

3rd May 2026 • Easter 4 (A)
Newsletter Online

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In this edition ...

Newsletter • Gospel Reflection • The Word New!

Why be a priest?

Mass Times Calendar • Weekly Activities

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

The Way, The Truth, The Life



“Jesus is the way
which leads us to the Father.”

– *St Thomas Aquinas*

“Do not abandon yourselves
to despair.
We are the Easter people.”

– *St John Paul II*

“Not all of us can do great things.
But we can do small things
with great love.”

– *St Teresa of Calcutta*

“The truth is not something we create,
but something we receive.”

– *Pope Benedict XVI*

“Where there is no love,
put love,
and you will draw out love.”

– *St John of the Cross*

“However difficult life may seem,
there is always something
you can do and succeed at.”

– *Stephen Hawking*





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

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

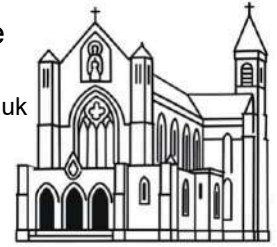
Websites: olohednesford.org & stmcannock.org

Hednesford Parish Office 01543 422576 olohednesford@rcaob.org.uk

The Office in Hednesford 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



Sunday 3rd May 2026 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Calendar of Masses (H = Hednesford C = Cannock) Full calendar: bit.ly/M-Masscalendar

Sat	2 May	12 pm	H	RIP Elizabeth & Larry Winwood	Fifth Sunday of Easter Blue Bag = Church Maintenance (H), Car Park (C)
Sat	2 May	5pm	C	RIP Shelagh Gleve	
Sun	3 May	9.30 am	H	RIP Departed Members of the Costello family	
Sun	3 May	11 am	C	RIP Terence Boller	
Mon	4 May	9.30am	C	RIP Anthony Costello	English Martyrs
Wed	6 May	9:30am	C	Int Mary Duffy	Easter 5
Thu	7 May	9.30am*	H	RIP Ray Bishop	Easter 5
Fri	8 May	9.30am	C	RIP Mike Lordan	Easter 5
Sat	9 May	12 pm	H	RIP Margaret Gaughan	Sixth Sunday of Easter Blue Bag = Car Park (C)
Sat	9 May	5pm	C	RIP Brendan Hunston	
Sun	10 May	9.30 am	H	RIP Daisy Woollaston	
Sun	10 May	11 am	C	RIP Elsie & Bill Hunt	

*** Weekday Mass in Hednesford is in Church during the summer months.**

There is no mass at St Thomas More School this week.

Rosary: Mon, Wed, Fri (C) at 8:55am; **Divine Mercy: Mon (C)** after mass. Sister Norbert is currently away.

Confessions Saturday 11:15-11:45am (H); 4:15pm-4:45pm (C) and at other times on request.

Livestream Schedule and Recordings: Got to stmcannock.org/stm-online - any problems, text 07766 335591

VE Day Hangar Party Saturday 2 May 2026 in Centenary Hall (H) 1pm – 4pm, enjoy dancing to the Henderson Big Band, Lichfield Lindy Hop, Dig for Victory, Vintage Stall & Tea Room. Admission £5. Please note that due to setting up, the lower car park will be unavailable for 12noon mass, park on the upper car park or on the field. We could do with a couple of people to help with the car parking for the event from 11.30am - 2pm.

Journey in Faith group meets on alternate Thursdays at Hednesford Presbytery 7pm. Next: 14 May.

Principal (Headteacher) sought for St Thomas More Primary. Deadline 13 May, 2026 Details: tinyurl.com/29qh4ckr

[29qh4ckr](http://tinyurl.com/29qh4ckr)



Pupil Spaces in Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4 at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Hednesford. Visits to see the school are warmly invited. Call Mrs Harvey or Mrs Mallen in the school office 01543 227225 to arrange a visit or for information.

