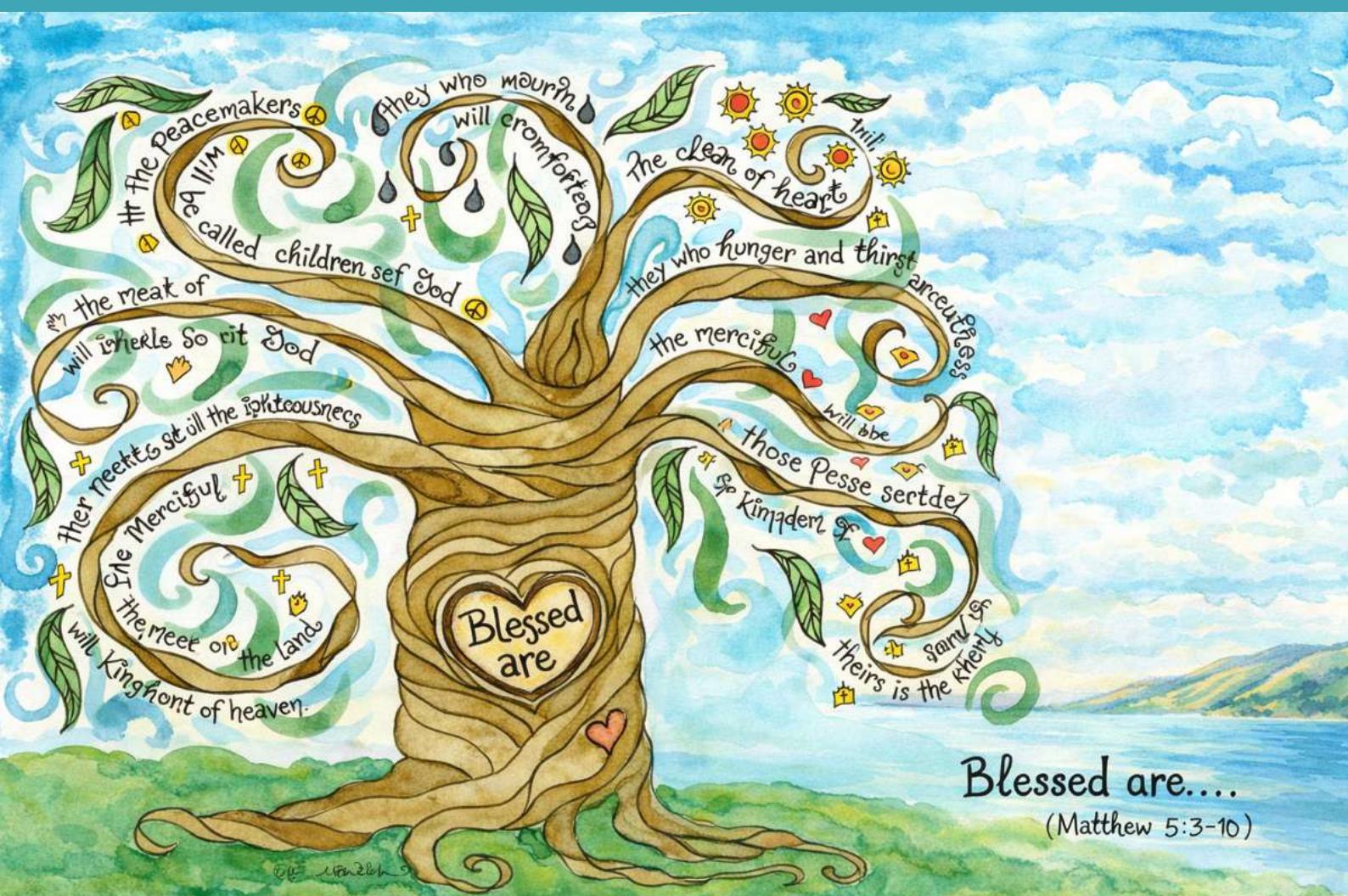


1st February 2026 • Sunday 3 (A)

# Newsletter Online

Is this the latest edition? To check, go here: [bit.ly/M-Latest](http://bit.ly/M-Latest)



## In this edition ...

[Newsletter](#) • [Weekly Activities](#) • [Gospel Reflection](#)

Walsingham Pilgrimage • Journey in Faith • Hosanna!

Readers, Ministers, Stewards: Cannock • Hednesford • 100 Club (C)

*If you are viewing a pdf of this Newsletter, tap the underlined link to go to the page*

# Happiness-

## - The Way of the Beatitudes -



*“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”*

— Saint Augustine, *Confessions*

*“The Beatitudes are the path that God indicates as an answer to the desire for happiness inherent in man.”*

— Pope Francis

*“True happiness is not found in comfort, but in the courage to love.”*

— Saint John Paul II

*“Where there is mercy, there is joy.”*

— Saint Thomas Aquinas

*“Peace is the fruit of justice and love.”*

— Saint Paul VI

*“Happiness is not something ready made.*

— Saint Paul VI

*“Happiness is not something ready made.*

*It comes from your own actions.”*

— Dalai Lama

# Our Lady of Lourdes, Hedgesford Parish & Diocesan Shrine St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock



Parish Priest Father Peter Weatherby 07766 335591 fr.peter.weatherby@rcaob.org.uk

Websites: ololhedgesford.org & sttmcanock.org

Hedgesford Parish Office 01543 422576 olol.hedgesford@rcaob.org.uk

The Office in Hedgesford is open Monday & Wednesday 9 am – 1 pm

Cannock Parish Office 07362 418105 stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk

