adequately trained lay men and women to contribute to preaching the Word of God, including during the celebration of the Eucharist," thus enabling lay people to give the homily. The writers stress, however, that these lay ministries are to be distinguished from ordained ministries, reserved for priests.

Participatory and transparent decision-making

Another priority for Synod members will be the sharing of decision-making processes, which comprise a drafting phase and a decision-making phase. While decision-making responsibility lies with the authorities — pastors and bishops — they are nevertheless "obliged to conduct a consultation." This advice is "not binding" but is indispensable, and the authority "will not depart from it without convincing reason." The writers also consider that the formula of the *Code of Canon Law*, "which speaks of a 'consultative vote only' (*tantum consultivum*), diminishes the value of consultation and should be corrected."

This mode of governance requires "transparency" and "accountability" so that participants in decision-making processes have "effective access to all relevant information." Transparency, the text insists, must concern not only "sexual and financial abuse," but also "pastoral plans, methods of evangelization, and how the Church respects the dignity of the human person, for example, regarding the working conditions within its institutions."

As a line of action, the text asks local authorities (of parishes and dioceses) to guarantee the functioning of finance councils, to involve the faithful in pastoral and economic planning, to publish an annual financial statement certified by external auditors, and an annual report on their mission, including initiatives undertaken in the field of the protection of minors, as well as the promotion of women. Finally, it is hoped that "periodic evaluation procedures" will be put in place for those in positions of responsibility.





Encountering Christ

The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families



Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross and remain still for a minute of settling silence.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.

1

Read The Gospel for Sunday 21st July 2024 GATHERING TO BE FED

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, “You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while”; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

Taken from Mark 6:30-34 The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

2

Reflect After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

Today we begin a series of six Sunday gospels on the Eucharist. As this year’s gospel (Mark) is too short to provide readings for the whole year, the Church takes five Sunday readings from the Bread of Life Discourse in John’s Gospel, introducing them today with the account of the Gathering in Mark’s Gospel. Following on, the story of the Feeding, which will begin next week, can be read on several levels. The event is a foretaste of the Eucharist, with the disciples gathered round Jesus as the new Israel (12 baskets for the 12 tribes) for a fully satisfying meal, the messianic banquet. Furthermore, Jesus is the good shepherd who feeds his flock, according to Psalm 23, on the green pastures beside the restful waters of the Lake of Galilee. Jesus is also the prophet like Moses who provides manna for his people in the desert or, more precisely, he is like Elisha in 2 Kings 4 (next Sunday’s first reading). The story in Mark’s account of the Feeding is recounted in terms which deliberately recall these and other biblical scenes, to enrich and deepen our understanding of what is happening. **How does this reading help you understand how the Lord gathers and prepares us to be fed through his gift of the Eucharist?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

3

Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, patience, humility, joy, forgiveness, self-control, courage, generosity, faith or something else.

4

Pray for Families

This Wednesday’s word for our school families is HOLIDAYS!

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 21st July 2024**



1st Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

The Lord will Shepherd Israel

“Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered - it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds - it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost - it is the Lord who speaks! See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.”



This reading is chosen with an eye to today's gospel. It is quite unlike so many passages in Jeremiah when he was obliged to prophesy doom and disaster for Israel. As well as doom for the current shepherds of the people, this reading foretells a time when the Lord himself will shepherd his people through his own shepherd, a king in the line of David. The promise may refer to God himself as the shepherd, or it may be God's representative who is the shepherd, or it may hint at both. The exile in Babylon must still come first, but that time will give way to the reign of 'The Lord-our-integrity'. This name is roughly equivalent to the Kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus, for the kingship of God is a kingship of God's justice and salvation. God's 'justice' is not like human justice, which consists in observance of and obedience to the law, whether it be the Jewish Law or Civil Law. God's justice consists in fidelity to his promises, the promises made originally to Abraham, and repeated to Moses and David, the repeatedly renewed covenant, the promise of patronage and protection, if only the people will put their trust in the Lord. This is what makes God's justice a saving justice, the hope of Israel, fulfilled in Jesus.

What does this prophecy of Jeremiah say to you about God's promises and how he will fulfil them?



2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:13-18

The Unity of Believers

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.



The Letter to the Ephesians celebrates the unity of the Church, returning again and again to this subject. In this passage the 'you that used to be so far off' denotes the gentiles, and the 'us' the Jews. The two groups of Christians, sprung from Jews and Gentiles, which formerly were so much at loggerheads, are united by the blood of Christ and the single Spirit to form the single New Man which is Christ's Body, the Church. The uniting of these two groups reminds us that Christ won salvation for the whole world. In some mysterious way all those who are saved are saved by Christ, even if they are not explicitly aware of this.

How may we better manifest and celebrate the unity of the Church?

Christ won salvation for the whole world.

The Wednesday Word Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**