Our Lady of Lourdes Churchyard – does anyone know the family of Theodore Mosiurniak, who died in 1984 and is buried in our churchyard, along with his wife? Could they please contact either Fr Peter or Anne Walker.

First Holy Communion Masses in May: St Mary's Saturday 9th at 2pm (St Thomas More School), Sunday 10th at 11am (St Mary's School); and at Our Lady of Lourdes on Saturday 16th at 10am (St Joseph's School).

The Meetings for those not in Catholic schools are now on Fridays at 5:30pm in the Presbytery at Hednesford.

Ascension Day is Thursday May 14. Mass is at 9:30am at Our Lady of Lourdes (with children from St Joseph's School) and at 7pm at St Mary's, Cannock. This is Holy Day of Obligation: all Catholics who are able to hear mass on this day should do so.

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE The Parishes operate in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and National and Archdiocese's policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Bernadette Corbett sg.olohednesford@rcaob.org.uk and Stephanie Hewitt sg.stmary-sttm.cannock@rcaob.org.uk and. Alternatively, contact the Diocesan Safeguarding team on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Please Pray for ...

*Peace and Justice: in Gaza and the Middle East, Sudan, Ukraine and all places beset by war
Congratulations to the new Catholics this Easter!*

All who are sick or other kinds of need: Lily Rose Blackwood (premature baby), Val B, Pat Seery, Maurice Hibberts, Steve Morris, Mary G, Brenda Bird, Mary Jevons, Jill & Eric C, Allan Weatherby, Sue Wayman, Teresa Maloney, Diane Wyatt, James Hunt, Valerie Brace; Alan C, Alan White, Allison, Angela Freary, Anna Bayliss, 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 Chmieleski, 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, Josephine Kafwembe, Josie Morris, Julie, June, June W, Kath Poole, Kathleen Mongon, Kathy Dodd, Katie, Keith Davies, Kyriese, Layla, 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, Nicola McCulloch, Oscar Wordsworth, Pat & Wilf Palmer, Pat Lester, 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, Sue Atkinson, Sue Green, Sue Titley, Sylvia Hale, Tess Dudley, Tim Wright, Tom Poxon, Vincent Dockery, Zorah McQuillan

Please let us know of names to add or remove. Names are included with permission. FrP

The Holy Souls

Recently departed: Cath Cooper, Leonard Perks, Sam Pee, Peter Harper, Christopher Martin

Anniversaries

3/5 Fred Bohills 1961, Margaret Sheddon 1993, Mięczysław (Michael) Staciwa, Thomas McCabe, Geoff Carnell

4/5 Ruby Martin 1979, Wiktor Perkowski 2011, Thomas Clarke, Fr David Duggan

6/5 Majorie Ponton, Jim O'Sullivan, Belinda Stanford, Monica Thompson

7/5 Samuel Lantry 1986, Barbara Smyczek 1996, Jean Jones 2005, Olga Medawar 2010, Patrick Vickery, Michael Wuk (Snr)

8/5 John Haynes

9/5 Hannah Whitehouse, Bill Killian, Steve White

Financial Report

Second Collections:

3 May Church Maintenance (H) *Cannock Second Collections are for Car Park when there is no other 2nd Collection.*

Our Lady of Lourdes: 26 April Standing Orders £149. GA £107, other £157.99, Clergy Training Fund GA £32, other £33.15. 200 Club April Draw (H) won by No 62 Sarah Boys

St Mary & St Thomas More 26 April St Orders £439 (each week); Gift Aid £100, Other £134, Clergy Training Fund £94, Car Park £67

Foodbank from Hednesford and Cannock: 14 Kilos donated to the Foodbank

Donations are needed of tinned tomatoes and tinned fruit & rice pudding as stocks are very low. Thanks for your support!.

100 CLUB (C) - **Thank you** to all who have renewed or joined this year. If you have not yet responded, please contact Veronica to confirm whether you are continuing.

WANT TO JOIN? New members are welcome – blank envelopes with temporary numbers are available in Church.