A more detailed parish directory and guide to activities is here: [bit.ly/M-Directory](http://bit.ly/M-Directory)

## Sunday 1st February 2026 – Fourth Sunday

Calendar of Masses (H = Hedgesford C = Cannock) **Full calendar:** [bit.ly/M-Masscalendar](http://bit.ly/M-Masscalendar)

<b>Sat</b>	<b>31 Jan</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	H	RIP Ray Bishop	<b>Fourth Sunday</b> Blue Bag = Church Maintenance (H) Building Fund / Car Park (C)
<b>Sat</b>	<b>31 Jan</b>	<b>6 pm</b>	C	RIP John Morris	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>1 Feb</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	H	(Confirmation Candidates Commitment Mass) RIP Thomas Walsh	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>1 Feb</b>	<b>11 am</b>	C	RIP Fred Houghton (Anniversary of birthday)	
Mon	2 Feb	*9.30 am	H	RIP Sean & Nancy Costello, & Anne Costello	Presentation of the Lord
Wed	4 Feb	9.30 am	C	RIP Glenda Raddie	Week 4
Thu	5 Feb	9.30 am	C	RIP Teresa Kelly	St Agatha
Thu	5 Feb	2.15 pm	H	St Joseph's School – <i>Mass in School</i>	
Fri	6 Feb	9.30 am	C	RIP Fr Pat Farrelly (6 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)	St Paul Miki
<b>Sat</b>	<b>7 Feb</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	H	RIP Glenda Raddie	<b>Fifth Sunday</b> Building Fund / Car Park (C)
<b>Sat</b>	<b>7 Feb</b>	<b>6 pm</b>	C	RIP Maeve Synnott Anniversary	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8 Feb</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	H	RIP Michael Niland	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8 Feb</b>	<b>11 am</b>	C	RIP John Tyrell	

**Confirmation Commitment Mass** The 9.30am at Our Lady of Lourdes will be led by Confirmation Candidates from our three primary schools, followed by Coffee Morning in the Hall.

\*Midweek Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes in the Presbytery

**Confessions** during Exposition Saturday 11:15am (H), also 5:15pm (C)

**Devotions before or after mass (when there is a mass):**

**Rosary** 9am (C) before Mass on Wed, Thu, Fri; **Divine Mercy Chaplet** (C) Thursdays after Mass

**School Masses** (in term time) usually anticipate the following Sunday: Masses at St Joseph's and St Thomas More are in school. Wednesday mass (C) is in church and includes children from St Mary's School.

**Sunday afternoon:** Baptism of Florence Yetunde Kolawole at Our Lady's

**Coffee Morning** after Sunday 9:30am Mass (H) this weekend.

**Confirmation Commitment Mass:** At Our Lady's this Sunday Morning 9:30am Mass we welcome Candidates from our three primary schools (St Joseph's, St Mary's and St Thomas More) who make their commitment ahead for the celebration of confirmation on Tuesday 24th February at 6:30pm

**Highly Recommended:** Six Bible Studies on the Lenten Sunday Gospels will be led by Mauro Iannicelli, offering in-depth teaching and guided discussion on the upcoming Sunday readings. The series runs on six consecutive Tuesdays from 17 February to 24 March 2026 (7 – 8:15pm), is free of charge, and live on YouTube; registration at [comeandsee.org/lent26](http://comeandsee.org/lent26).

**First Holy Communion Programme** begins in March. Ask Fr Peter for more information.

**Gathered Network Meeting** - an opportunity for parishes from across the Stafford Deanery to come together via representatives to engage in discussion regarding Youth Ministry in the deanery. The meeting is online and takes place on 3rd February. If you would like to take part, please speak to Fr Peter for details.

**Love in Action** with Father Hudson's Caritas and CAFOD. Learn more about the faith basis of their work and spend time in reflection on how our faith calls us to act. Saturday 7th February 10:30-13:30, St Annes, Stafford ST17 0EA. Mass in the Church at 10 am. For more details and to register (not essential, but helpful): [birmingham@cafod.org.uk](mailto:birmingham@cafod.org.uk)

## Please Pray for ...

*Peace and Justice: in Gaza and the Middle East, Sudan, Ukraine and all places beset by war  
Our Parishes, and the work of evangelisation and teaching the faith, especially through our schools and the Shrine  
Candidates preparing for the Baptism, Confirmation, Communion and Reception into the Church  
Baptism of Florence Yetunde Kolawole!*

**All who are sick or other kinds of need:** Jill & Eric C, Sue Wayman, Teresa Maloney, Diane Wyatt, James Hunt, Valerie Brace; Alan C, Alan White, Allan Weatherby, Allison, Angela Freary, Anna Bayliss, Anne Conway-Jones, Anthony, Baby Amelia, Bernard, Bernard Beeson, Bert Dodd, Bert Mears, Bill, Carol, Catherine Baker, Charley, Christopher Allan, Clare Murphy, David K, Deborah Woollaston, Den Owens, Dominic Mulchrone, Don Hinton, Eileen H, Emilia, Frank Heaton, Frank Taylor, Gerard, Gerry, Gladys Chmielewski, Greg, Hayden Turvey, Helen C, Henry, HR, Iris, Ivan Molyneaux, Jack Kennedy, Jane Morecroft, Jane Seal, Janet Barker, Jasper, Jean Nycz, Jerry, Joan O'Sullivan, John Dewhurst, John Martin, Josephine Kafwembe, Josie Morris, Julie, June, June W, Kath Poole, Kathleen Mongon, Kathy Dodd, Katie, Keith Davies, Kyriese, Layla, Louise, Maggie Dale, Margaret B, Margaret Phipps, Margaret Reynolds, Marie, Marion, Mark Duffy, Mary D, Mary Klek, Mary Philpott, Mary Turvey, Matt G, Matt Twohig, Maureen, Michael Liddy, Michael M, Mick Flynn, Mick Jobburns, Mike Baldwin, Nicola McCulloch, Oscar Wordsworth, Pat & Wilf Palmer, Pat Lester, Pat Seery, Pat W, Patricia, Patrick, Pauline March, Peer Mohammed, Peggy, Peter Dunton, Peter H, Peter Hawthorne, Peter Maciejewski, Peter Woollaston, Phyllis Michael, Rajinder, Rev Ned Kelly, Richard Sharp, Robert, Russell Mackuin, Sophie King, Sue Atkinson, Sue Green, Sue Titley, Sylvia Hale, Tess Dudley, Tim Wright, Tom Poxon, Tony Bullivant, Val B, Vincent Dockery, Zorah McQuillan

