

Ponder Over... The first reading (1 Sm 26: 2: 7-9, 12-13, 22-23) explained: This reading from the Hebrew Scriptures, gives us a vivid example of self-control, forgiveness, and mercy. The ancient Israelites were governed first by Moses, then by a long line of judges. Since they noticed the progress made by their Gentile neighbours who had kings, the Israelites finally prevailed on their last Judge, Samuel to ask God for a king for them. (1 Samuel: 8). The king was Saul. In Saul's army, the youth David won a famous victory over Goliath, and thereby gained the admiration of the people and the envy of King Saul. Saul and his "three thousand picked men" went in search of David to kill him. Yet, David and Abishai were able to steal into Saul's camp and stand over the sleeping king. But David turned down Abishai's offer to "nail Saul to the ground with one thrust of the spear." "Do not harm him," David commanded. Then taking Saul's spear and water jug, he went to an opposite hill and yelled across to Abner, Saul's lieutenant: "Here is the king's spear.... Today, though Yahweh delivered him into my grasp, I would not harm Yahweh's anointed." David's sense of justice, spirit of forgiveness, and respect for Divine authority helped him to go beyond the retaliation which others expected him to show. David is an image of Christ and an example to us. If he can forgive his mortal enemy, so can, and so should, we. There are three things that activate the forgiveness instinct: Safety: People are naturally inclined to forgive people who they trust will not hurt them again. Value: When relationships look like they have long term value and we can see benefit of restoring relationships, then we are more likely to forgive. Compassion or Care: We tend to more easily forgive those we have compassion for or people who unintentionally hurt us. If we can create this kind of environment at home, at work and in our communities, we will see forgiveness flourish.



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WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2019
(Readings- Sundays: Cycle C, Weekdays: Cycle 1, Psalter Week 3)

This Sunday - SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass 8.30am (Parishioners)

Mass 10.30am (John Morris)

Monday - Mass 9.30am (John Morris)

Tuesday - Mass 9.30am (Paula Tamblyn)

Wednesday- Mass 7.30pm (Kris Corrigan)

Thursday – Mass 9.30am (John Morris)

**Friday – Mass 9.30am (John Morris): St David
(Women's World day of Prayer)**

Saturday - Mass 12.00 noon (Sheila O'Connor)

Next Sunday – EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Day of prayer for the Unemployed)

Mass 8.30am (Deceased relatives and friends of the Butler Family)

Mass 10.30am (Parishioners)

MORNING PRAYER: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – 9.15am

NO EVENING PRAYER THIS SUNDAY

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Tues . 10-11am, Thurs:6.00 – 8.00pm

CONFESSIONS THIS SATURDAY : 11.00 – 11.45am and on request

Diocese of Shrewsbury, a registered charity (NO 234025)

ST CATHERINE'S NEWS

PLEASE PRAY FOR all who have died recently especially Stan Orton, Margaret Manson, John Morris, Moira Bradshaw, Brian Dunning. Also please pray for those who are ill or housebound including, Jo Power, Ann Brown, Betty Roberts, Norah Stuart, Kathleen Bennett, Joseph Conway, Amy Duke, Sue Green, Geoffrey Roberts, Geoff Milton, Timothy Wild, Francis Hayes, Ann Marie Heald, Katie Hogan, Eilis Longley-Brown, Joan Nulty, Neil Monaghan, Justin Williams, and Jo Clark.

(Please advise Fr. Thomas of any changes to this list in order that it may be kept up to date).

FR THOMAS HOME VISITS, ENQUIRIES FOR BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, DEATH, etc. – please contact at the presbytery on 632 4388.

RECENT DEATHS. If anyone has a friend or relative who has died in the last year please give names to Fr Tom.

SICK: A reminder to let you know it is really important that if anyone you know is ill, and particularly those who might be going into one of our hospitals, to please inform Father Thomas as soon as possible.

COFFEE will be served today by Pro-Life, next Sunday by Parents and Tots.

GLOBAL HEALING. On Friday 8th March at 8pm in the Parish Centre, two of our young parishioners, Anna and Katie Fraine, who were chosen to represent CAFOD at a UN Summit on Climate Change held in Poland, will speak on their experience and help us to explore what we can do, both as a parish and as individuals, to care for our planet. All are welcome.

SUNDAY LUNCH. The Social Committee are looking to start serving Sunday Lunch once a month in the Parish centre, open to all parishioners. It would be good to sit down and enjoy a meal together and get to know each other. The first one is planned for 17th march at 12.45, depending on response. A donation will be requested to cover costs. Booking essential for planning the catering. To book phone Phil Collins on 632 4825 or give your name to Fr Tom or John Fegan by 12th March. Lifts can be arranged if requested when booking.

A REQUIEM MASS FOR MR STAN ORTON (well known in this parish) who died recently, will take place on Thursday 28th February at 11am at Our Lady and St Johns Church, Heswall

BUS ESCORT VACANCY : Our Lady of Pity Primary School serves a wide catchment area and many of our children travel to and from school by bus. There is a vacancy for an enthusiastic and kind person who likes working with young children and their families. For details Please contact Mrs Julie English Office Manager/Clerk to the Governors on 0151 6776262 Or email recruitment@ourladyofpity.co.uk. Closing date 26th February

THE ROMERO TRUST are organising a pilgrimage to El Salvador in November 2019 to commemorate the canonisation of St Oscar Romero in 2018. Deacon Tony has travelled there before and will be going again. He found it to be not the easiest of journeys but an extraordinarily rewarding experience. If you are interested or require more information please get in touch with him. He hopes to give a presentation on the theology and spirituality of St Oscar Romero during Lent.

SUNDAY OFFERING 17th February: £632.68

DIOCESAN NEWS

CARITAS SHREWSBURY CURRENTLY HAS 3 VACANCIES; 1 x F/T Community Services Manager (closing date: 4th March), and 2 x P/T Parenting Support Workers Wirral based (closing date: 1st March). For further details and an Application Pack, please contact us: www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk ('Job Vacancies' can be found under the 'News' Section) / Tel: 0151 652 1281 / info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk **JOB VACANCIES AT SHREWSBURY CATHEDRAL.** Job descriptions and an application form for each post can be found at <http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/curia/vacancies>. Completed applications should be returned to pauline.mcculloch@dioceseofshrewsbury.org. Closing date 22 February 2019. See the poster for details.

A HEALING MASS FOR ALL FAMILIES THAT ARE AFFECTED BY MENTAL ILLNESS AND THOSE THAT WORK WITH THEM will be held at St Mary's, King Street, Middlewich, CW10 9EB on Saturday 2nd March at 12.15 pm. There will be an Anointing of the Sick and soup and coffee and tea afterwards as well as an opportunity for socialising and meeting members of the Diocesan Mental Health Action Group.

FULLY ESCORTED PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, IRELAND, 13TH MAY 2019. £649.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all taxes, luxury transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full Irish Breakfast each morning and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms at supplement of £100. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com for further details. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