Please join before the first draw on 3rd May 2026, before which permanent numbers will be issued to new members.

Spring Raffle Tickets (C) are now available. There is a list on the notice board for donation of prizes.

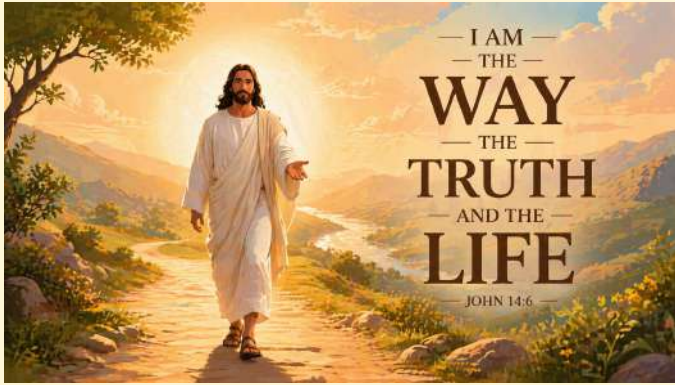
Red Boxes Missio (APF) are collected during April.

Newsletter Online bit.ly/M-Latest	Mass int Calendar bit.ly/M-Masscalendar	Live Stream (C) stmcannock.org	Baptism Form bit.ly/M-BaptismForm	Mass Int Form bit.ly/M-MassInt
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Send items for publication as soon as possible to olol.hednesford@rcaob.org.uk

This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered Charity No. 234216

Reflection on the Sunday Gospel (Easter 5, Year A)



*"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."
(John 14:6)*

These words of Jesus come at a moment of uncertainty. The disciples are troubled. They sense that something is about to change. Into that anxiety, Jesus speaks not simply an answer, but himself. He does not say he knows the way. He says he is the way.

And then he adds something even more surprising: *"Whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do"* (John 14:12).

At first hearing, this can sound almost shocking. How could anyone do greater works than Christ? He heals the sick, forgives sins, raises the dead. He is the Word made flesh.

Yet Jesus is not comparing achievements. He is revealing a mystery. His work will not end with his ascension. It will continue, and even expand, through those who believe in him.

During his earthly life, Jesus remained in one place at a time. He spoke to those who stood before him. But after his resurrection, his presence is no longer limited. Through the Church, through the sacraments, through the lives of believers, his work reaches every corner of the world.

We can see this in history. Hospitals, schools, care for the poor and the vulnerable, the growth of learning, the defence of human dignity – all these have been shaped, in countless ways, by the influence of Christ and those who follow him. Even when imperfect,

even when mixed with human weakness, the mark of Christ is there.

This does not mean that Christians are better than others. Nor does it mean that everything done in the name of Christ is good. The Church has known failure as well as faithfulness. But Jesus never promised that his followers would be sinless. He promised that they would share in his mission.

Think of the saints. Consider **St John Paul II**, who travelled the world, speaking of human dignity and hope. Or **St Teresa of Calcutta**, who served the poorest of the poor with quiet faith. Their lives show what it means for Christ to continue his work in his people.

Jesus also says: *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me"* (John 14:1). These words are often heard at funerals, when grief is real and raw. Faith does not remove sorrow. It does not deny death. But it gives us a way to face them.

Some have claimed that belief in heaven is simply wishful thinking. Yet the witness of the saints and martyrs tells a different story. They do not cling to life in fear. They offer their lives in trust. Their hope is not an escape from reality, but a deeper engagement with it.

In moments of suffering or doubt, people do not turn away from meaning. They search for it. They pray. They seek light in darkness. Faith does not silence questions, but it gives us the courage to ask them.

To follow Christ is to walk a path. It is not always easy. There are failures, distractions, and setbacks. Yet a path leads somewhere. If we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, the truth will guide us and his life will sustain us.

Christ is not a figure of the past. He is alive. He is at work – in the Church, in the world, and in each of us.