*Please let us know of names to add or remove. Each person named on this list must have given their consent. FrP*

## The Holy Souls

**Recently departed:** Fr Brian Wall, Peter Hinsley, Fr Simon Bishop SJ, Anthony Costello, Robert Bullock

**Funeral Details:** Anthony Costello, Mass at our Lady of Lourdes on Monday 9 Feb at 1pm, followed by burial; Peter Hinsley, Service at Cannock Crematorium on Thursday 19 February at 12:30pm.

## Anniversaries

1/2	Nora Lefevre 1996, Jack Foster 1998, Rona D'Onofrio 2000, Salvatore Guarneri 2025
3/2	Anthony Murphy 2006, Willam Nelson
4/2	Martin Butterly 2004, Gerald Cummersdale 2011, John Lockley 2018
5/2	Mark Clemence 2023
6/2	Frank Garbett 1973, Charles Bennett 1982, Hugh McGuire 1987, Vincent Smith 1989, Mary Kate Hannigan, Fr James Hannigan
7/2	Kenneth Bladon 1979, Margaret Downer 1988

## Financial Report

### Second Collections:

15 February 2026 – Pro Life. (Printed info at the back of each Church)

*Cannock Second Collections are for Car Park when there is no other 2nd Collection.*

**Our Lady of Lourdes:** 25 Jan Standing Orders £149. GA £79.10, other £294.81. 200 Club January Draw No 3 Carol Taylor (H)

**St Mary & St Thomas More** 18 & 25 Jan St Orders £439, *More info next week, sorry*

Foodbank from Hednesford and Cannock: 21kg. Thanks for your support!

**Rugeley 2026 Pilgrimage to Walsingham** Friday 7th August – Sunday 9th August. Travel, Ensuite

Accommodation, Breakfast & Evening meal £320 per person. Deposit £50 per person required with confirmation of booking by end Feb 2026. Contact Rachel Gill 07783942164 for further information and booking form.

**YOU ARE INVITED: HOSANNA** is an Easter cantata in song and mime, welcoming people of all ages and abilities — especially those with learning disabilities and diverse needs. It takes place at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, on Saturday 7 March 2026, with rehearsal from 10am and performance at 2.30pm; to take part or find out more, contact Julia on 07947 191352 or [handinhandbirmingham@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandbirmingham@gmail.com).

Newsletter Online <a href="http://bit.ly/M-Latest">bit.ly/M-Latest</a>	Calendar of Mass intentions <a href="http://bit.ly/M-Masscalendar">bit.ly/M-Masscalendar</a>	Live Stream of Masses at Cannock (C) <a href="http://stmcannock.org">stmcannock.org</a>
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# Reflection on the Sunday Gospel (Sunday 4, Year A)

*"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."*  
(Matthew 5:12)

What makes a person truly happy? It is one of the simplest questions we can ask, and yet one of

the hardest to answer well. Most of us would begin with things that are familiar and good: family and friendship, love given and received, moments of peace, laughter shared, or the quiet satisfaction of having done something worthwhile. Happiness, we usually assume, is what makes life feel complete.

And yet, experience teaches us that happiness is fragile. The very things that give us joy can be taken away. Circumstances change, health fails, relationships strain, and successes fade. Even pleasures that once delighted us can lose their power to satisfy when we depend upon them too heavily. Many people sense this and feel restless – always searching, always hoping for something more, without being quite sure what that “more” is meant to be.

This restlessness is not a sign of failure. It is part of being human. Saint Augustine understood this deeply. He described the human heart as restless until it rests in God. We long for happiness because we long for fulfilment, and that fulfilment cannot be found in things that pass away. When we try to fill our lives with what does not last, we are left dissatisfied, however pleasant those things may seem for a time.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks directly to this longing. Sitting on the hillside, he proclaims the Beatitudes – words that are familiar, yet always challenging. They do not describe happiness as the absence of difficulty or suffering. Instead, they overturn our assumptions about what leads to a fulfilled life. Jesus does not deny the reality of pain, poverty, grief, or persecution. Rather, he reveals that these experiences do not have the final word.

Several of the Beatitudes confront the false promises we are tempted to believe. Possessions, Jesus tells us, cannot secure happiness – “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” Pleasure alone cannot satisfy the heart – “Blessed are those who mourn.” Power

and control do not lead to fulfilment – “Blessed are the meek.” Even success and recognition fail us – “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you.” These are not condemnations of wealth, enjoyment, or achievement, but reminders that none of them can bear the weight of our deepest hopes.

