

## NEWSLETTER

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH  
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NANTWICH. CW5 5SS  
Tel: 01270 625494

Email [stannesnantwich@btinternet.com](mailto:stannesnantwich@btinternet.com) Website [www.stannesnantwich.org.uk](http://www.stannesnantwich.org.uk)

Parish Twitter Feed @stannesnantwich

Parish Priest: Fr. Tony Grace

Fr Michael Ryan OMI

Permanent Deacons: Rev. Peter Mascarenhas and Rev. John Penny



**OUR COMMUNITY HUB** is now available for booking for private events. Here is the link to the public website for information and bookings <https://hallbookingonline.com/stanne>

### 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

**IN NEED OF A PRIEST** Please contact Fr Tony Grace on 01270 877736

Prayer and Mass Intentions can be sent by email to us at [stannesnantwich@btinternet.com](mailto:stannesnantwich@btinternet.com)

Saturday CAFOD 2 <sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION	24	5.00pm	Vigil Mass 2nd Sunday of Lent	Amelia and Gerard McKenna RIP Anniversaries Creighton Morley RIP Recently Deceased David John Murphy RIP Recently Deceased
Sunday CAFOD 2 <sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION	25	9.30am	Mass 2nd Sunday of Lent	Intentions of Ruth Farey Olga Tilly RIP Recently Deceased Raymond Lord RIP Recently Deceased Monica Madeley RIP Recently Deceased Tony Higley RIP Recently Deceased Thanksgiving for the Pescod/Powell family
Monday	26		No Mass or Service Today	
Tuesday	27	9.30am 10.00am 10.35am	Adoration and Confession Mass Stations of the Cross	Charles, Sarah, Sven and Lloyd Intention for Healing
Wednesday	28			
Thursday	29	9.30am 10.00am 10.35am 7.00pm	Adoration and Confession Mass Stations of the Cross Lenten Talk, St Gabriel's Alsager	Priest's Intention
Friday St David Women's World of Prayer Day	1		No Mass or Service Today Lent Reflection Group	
Saturday	2	5.00pm	Vigil Mass 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Olga Tilly RIP Recently Deceased
Sunday	3	9.30am	Mass 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Fran D'Arcy Hughes RIP 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary

**Requiem Mass** for Tony Higley RIP on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 11.45am. Please pray for the repose of his soul and keep Tony's family and friends in your prayers.

**Lent Reflection Group on Fridays** 2.00 to 3.30 pm starting 23rd February in the church. Based on the readings for the following Sunday, with some short audios or videos. Further information: Chris Oliver 07481 476 333, [chris@chris-oliver.net](mailto:chris@chris-oliver.net).

**Stations of the cross** During Lent after the weekday Masses. For those who would like to travel the way of the cross but cannot get to Mass during the week there will be an Internet Way of the Cross via Zoom each Friday at 7pm. Log into Zoom and use Meeting ID: 854 6364 3824 and Passcode: 7a1V76 each week. If you are uncertain about making the connection contact Deacon John on 07973375422 to arrange a test run.

**Extraordinary ministers of communion** We are reintroducing the distribution of Holy Communion under both kinds from Easter. Would all of our existing extraordinary ministers please contact Deacon John if they would like to continue to serve the parish with distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and out to the sick and housebound. You will need to attend a formation day, training session and be commissioned.

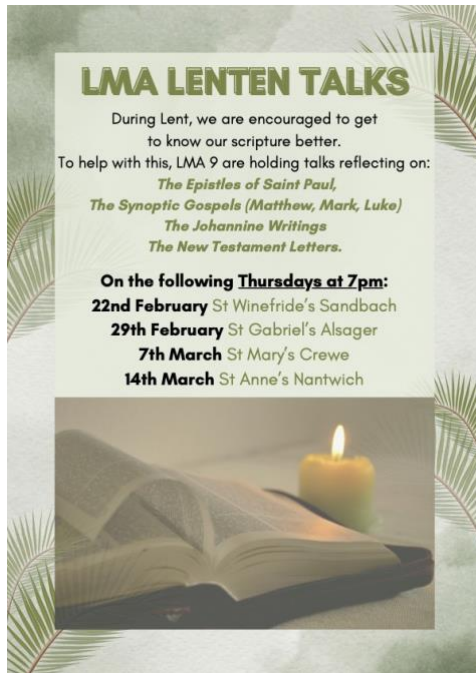
**Privacy Notice** The parish of St Anne's sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at [www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice).