And through us, he will do greater works.

**Relax**

Make the Sign of the Cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. Then read the Gospel — preferably aloud and slowly — paying attention to any words that stand out to you.

**Read****This Sunday's Gospel : JESUS WARNS OF HIS DEPARTURE**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him, 'and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

Did any words or phrases stand out to you in the Gospel? If so, take a few moments to meditate on them.

Reflect

Now read the Gospel again and consider what the Lord might be saying to you, or asking of you, through it. Then continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection...



As the festival of the Ascension approaches, Jesus begins to prepare his followers for his own departure from the world. There are two aspects to this teaching. Firstly Jesus speaks of the final purpose, union with the Father, and his preparation of a place for us there. He says that there is a 'room' for each of them, suggesting not that there are plenty of separate cubicles for different sets of people (bishops, babies, monks and maniacs), but that there is no lack of space in heaven. No problem of 'only one wins the prize' in this case. The second aspect is preparation for the future Church on earth, and the almost shocking promise that in the absence of Jesus – but in the strength of his Spirit – his people will do 'even greater works'. Paul teaches that believers 'make up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ', for in every age the Church fills up the measure of Christ's sufferings; it is a Church which shares its Master's trials. In the same way in every age the Church must carry on the works of Christ. In John the 'works' of Jesus are the marvellous deeds, beyond mere human powers, which show who Jesus is. We too are called on to perform marvellous deeds, beyond mere human powers, works of grace and generosity.

What is the real joy and excitement of heaven? How may we best carry on the 'work' of Christ?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Rest

Now call to mind the Lord's love for you, remembering that through this scripture the Lord is truly present. Then silently and prayerfully listen for God's voice and rest in God's love.

**Respond
&
Request**

Thank God for any insight you may have received, and respond by asking the Holy Spirit to bless you with a spiritual gift or help you to grow in a particular fruit of the Spirit. You might pray for wisdom, courage, faithfulness, self-control, patience, generosity, joy, kindness, love, peace, faith, chastity - or another grace - to help you live out your faith this week.

**Remember**

This Wednesday's word for our families is **TRUST**
(To see the Family Version, please visit: wednesdayword.org)



As you pray for your loved ones, please remember to pray for the Church and for the families connected to our schools.

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.



First Reading: *The Appointment of Deacons*



Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

There are two really striking features about this story. The first is that the first officials appointed in the Church are called 'servers' or 'servants', which is what 'deacons' means. St Paul will stress, writing to the Corinthian community, that any job in the Church is a service to the community. A role in the Church does not confer a dignity which we can boast of, except in so far as it is a sharing in the service given by Christ himself, the Servant of the Lord. The most important part of our job is to attend to the needs of the community, not to preen ourselves on obtaining a grand position. The second feature of the reading is that (even so early in the life of the ideal early community) a squabble occurs. One group feels that it is being neglected. The split may even be worse than Luke allows us to see, for all the new officials appointed belong to only one of the two parties mentioned, that is to the Hellenists. This is not going to ensure an even distribution of food between the two groups! Even in a good community reconciliation of differences needs to occur constantly. **Is there any split in your community which needs to be reconciled?**



Second Reading: *A Royal Priesthood*



1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The background of this reading is the covenant between God and his people of Israel on Mount Sinai. There the mountain was so sacred that the people were not allowed to approach it. Now the

author tells us that the new people of God, chosen by God, is so valuable itself that all of us (not just a leading figure) are invited to huddle close to the true sacred rock that is Christ himself. In the Old Dispensation Moses alone was holy enough to approach the mountain and offer sacrifice; now it is the whole people. It is the whole people which is now constituted as a royal priesthood and it is a consecrated people which can offer sacrifice. One of the principal emphases of the Second Vatican Council was to underline that the Eucharistic sacrifice is offered by the whole people, not by the priest alone. Yes, the priest does have a special function, that of presiding at the Eucharist, and without this presidency the Eucharist cannot take place. Nevertheless, the Eucharist is the sacrifice of the people as a whole, which the laity offer just as much as the priest. The reading also uses another Gospel image: the people of God is a house built of living stones, a living holy Temple, built on the foundation stone who is Christ and topped by the keystone who is Christ.