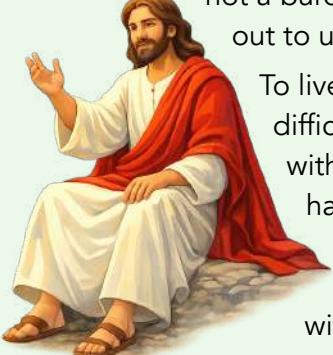
Alongside this, Jesus sets out a positive and demanding vision of happiness. True happiness is found in mercy – in hearts shaped by compassion and forgiveness. It is found in purity of heart – not a narrow moralism, but a single-minded focus on what is good and true. It is found in those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, who want justice and goodness more than comfort. And it is found in peacemakers, those who refuse to let resentment or hatred shape their lives.

This vision of happiness is demanding because it asks us to love as God loves. It requires patience, humility, and trust. It often involves sacrifice, and it may not be rewarded by applause or success. Yet it is precisely this way of life that leads to joy which endures. Happiness, in the Gospel sense, is not a feeling that comes and goes. It is the fruit of living in right relationship with God and with others.

The Beatitudes are not simply ideals placed beyond our reach. They are the pattern of Jesus' own life. He is merciful, gentle, pure of heart, and a maker of peace. He accepts suffering without bitterness and gives himself without reserve. In him, we see that happiness and holiness are not rivals, but companions.

This truth has been echoed throughout the life of the Church. Pope Francis teaches that the Beatitudes are God's answer to the desire for happiness written into every human heart. They show us the way Jesus lived, and the way we are invited to live, with the help of his grace. They are not a burden laid upon us, but a promise held out to us.

To live the Beatitudes is not to escape the difficulties of life, but to discover that even within them, God is present. True happiness does not come from avoiding suffering at all costs, but from knowing that our lives are held within God's loving purpose.



# WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN OUR PARISHES

**Check weekly newsletter for current activities**

		<b>Mass</b> <i>and other activities before and after mass</i>	<b>Other Activities</b> <i>Times may change, please consult weekly newsletter</i>
<b>Day</b>		<b>Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford, WS12 1DB</b>	<b>St Mary &amp; St Thomas More, Cannock WS11 0AA</b>
<b>Saturday</b> <i>fulfils Sunday Obligation</i>	<b>12 noon</b>		<i>(H) - Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford (C) - St Mary &amp; St Thomas More, Cannock</i>
		<b>6pm</b>	<i>(H) Exposition and Confessions from 11:15am (C) Confession from 5:15pm</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:30am</b>		<i>Children's Liturgy 1st Sunday (H)</i>
		<b>11am</b>	<i>Children's Liturgy term time (C)</i>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>9:30am</b> <i>Winter Months in the Presbytery</i>		<i>2nd Monday 7pm Come Sit with Jesus (H) Last Monday 7:15pm Men's Group (H)</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>			<i>No Masses this day</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>11:30am Centenary Hall (H) Mass on one Wednesday each month when announced</i>	<b>9am Rosary</b> <b>9:30am</b> <i>St Mary's School Mass in Church (term time)</i> <i>1st &amp; 3rd Wednesday</i> <i>2:30pm Mass at St Thomas More School, Great Wyrley</i>	<i>12 noon Forget-me-nots Luncheon Club (H)</i> <i>5:30pm (dates as announced) Confirmation and First Holy Communion Preparation</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>2nd &amp; 4th Thursday</i> <i>2:15pm Mass at St Josephs School, Hednesford</i>	<b>9am Rosary</b> <b>9:30am</b> <i>Chaplet of the Divine Mercy after mass</i>	<i>Journey in Faith: October to Easter 7pm - in the Presbytery at Hednesford</i>
<b>Friday</b>		<b>9am Rosary</b> <b>9:30am</b> <i>First Friday devotions during mass</i>	



Calling everyone...

# LOVE IN ACTION

Featuring...



How our faith calls us to respond to ...



our brothers and sisters in  
Christ



locally



globally

When

7<sup>th</sup> February  
2026

Time

10:30-1:30  
Mass at 10:00am

Where

St Anne's  
Lynton Avenue  
Weeping Cross,  
Stafford  
ST17 0EA

# HOSANNA!



*By Anne Ward*

## A Cantata in Song and Mime

Performed by an inclusive cast of people with disabilities and diverse needs and friends,

Led by Hand in Hand

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**2.30pm**

**St Chad's Cathedral  
3540 St Chad's Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6EU**

**Come and relive the events of Holy Week  
From the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the  
devastating crucifixion on Good Friday, with a hint of what  
happened next**

**Free to attend**

‘Hand in Hand’ are adults with and without learning disabilities, based in Birmingham and Arundel & Brighton Dioceses, who meet to socialise and to pray using drama, music and sign language

For more information email [handinhandbirmingham@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandbirmingham@gmail.com)



An invitation to join Hand in Hand in a performance of

# HOSANNA!



## A story for Easter in song and mime

Together, we will relive the events of Holy Week from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the devastating crucifixion on Good Friday, with a hint of what happened next...

### We need you!

The cantata, 'HOSANNA', has been written by Anne Ward and is performed in mime, with narrators telling the story. We are really enthusiastic about performing HOSANNA, but we can't do it alone. So we hope that you will join in.

**We are particularly inviting people with learning disabilities and diverse needs, and friends, to join us in performing this Easter story**

**There is a part for everyone** – whether you love the limelight or are happier as part of the crowd, whatever your age or experience - we need you! The place where we will be rehearsing and performing the cantata is fully accessible.