**Pope's February Prayer Intention** We pray with Pope Francis that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need. <https://youtu.be/e507Ge8fsEw>  
**CAFOD Family Fast Day appeal – Lent Collection at Masses this 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, the card machine at the back of church or online at [cafod.org.uk](http://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. [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

**St Annes 200 Club 2024** If you would like to join the 200 club and support the running of St Anne's please see information at the back of church or contact Michael Wilcock Mob: 07968520276 email: [mjwilcock64@gmail.com](mailto:mjwilcock64@gmail.com)

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024:** If any parishioners would like to join with St Mary's, Crewe and St Anne's on our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, please can you contact Martin Massey on 567263 or Ann Alexander on 623784. This year there will have to be a change of travel arrangements because of the Paris Olympics.

### Wistaston Hall Lenten Retreats



Lenten Weekend: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024, £175.00

During the first centuries of Christianity, the forty days leading up to Holy Week took on a special significance. Those forty days are called Lent, a name taken from the Old English word meaning "spring". The liturgical season of Lent is meant to be a time of spiritual spring-training, so to speak: a special time during which we prepare for Holy Week.

Our Lenten retreat is an opportunity to prepare our hearts to commemorate and celebrate the mystery of Easter. We hope you will join us to pause and reflect on the last days and death of Jesus, as we prepare our hearts to joyfully greet the Risen Christ on Easter morning.

The weekend will include reflective inputs, prayer times and some quiet times, and an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation or talk one-to-one with a trained Spiritual Director. As St Teresa of Avila reminds us, "Prayer is the lifting up of mind and heart to God".

Lent Day Retreats: 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024, £25.00 (includes lunch)

Enrich your Lenten journey through the transformative embrace of scripture, reflection, adoration, and prayer. Experience Lent through a unique process of engagement that draws you deeply into this holy season. There is much wisdom in a text from the Psalms: 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10). May our God who is rich in love and mercy, bless us all as we journey towards Easter.

Celebrate Easter: 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, £260.00

This is an opportunity for you to discover the Sacred "Three Days" (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) leading up to Easter. This retreat begins at 6pm on Holy Thursday with the celebration of the Lord's Supper and the Washing of the Feet. It includes time for personal and communal prayer as well as the opportunity to fully participate in each of the services.

**Rediscover Your Marriage** – Retrouvaille offers you the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10s of 1000s headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. The next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**The Year 2025 is the next Jubilee year in the Church.** Pope Francis has asked the church to prepare well, and in order to help us do so Pope Francis has called 2024 'A year of Prayer'. In response the team for evangelisation and mission will be organising retreat days on Prayer throughout the year. Come and Understand what the Church teaches about prayer and experience different types of prayer throughout the day. Please bring a packed lunch. For more information: Jane Deegan 07517 906435 [jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) Natalie Orefice 07730526826 [natalie.oreface@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:natalie.oreface@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)



Last



week's Envelope & Loose Plate = £523.07

Offertory received by Bank transfer in January = £2360

Thank you

Here is the webpage link to support the Mission of the Church in St Anne's and also the Red Boxes/ Missio, to the poorest parts of the world or please scan QR code. Many thanks.

<https://donate.mydona.com/st-annenantwich>

**Missio Red boxes** – Please bring your boxes for counting ensuring your name is on the box. You can hand them to Pauline Binnie our Missio Local Secretary. New boxes are available at the back of church – why not take one for your house to collect for this worthy cause – all those spare pennies soon add up!

Missio Red Box holders can donate to Missio – Mill Hill Missionaries in a variety of ways: Please leave your Red box in church with name on it for counting or Give online: [missio.org.uk/redbox](https://missio.org.uk/redbox). Make a bank transfer: Account name: Missio; Sort Code: 16-00-16; Account Number: 10824230. Please use the reference RB + your postcode.

