

Catholic Union – Scrap the Cap Campaign

The Catholic Union was back in No 10 Downing Street last week to talk about the future of Catholic schools. Deputy Director, James Somerville-Meikle, together with Paul Barber, Director of the Catholic Education Service, met the Prime Minister’s education adviser to discuss the faith-based admissions cap on new free schools. Last year, the Catholic Union launched a new campaign to “[Scrap the Cap](#)” and allow Catholic free schools to open. Over 1,000 people signed an [open letter](#) to the Education Secretary, Gillian Keegan, asking her to finally lift the cap. The meeting in No 10 is the latest stage in the campaign and builds on previous meetings with officials and Special Advisers and a [meeting with the Education Secretary](#) at the end of last year. James and Paul highlighted the benefits of lifting the cap, which would allow the Catholic Church to take part in the free school programme which was launched in 2010. Lifting the cap would not just allow new schools to be built, but permit existing schools to convert to academies. They stressed that Catholic schools are already some of the most diverse in the country, with nearly half of pupils from an ethnic minority background. The campaign continues. You can donate to support this work at <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/22768#!/DonationDetails>

The Apostles Creed

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.*

Food Donations Appeal – Hope Central Handforth

Sadly, the need continues. Food Donations we are grateful for: Tinned foods (meat, pies, soups, beans, tomatoes, fruit, veg, etc), microwavable rice, cereals, tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits and also nappies). Please leave any donations in the box at the back of church. Alternatively, you may like to offer a financial contribution to the parish, who will then use your donation to buy food in bulk for the Food Bank. (Any cheques may be made payable to “Sacred Heart & St. Teresa’s Church”).

St. Teresa’s Living Flame Prayer Group: Every Wednesday We meet in the parish hall between 11.15 am and 12.15 pm for prayer, scripture, intentions, rosary and music. All are most welcome to join us. For further information please contact: Marcelle Perch Tel: 07776343499; Mary Robinson Tel: 07505127451

Praying for the unborn and women facing crisis pregnancies “We pray for our society. That we would promote a culture that values life, and that we would seek the protection of all humans from conception to natural death. Lord hear us”.

Sacred Heart & St. Teresa’s Church, Green Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 1LD



SACRED HEART & ST TERESA’S CHURCH, WILMSLOW



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18th February, 2024 – The First Sunday of Lent Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 17 th – Vigil Mass	6.30 pm	The Parishioners
Sunday 18 th – 1 st Sunday of Lent	9.00 am	Celebrant’s Intention
	10.30 am	Mary Henesy (sick)
Monday 19 th	10.00 am	Elizabeth Waite (sick)
Tuesday 20 th	10.00 am	Celebrant’s Intention
Wednesday 21 st	10.00 am	John & Catherine Coyne
Thursday 22 nd – The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle	10.00 am	Celebrant’s Intention
Friday 23 rd – St. Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr	10.00 am	Celebrant’s Intention
Saturday 24 th – Vigil Mass	6.30 pm	The Parishioners
Sunday 25 th – 2 nd Sunday of Lent	9.00 am	Lena Gatt
	10.30 am	Celebrant’s Intention

Please Note

- Confession available on request after any Mass – please ask Father Anthony

Ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment

Support an amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. **Take action:** Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP urgently in support of this amendment!

Churches Together in Wilmslow - Lent Lunches

Home-made soup, bread, cheese and fruit. Tuesdays 20th, 27th February, 5th, 12th and 19th March. Soup served between 12 noon and 1.00 pm. Dean Row Chapel Hall, Chapel Road, Wilmslow, SK9 2BX. Suggested minimum donation £5. Proceeds to Christian Aid Week

Lent Groups 2024 – Wilmslow Churches Together

Ian Smart from Wilmslow Methodist Church has organised Lent Groups using the material Watch and Pray. The groups will be held at Wilmslow URC Church on all the Monday Evenings in Lent and will start at 7:30 pm. The sessions will be led by the Rev'd Ian Smart with input and assistance from others. The first meeting is on Monday 19th February 2024 and on the following 5 Mondays until Monday 25th March 2024.

The Archbishops said the following about this material **“Watch and Pray challenges us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning.”** Everyone is welcome from every church, or none, to come and join us as we Watch and Pray together, and prepare ourselves for the Holy Week to come. For those not familiar with the church, there is a small private car park at the rear. Access to it is from Chapel Lane via Bedells Lane/Hawthorn Lane (Chapel Lane is a one-way street).

Year of Prayer 2024 – Resources Now Available

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year ‘Pilgrims of Hope’, 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer. The Holy Father announced its launch on January 21st, 2024. The Diocese has created a Year of Prayer page & have uploaded a couple of other resources for both parishes and individuals at the link: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/faith-and-life/year-of-prayer-resources/>

Vacancy - Parish Secretary at St. Vincent's, Altrincham

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Secretary at the parish of St Vincent's, Altrincham, working as a Job Share with the current Parish Secretary. Flexible working hours: approximately 12 hours per week over 3 days (Monday-Friday) 9am-1pm (days and times may vary). Hourly rate: £14.50.

For further details please see the Diocesan Website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Applications in the form of a CV and covering letter should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date:** Friday 1st March 2024

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal Friday 23rd Feb – Lent Collection at Masses next week

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at www.cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. Use the envelope in church or give online at www.cafod.org.uk

Aid to the Church in Need – Holy Land Appeal

As we look to the start of the Lenten season next week, war continues to engulf the birthplace of Christ with no end in sight as the world watches updates on a daily basis about the terrible situation in Gaza. Today ACN has launched our Holy Land appeal in order to support Christians whose lives have been devastated by the ongoing conflict in the Holy Land. The war, which has been going on for 125 days now, has left thousands dead and many without homes or any source of income.

We ask for the kindness of our benefactors to help support our appeal by providing donations to help those caught in the conflict. The donations raised from this appeal will provide aid including food, medicine, rent for struggling families and other essential aid to the Christians of the Holy Land with the help of local Church partners to help ease their suffering. To learn more about the appeal and for access to our Holy Land report, and our Lenten Gifts of Faith, visit the Holy Land appeal page here <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/holy-land/>

Room for Rent in Wilmslow Wanted

A female parishioner is looking for a room to rent for three months from 22nd March 2024 within walking distance of Wilmslow Station. For further information please refer to Father Anthony.

Plant & Flower Appeal for Parish Grounds

We were most grateful last year for your generous response to our flower appeal for the parish grounds. With spring now approaching, we are again eager to bring some colour back to the parish grounds outside the church, presbytery and hall. If you are able to donate any colourful plant or flowers they would be most gratefully received. Please leave with Father Anthony. Thank you.

Catholic Union – Survey on what matters to you at the General Election

The Catholic Union is urging Catholics across the country to have their say on what matters most to them ahead of the next General Election. With an election expected later this year, the Catholic Union has launched a new survey to test the temperature of Catholic views and attitudes towards politics. The survey is seeking people's views on the policy areas where Catholic voices are most needed. It also explores the extent to which Catholics are engaged in politics and how they plan on participating in the election. The results will inform the Catholic Union's interventions in the election campaign, including the publication of a “Catholic Manifesto” which will be sent out to candidates ahead of polling day. . The survey can be found on the Catholic Union's website at <https://catholicunion.org.uk/2024/02/catholics-urged-to-have-their-say-on-election/>