**As this is a musical story, we are also looking for people to sing or can play musical instruments like guitar, flute, drums....**

### When and where is HOSANNA happening?

**Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> 2026**

We will rehearse and then perform at

**St Chad's Cathedral, St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham B4 6EU**

There will be a morning rehearsal for everyone involved from 10am, and then in the afternoon we will perform the cantata in front of an audience at 2.30pm.

### How to book or find out more

**Phone Julia: 07947 191352 or email [handinhandbirmingham@gmail.com](mailto:handinhandbirmingham@gmail.com)**

Hand in Hand are adults with and without learning disabilities, based in Birmingham and Arundel & Brighton Dioceses, who meet to socialise and to pray using drama, music and sign language

# Giving for the Future

## Planned Giving

Planned giving means making regular donations to the parish. You can set this up as you like - it does not need to be weekly - it could be monthly for example.

We recommend **Standing Orders**, at intervals of your choice, from your Bank to the Parish. Please ask for a form from Church.

## Occasional Giving

As well as planned giving, you may wish to give occasional amounts for special appeals and events, including second collections, to the parish and outside charities. Again, special envelopes can be used, but we recommend the Digital Collection Plate in Church or the links [cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com) for Cannock or [bit.ly/olol-give](http://bit.ly/olol-give) for Hednesford. You can make donations in Church (by card, contactless or chip and pin) or online, wherever you may be.

## Gift Aid

If you are a tax payer you can Gift Aid the tax you have paid, back to the parish. This means that for every £10 you give, the government will add a further £2.50. Only a small amount of paperwork is necessary. You can register for Gift Aid when you make a donation at [cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com) or [bit.ly/olol-give](http://bit.ly/olol-give) or with a form available from Church.

## Cashless collections

It would be a great help to the Parish if most parishioners paid your collection money by Standing Order. The Bank now charges us for paying in cash, while standing orders, especially with Gift Aid, bring extra, and regular, money into the parish.

Please pick up a copy of a form from church and return it complete with your details.

## Please register your card for Gift Aid

Go to **cannock.mydona.com** or **bit.ly/olol-give** on your Internet connected device, (phone, tablet, laptop etc) and make a donation. Choose to Gift Aid it, and fill in the short form. The card you use will then be registered for gift aid, and all future donations to the parish using this card (online or in Church) will be increased by 25% by the taxman!

# St Mary & St Thomas More, 100 Club

Rules of Operation
<b>Purpose</b>
The 100 Club is a small society lottery regulated by the Gambling Act (2005), and registered with Cannock Chase District Council by St Mary's Church, Cannock, a Small Non-Commercial Society run for the benefit of the Parish of St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock, in its pastoral, cultural and community activities.
<b>Rules</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The 100 Club is run on an annual basis, from March to February each year.</li><li>2. Membership of the Club is open to any adult person who pays the annual subscription before the first draw of the year</li><li>3. Each member is allocated a number which is entered into the draw. Members keep the same number/s until they cancel their membership.</li><li>4. Members may have as many numbers as they wish, paying the subscription for each number.</li><li>5. There is no limit on the number of members.</li><li>6. The draw takes place quarterly as decided by the Parish Priest &amp; advertised in the parish.</li><li>7. All communications of the 100 Club, including the announcement of the winners of each draw, is made in the weekly Newsletter of the parish, which is distributed in the Church and across social media.</li><li>8. Any prize which remains unclaimed after 12 months reverts to the Parish.</li><li>9. The levels of subscription, and the number of prizes are decided each year by the Parish Priest, and in consultation with the parish fundraising group, then are made clear to members at the time they pay their subscription.</li><li>10. All matters of interpretation and the variation of these rules are referred to the Parish Priest of <i>St Mary and St Thomas More</i>, Cannock, who acts in accordance with the guidance of the Licensing Authority, Cannock Chase District Council, as authorised by the Gambling Act (2005).</li></ol>

For more info, or if you can't continue, please contact organiser, Veronica, on 07808 899239.  
**DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT: 31 March 2026**

**Join the 100 Club and support your parish!**

*(Birmingham Diocesan Trust: Reg Charity No. 234216)*



*There are four quarterly prize draws with prizes of £150, £100 and £50 - a total of £1,200 in prizes!*

**The 100 Club is our parish lottery. The funds raised go to help the Parish. To take part you become a member. The cost is just £25 per year, which you pay by 31st March each year.**

## How to Join or Renew

To join, or renew your membership, please use the pre-printed envelopes provided and make payments as indicated on the envelopes, as set out below.

**CASH or CHEQUES**, (payable to St Mary's Cannock), should be placed in the pre-printed envelope and handed in with info requested on them, after any of the weekend Masses.

**ONLINE PAYMENTS** can be made at [cannock.mydona.com](http://cannock.mydona.com). Please leave your name as a message when making your payment as a reference.

**CARD PAYMENTS** can be made by selecting 100 Club, then £25 on the card reader in church.

**PLEASE** notify the organiser, Veronica, when payment is made when using **ONLINE & CARD READER**, together with date and time, and by noting it on the envelope and **RETURNING** the ENVELOPE, as it can become difficult to trace without the details!

**PLEASE ENSURE  
CORRECT PAYMENT METHODS ARE USED**

**NEW MEMBERS** please use spare blank pre-printed envelopes to enrol, (at the back of the box) as well as notify organiser of your intention to join, to lessen any complications arising

# RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION - JANUARY 2026

A NEWSLETTER INSPIRING AND ENABLING CLIMATE ACTION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

## REVIEW OF 2025

### International Negotiations:

**June:** U.N. Ocean Conference, Nice, France: 170+ countries supported the Nice Action Plan. Many new pledges made.

**August:** UN talks on plastic pollution; Geneva: ended without agreement, again. November: Climate COP30, Brazil. No progress on reducing fossil fuels burning. Some progress on finance for poorer countries, but absence of the US had a huge impact.