- Donate by telephone with your debit/credit card by ringing 020 7821 9755 during office hours.
- Donate via texting REDBOX 5 (to donate £5.00) or REDBOX 10 (to donate £10) to 70085. To ensure that your donation is attributed to **St Anne's, Nantwich**, it would be helpful (but not essential) if you would quote reference **SHR063/1117**.
- If you are a Gift Aid contributor, please inform Missio, so that they can recoup the tax from your donation.

☆☆☆☆☆ Is your child joining Reception in 2024? Do you want to find out more about St. Anne's? Open to Catholics and non-Catholics. Ring school on 01270260783 or e-mail [office@stannes.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:office@stannes.cheshire.sch.uk) to come to look around ☆

**Mass Preparation:** WEDNESDAY WORD: [www.wednesdayword.org/parish](http://www.wednesdayword.org/parish)  
PREGO: <https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/prego/>

### **NANTWICH FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS.**

We praise God for our many volunteers however we have a particular shortage of delivery drivers. If you are interested in volunteering to drive please contact Teri at the presbytery to obtain more details. Our current shopping list is: Long life milk and fruit juice, coffee, tinned vegetables and tinned fruit, toothbrushes and nappies [size 5 & 6]. **DONATIONS CAN BE MADE IN NANTWICH** at St Anne's, (Box in porch), St Mary's Parish Office, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Nationwide, M&S and Elim Church.

Mary's Meals <https://marysmeals.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=71642ed3d70deb2b1c25da8f0&id=7d7f84ea81&e=f7949e3fb3>

**Carmelite Priory in Oxford.** The Friars are looking to increase their ministry to Young Adults to help grow and form the faith of Young Adults. The Friars are currently hosting free online talks on the formation of Young Adults and if this interests you, please see here: <https://www.carmelite.uk.net/events/young-adult-formation-for-the-third-millennium/>

### **Useful links and resources**

**Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team – Online Ministry** Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by searching for @Shrewsbury\_ymt. Find us on YouTube by searching for Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team – SYMT, don't forget to subscribe.

**Sanctuaries, shrines Catholics can 'visit' virtually in Europe, Mideast.** <https://catholicsentinel.org/Content/Arts/Arts-and-Entertainment/Article/Sanctuaries-shrines-Catholics-can-visit-virtually-in-Europe-Mideast/6/31/40431>

**Journeving Together** <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/journeving-together/>

**The National Shrine for Our Lady of Walsingham** [www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream](http://www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream)

**Laudato Tree** <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2020-05/laudato-tree-sahel-pope-francis-laudato-si-year.html>

**Watch a Mass from home. Live-streaming of Masses** Shrewsbury Diocese: <http://www.churchservices.tv/shrewsburycathedral/embed#tab-player> Church Services TV: <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Prayer resources at: <http://pathwaystogod.org/>. <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> <http://ln54.blogspot.com>

<http://prayasyougo.org/>

**Life** Helplines and Information can be found at <http://www.dayforlife.org/article/helplines-and-information-2020/>

**Young Catholics Resources** <https://young-catholics.com/3636/22nd-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-c/>

# Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year B • 25 February 2024 • Psalter Week 2



*We all have moments that stand out as special and that we never want to end. I remember being on holiday on Cape Clear Island, off County Cork, sitting with my mother, father and sister on a bench overlooking the harbour.*

It was a beautiful summer's day; the sea was calm, everything was so peaceful, and we felt so at one, that I experienced an incredible sense of joy. The four of us together with, for a little while, no concerns, no worries, no preoccupations. I didn't want it to end. It was a peak experience.

I remember being on a retreat many years ago, shortly before I took first vows. On the final day, the retreat master and I celebrated the sacrament of penance. I'd been to confession many times before, but this one was different. I had an overwhelming sense of God's closeness to me, of God loving me and forgiving me, an experience I never had before or since in its intensity. The tears flowed. It was a peak experience.

Peter, James and John have a peak experience in today's Gospel. Jesus has taken these three closest friends of his up a mountain to pray. Then something extraordinary happens. It's as if they are caught up in an ecstasy, and they see Jesus in his heavenly glory with Moses and Elijah, two of the great Old Testament figures. They see Jesus transfigured, transformed, radiant. They are so overcome, so full of joy, they do not want it to end. It is, literally, a peak experience.