**UK:** The National Emergency Briefing, held on November 27, 2025, focused on the climate and nature crisis, presenting urgent evidence and solutions from leading experts.

<https://www.youtube.com/@nebriefing>

**Church: October:** Laudato Si Raising Hope Conference. Pope Leo opened this Conference. You can watch his talk here: <https://youtu.be/dpIfY8MIDVk> and/or read his speech here: <https://shorturl.at/pAwrl>

At the end of his talk, Pope Leo posed this question: "I would like to conclude with a question that concerns each of us. God will ask us if we have cultivated and cared for the world that he created (cf. Gen 2:15), for the benefit of all and for future generations, and if we have taken care of our brothers and sisters (cf. Gen 4:9; Jn 13:34). What will be our answer?"

### **School Visit from Minister for Nature**

Pupils from St John Fisher Catholic Primary School welcomed Mary Creagh MP, Minister for Nature, to discuss the importance of taking care of the environment and tackling climate change.

Mary spoke to Year 5 pupils about her experience at COP30 as well as some of the initiatives she is leading to improve the UK's environment as part of her role as Minister for Nature: <https://shorturl.at/3Qcbn>

## 2026: A NEW BEGINNING

### FOR ME?

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis called for each of us to undergo a Conversion, - a change of mind and heart, with regards to caring for God's creation, for nature and the environment, and caring for the poor, the most vulnerable. He repeatedly reminds us that everything is connected.

Conversion is not a one-off event. It can begin with a huge upheaval, or just a silent resolution to do something. It always must be followed up with some actions, usually small, but these must become habitual, and then we continue with a further action and so on. We persevere.

**Some suggestions:** read *Laudato Si*, and *Laudato Deum*; Learn to reduce, re-use, re-cycle. (reduce means to consume less and avoid waste). Walk or cycle, rather than use the car; use public transport; many more ideas online.

Switch energy provider to Ecotricity, or similar, green energy company.

## WITH OTHERS IN THE PARISH

Register for the Live Simply Award, via CAFOD. Learn to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity.

<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award>

Register with the Laudato Si Action Platform: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

Become a Laudato Si Animator: <https://laudatosimovement.org>

**And PRAY.** We wish you a happy, holy and successful New Year.

# Journey of Faith 2025-26

This is a course for adults who want to learn more about the Catholic Faith, and runs weekly (with breaks) from October to Easter. The course is built around a resource called *Sycamore*, which is based on video, discussion, and the guidance of someone experienced in the teaching of the Faith. Those who are not already Catholics may be prepared through the course for reception into the Church at Easter, or subsequently. Other participants are very welcome too!

Watch and download the film for each session at : [www.sycamore.fm/videos/](http://www.sycamore.fm/videos/)  
You can click on the links below in the online (pdf) version of this page.

(1) THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS [["Film 1" in Series: click here to view](#)]

The impossibility of sitting still. What is happiness? How to press the pause button.

(2) THE EXISTENCE OF GOD [["Film 2" in Series: click here to view](#)]

Why bother thinking about religion? Five reasons not to believe in God. Arguments for the existence of God?

(3) A GOD WHO SPEAKS? [["Film 3" in Series: click here to view](#)]

The hiddenness of God. When God broke the silence. Discovering the face of God.

(4) WHO IS JESUS? [["Film 4" in Series: click here to view](#)]

He came to bring life to the world. The Saving Death of Jesus. The light of the Resurrection.

(5) THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH [["Film 5" in Series: click here to view](#)]

How the Holy Spirit can change your life. No one gets into heaven alone. Why we need signs, symbols and sacraments.

(6) THE BIBLE [["Film 6" in Series: click here to view](#)]

What is the bible? Can we trust the bible? How the bible can change your life.

(7) THE GIFT OF FAITH [["Film 7" in Series: click here to view](#)]

What is faith? Are Christians just stupid or are there good reasons to believe? How to take a step of faith.

(8) THE POWER OF PRAYER [["Film 8" in Series: click here to view](#)]

What is prayer? Does prayer make a difference? How to pray.

(9) FINDING TRUE FREEDOM [["Film 9" in Series: click here to view](#)]

Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Where can we find moral guidance? How do you discover your true identity?

(10) THE MEANING OF LOVE [["Film 10" in Series: click here to view](#)]

What is love? How to love your neighbour. Knowing the love of God.

# Journey of Faith Programme of Meetings 25-26

Meetings are at The Presbytery at Hednesford WS12 1DB at 7pm on Thursday evenings, as set out below. There will be a WhatsApp group for participants to update you about activities, and notify of any changes in dates.