Every year we read the transfiguration story on the Second Sunday of Lent. It reminds us of two truths.

First, that we all have, or are offered, peak experiences from time to time – special experiences of love and wonder, exhilaration and awe. Experiences that move or delight us. Maybe it's the birth of a longed-for child, and we gaze in wonderment at the living, breathing manifestation of our love. Maybe it's a moment of intimacy, of deep connection, with a loved one. Maybe it's an experience of being accepted, of being seen, for who you really are. Maybe it's an explosion of joy at a cherished ambition finally fulfilled. Such magic moments are rare and, therefore, precious. Treasure them when they occur.

For Christians, the sacraments offer such moments. Each is a grace-filled encounter with Christ, an exchange with the divine that uplifts, renews, sustains us. Spiritual peak moments that nourish and transform us. They give us a glimpse of the divine that we should treasure also.

Second, the transfiguration story is a reminder and a promise offered to the disciples and to us. The event takes place immediately after Jesus' prediction of his death, and in the midst of the growing hostility of the authorities towards him. It was a troubling time for the disciples. The experience of the transfiguration is to give them a boost. It is to reassure them as to who Jesus really is, and offer them a glimpse of what their destiny will be if they remain faithful to him. Jesus knew there would be difficult days ahead when the disciples' faith would be tested. The memory of the transfiguration would help to sustain them.

That's the promise made to us, too. We will have our peak experiences but also our trough experiences. We will have our times of delight but also our times of sadness. We will have our joys but our sorrows too. The transfiguration story is told on this Sunday to assure us and give us a lift. It tells us that even when we feel God's absence, even when we contemplate the scandals in the Church, even when financial or health or family problems threaten to submerge us, even when our faith wobbles, we can be certain that God is with us, that God's tent is pitched right over us. The transfiguration story tells us that if we listen to Jesus and follow him, if we hold fast to him through thick and thin, then the apostles' peak experience on the mountain that day will be our permanent experience in the glory of paradise. It's a foretaste of our heavenly destiny. ■

## REFLECT

Peter, James and John were so transfixed by their mountaintop experience, they wanted it to last forever. It didn't, it couldn't, not this side of the grave. They had to come back down to earth once more. But so incredible was the moment that they never forgot it. The lesson for us is to always live in the moment, to live every moment fully. Despite everything, life is wonderful. Embrace it. Attune yourself to the manifest signs of God's presence all around. With eyes fixed firmly on the mountaintop, live each moment in a way that gives glory to God. ■

## DO

Think about your Lenten commitments. How well are you sticking to them?

## PRAY

Ask the Lord to strengthen you on your journey of faith, as the transfiguration moment strengthened the disciples for the challenges and difficulties that lay ahead of them.



## LEARN

The transfiguration of Jesus offers us a glimpse of our destiny.



## SAY

"Lord, help me always to listen to you. Help me always to appreciate your presence." ■

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

**COLLECT**

O God, who have commanded us  
to listen to your beloved Son,  
be pleased, we pray,  
to nourish us inwardly by your word,  
that, with spiritual sight made pure,  
we may rejoice to behold your glory.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham,' Abraham' he called. 'Here I am,' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** Psalm 115 (110):10, 15-18

Response:

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. Or Alleluia!**

- 1 I trusted, even when I said:  
'I am sorely afflicted.'  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. (R.)
- 2 Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;  
I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
- 3 My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

**SECOND READING** Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:  
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

**GOSPEL** Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*(all bow during the next two lines)*

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.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,  
cleanse us of our faults  
and sanctify your faithful in body and mind  
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well  
pleased;  
listen to him.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

As we receive these glorious mysteries,  
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,  
for allowing us while still on earth  
to be partakers even now of the things of  
heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE**

Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord,  
with a blessing that endures for ever,  
and keep them faithful  
to the Gospel of your Only Begotten Son,  
so that they may always desire and at last attain  
that glory whose beauty he showed in his own  
Body,  
to the amazement of his Apostles.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism.

Pope Benedict XVI