#	Date	Location	Session
1	Thu 2 Oct 25	Hednesford	(1) THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS
2	Thu 9 Oct 25	Hednesford	... <i>continued</i>
3	Thu 16 Oct 25	Hednesford	(2) THE EXISTENCE OF GOD
4	Thu 23 Oct 25	Hednesford	... <i>continued</i>
5	Thu 30 Oct 25	Hednesford	(4) WHO IS JESUS?
	<b>Thu 6 Nov 25</b>	<b>Break</b>	
6	Thu 13 Nov 25	Hednesford	(4) ... <i>continued</i>
7	Thu 20 Nov 25	Hednesford	(5) THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH
8	Thu 27 Nov 25	Hednesford	... <i>continued</i>
	<i>Thu 4 Dec 25</i>	<i>Christmas Break</i>	
10	Thu 15 Jan 26	Hednesford	(6) THE BIBLE
11	Thu 22 Jan 26	Hednesford	
12	Thu 29 Jan 26	Hednesford	(7) THE GIFT OF FAITH
13	Thu 5 Feb 26	Hednesford	... <i>continued</i>
14	Thu 12 Feb 26	Hednesford	(8) THE POWER OF PRAYER
	<i>Thu 19 Feb 26</i>	<i>Half Term</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
	<i>Sun 22 Feb 26</i>	<i>3pm Cathedral</i>	<i>Rite of Election</i>
15	Thu 26 Feb 26	Hednesford	(9) FINDING TRUE FREEDOM
16	Thu 5 Mar 26	Hednesford	... <i>continued</i>
17	Thu 12 Mar 26	Hednesford	(10) THE MEANING OF LOVE
18	Thu 19 Mar 26	Hednesford	... <i>continued</i>
19	Thu 26 Mar 26	Hednesford	<i>Rehearsal</i>
20	Thu 2 Apr 26	Cannock	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
22	Sat 5 Apr 25	<i>Hednesford</i>	Easter Vigil!



## Catholic Church in England and Wales Second Collections 2026

Date Taken	For Whom?	Why?	Mandatory / Optional Collection	To where do you send the money?
Sunday 1 February	Racial Justice	Racial Justice Sunday	Optional	CaTEW via Finance Offices
Sunday 1 March	CaFOD	Lent Fast Day (previous Friday)	Optional	CaFOD directly
Friday 3 April	Holy See	Holy Places of Palestine (Good Friday)	Mandatory (Holy See)	Apostolic Nunciature via Diocesan Finance Offices
Sunday 17 May	Catholic Communications Network	World Communications Sunday	Mandatory (Holy See)	CaTEW via Diocesan Finance Offices
Sunday 21 June	Bishops' Conference	Day for Life	Mandatory (CBCEW)	CaTEW via Diocesan Finance Offices
Sunday 28 June	Holy See	Peter's Pence	Mandatory (Holy See)	Apostolic Nunciature via Diocesan Finance Offices
Sunday 12 July	Stella Maris	Sea Sunday	Mandatory (CBCEW)	Stella Maris directly
Sunday 13 September	Catholic Education Service	Education Sunday	Optional	Diocesan Finance Offices
Sunday 20 September	Bishops' Conference	Home Mission Sunday – England and Wales	Mandatory (CBCEW)	CaTEW via Diocesan Finance Offices
Sunday 4 October	CaFOD	Harvest Fast Day (previous Friday)	Optional	CaFOD directly
Sunday 18 October	Missio	World Mission Sunday	Mandatory (Holy See)	Missio directly
Any time	Missionary Orders	Annual Mission Appeal	Mandatory (CBCEW)	The order concerned

Mr Greg Pope  
General Secretary  
18 July 2025

# CAN YOU HELP AS A STEWARD OR READER OF THE WORD?

**It's an opportunity to get involved and serve your parish.**

## Stewards

- Welcome parishioners at Vigil & Sunday Mass
- Prepare the church (hymn numbers, windows, books)
- Guide seating and give out hymn books
- Take the collection
- Arrange the Offertory procession
- Supervise movement during Holy Communion

## Readers of the Word

- Proclaim the Old & New Testament readings (not the Gospel)
- Prepare prayerfully and practise before Mass
- Read clearly and audibly with reverence
- Faithfully proclaim the approved liturgical text
- Lead intentions for the Prayer of the Faithful (where required)

# St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock • Readers and Ministers Rota

Rota Date is of Sunday	Saturday 6pm		Sunday 11:00am	
	Readers	Ministers	Readers	Ministers
Jan 25	Wendy Owens	Lisa Gretton Sr Norbert	Colman Whitelaw Doug Bruce	Shirley Weatherby Cath Hunt
Feb 1	Amy Pritchard Margaret Tym	Lindsay Rotchell Grace Bishop	William Pearce, Dave Guy	Doug Bruce David Korzonek
Feb 8	Vikki Wilson Lynn Jones	Wendy Owens Sr Norbert	Shirley Weatherby Denisse Perks	Helen Land Stephanie Hewitt
Feb 15	Alex & Tamsin Davis	Eileen Clancy Doug Bruce	Stephanie Hewitt Gerard Dillon	Sheila Houghton Carol Garnett
Feb 22	Patrick Warren Cath Hunt	Amy Pritchard Tony Gaughan	Mike Burrowes Liz Fraser	Caroline Baker Chris Hewitt
Mar 1	Kay Rimmer Lindsay Rotchell	Clare Bridges Cath Hunt	Justine Lomas Miriam Gannon	Colman Whitelaw Gail Korzonek
Mar 8	Wendy Owens Geev	Lisa Gretton Sr Norbert	Colman Whitelaw Doug Bruce	Shirley Weatherby Cath Hunt
Mar 15	Amy Pritchard Margaret Tym	Lindsay Rotchell Grace Bishop	William Pearce, Dave Guy	Geev David Korzonek
Mar 22	Vikki Wilson Lynn Jones	Wendy Owens Sr Norbert	Shirley Weatherby Denisse Perks	Helen Land Stephanie Hewitt
Mar 29	Alex & Tamsin Davis	Eileen Clancy Doug Bruce	Stephanie Hewitt Gerard Dillon	Sheila Houghton Carol Garnett
Apr 5	Easter Vigil Rota		Mike Burrowes Liz Fraser	Caroline Baker Chris Hewitt
Apr 12	Kay Rimmer Lindsay Rotchell	Clare Bridges Cath Hunt	Justine Lomas Miriam Gannon	Colman Whitelaw Gail Korzonek

## Saturday 6pm Stewards Rota ...

A	Jan 31	Feb 28	Mar 28	Apr 25	Patrick & Patsy Warren
B	Feb 7	Mar 7	Apr 4	May 2	Gerard Dillon & Kay Rimmer
C	Feb 14	Mar 14	Apr 11	May 9	Eileen Clancy
D	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 18	May 16	Ann Spencer & John Gay

If you cannot do a duty on a particular day, please swap

# Proposed Calendar of Celebrations for England & Wales

## Approved revision to the 1999 Archdiocesan Calendar

The revision was prepared by the working group appointed to carry out this work (including Professor Judith Champ; Mgr Bruce Harbert, Fr Paul Dean and, latterly, Fr Allen Morris).

The Archbishop consulted with his Archbishop's Council, the Chapter and the Councils of Deans, and of Priests.

Following this consultation, the revision was approved by the Archbishop on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025. However the revised Calendar does not come into force, and may not be used, until it receives *recognitio* from the Holy See.

That *recognitio* will be requested when the work of preparing a revised Diocesan Supplement have been completed. The Supplement includes not only the Calendar, but also prayers and the Lectionary for the celebrations of the Saints and the Blessed, and – an addition to the proposed new Supplement – readings for the Office of Readings.

The expectation is that the revised Supplement will be submitted to the Holy See for *recognitio* early in 2026.

At the same time an additional tranche of materials is being prepared to assist the clergy and lay faithful of the Archdiocese receive and make best use of the revised calendar – for example materials which will

- promote knowledge of the history of the Catholic church in the Archdiocese, including among incoming clergy and in schools
- foster devotion of all the faithful to our saints and blessed
- supporting worthy celebration of the Liturgy (including the Mass and Divine Office)

If your school, parish, or you yourself have materials that can be used in this way please do send details to [fr.allen.morris@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.allen.morris@rcaob.org.uk) Your help will be gratefully received.

		Current Status of celebrations	Approved Status (subject to recognition from CDW)
5 January	<i>St Charles of St Andrew</i>		<i>Optional Memorial</i>
19 January	ST. WULSTAN	Feast	Memorial
23 January	<i>St. Nicholas Owen</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Worcestershire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
27 January	<i>Blessed Edward Oldcorne</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Worcestershire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
3 February	<i>St. Werburg</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Staffordshire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
28 February	<i>St. Oswald</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Worcestershire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
2 March	ST. CHAD	Feast Solemnity in the Cathedral	<b>FEAST SOLEMNITY IN THE CATHEDRAL</b>
29 May	<b>DEDICATION OF CONSECRATED CHURCHES</b> (to be observed only in the churches concerned)	Feast Solemnity in the Churches concerned	<b>SOLEMNITY</b> (to be observed only in the churches concerned)
16 June	<i>St Richard of Chichester</i> *		<i>Optional Memorial</i>
18 June	<b>DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL</b>	Feast Solemnity in the Cathedral	<b>FEAST SOLEMNITY IN THE CATHEDRAL</b>
1 July	<i>Bl. Thomas Maxfield</i>		<i>Optional Memorial</i>
5 July	<i>St. Modwen</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Staffordshire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
5 July	<i>Blessed George Nichols and Companions</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Oxfordshire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
17 July	<i>Blessed John Sugar and Robert Grissold</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Staffordshire and Warwickshire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
17 July	<i>St Kenelm</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Worcestershire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
27 July	<i>Blessed Robert Sutton</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Staffordshire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
13 August	<i>Blessed William Freeman</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Warwickshire and Worcestershire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
23 August	<i>St. John Wall</i>	Feast	Memorial
26 August	Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God	Feast	<b>FEAST</b>
9 September	<i>St. Osburg</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Coventry	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
10 September	<i>Blessed Agnellus of Pisa</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Oxfordshire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
10 September	<i>St. Egwin</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Worcestershire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
3 October	<i>St. Thomas Cantilupe</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Oxfordshire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
9 October	<b>ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN</b> *		<b>FEAST</b>
11 October	<i>Blessed William Howard</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Staffordshire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
19 October	<i>St. Frideswide</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Oxfordshire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
26 October	<i>St Cedd</i> *		<i>Optional Memorial</i>
8 November	<i>Blessed George Napier</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Oxfordshire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>
16 November	<i>St Edmund of Abingdon</i> *		<i>Optional Memorial</i>
1 December	St. Edmund Campion and Companions, the Martyrs of Oxford University	Feast	Memorial
5 December	<i>St. Birinus</i>	Feast	Memorial
10 December	<i>St. Edmund Gennings</i>	Optional Memorial Memorial in Staffordshire	<i>Optional Memorial</i>

\* denotes a celebration of the same rank in the National Calendar for England. These are included in the proper calendar of the diocese, given the strong connections they have with the Archdiocese, and to ensure their inclusion in any information/formation materials that will be produced for parish and school use.



**St Joseph & St Etheldreda, Rugeley**

**2026 Pilgrimage to Walsingham**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August**



***"When England goes back to Walsingham, Our Lady will come back to England."* Pope Leo XIII**

Travel, Ensuite Accommodation, Breakfast & Evening meal

**\*\* TOTAL: £320 PER PERSON \*\***

**\*\* DEPOSIT £50 PER PERSON REQUIRED WITH CONFIRMATION OF BOOKING BY END FEB 2026 \*\***

Option also available to travel on the coach if booking own accommodation.

Contact Rachel Gill 07783942164 for further information and booking form.

Next Edition  
February 8th  
2026