What does it mean to think of the Eucharist as 'our offering'?

“ The people of God is a house ”
built of living stones.

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

Mass Times in Hednesford and Cannock

April – May 2026

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
W18 25 Apr St Mark • Exp & Conf (H) 11:00 • Mass (H) 12:00 • Confessions (C) 16:15 • Mass (C) 17:00	26 4th Sunday of Easter • Mass (H) 09:30 • Mass (C) 11:00	27 4th Monday of Easter • Mass (C) 09:30 • Men's Group (H) 19:30	28 4th Tuesday of East... Fr Peter (day off)	29 St Catherine of Sien... • Mass (C) 09:30	30 4th Thursday of Eas... • Mass (H) 09:30 • JIF26→ 19:00	1 May 4th Friday of Easter... First Friday • Mass (C) 09:30
W19 2 May St Athanasius, Bish... • Exp & Conf (H) 11:15 • Mass (H) 12:00 • Conf (C) 16:15 • Mass (C) 17:00	3 5th Sunday of Easter • Mass (H) 09:30 • Mass (C) 11:00	4 The English Martyrs • Mass (C) 09:30	5 5th Tuesday of Easter Fr Peter (day off)	6 5th Wednesday of E... Wed 1 • Mass (C) 09:30 • Mass (STM) 14:15	7 5th Thursday of Eas... • Mass (H) 09:30	8 5th Friday of Easter • Mass (C) 09:30
W20 9 May 5th Saturday of Eas... • Exp & Conf (H) 11:15 • Mass (H) 12:00 • FHC Mass 14:00 • Conf (C) 16:15 • Mass (C) 17:00	10 6th Sunday of Easter • Mass (H) 09:30 • Mass (C) First Holy Communion 11:00	11 6th Monday of Easter • Mass (C) 09:30 • Come Sit with Jesus (H) 19:00	12 6th Tuesday of East... Fr Peter (day off)	13 6th Wednesday of E... • Mass (C) 09:30 • Mass before Lunch Club (H) 11:30	14 THE ASCENSION O... Thu 2 • Mass (H) in Church w School 09:30 • Mass (C) Ascension Day 19:00	15 6th Friday of Easter • Mass (C) 09:30
W21 16 May 6th Saturday of Eas... • FHC Mass (H) 10:00 • Mass (H) 12:00 • Conf (C) 16:15 • Mass (C) 17:00	17 7th Sunday of Easter • Mass (H) 09:30 • Mass (C) 11:00	18 7th Monday of East... • Mass (C) 09:30	19 7th Tuesday of East... Fr Peter (day off)	20 7th Wednesday of E... Wed 3 • Mass (C) 09:30 • Mass (STM) 14:15	21 7th Thursday of Eas... Thu 3 • Mass (H) 09:30	22 7th Friday of Easter... • Mass (C) 09:30
W22 23 May Half Term 7th Saturday of Eas... • Exp & Conf (H) 11:15 • Mass (H) 12:00 • Conf (C) 16:15 • Mass (C) 17:00	24 Pentecost • Mass (H) 09:30 • Mass (C) 11:00	25 Fr Peter (Spring break) Mary, Mother of the... • Mass (C) 09:30 • Men's Group (H) 19:30	26 Fr Peter (day off) St Philip Neri, Priest...	27 St Augustine of Can... Wed 4 • No Mass 09:30	28 Jesus the High Priest Thu 4 • No Mass 14:15 • JIF26→ 19:00	29 ANNIVERSARY OF... • No Mass 09:30

KEY: (C)=Cannock; (H)=Hednesford; (STM)=St Thomas More; (SJH)=St Joseph's, Hednesford; Conf=Confession; Exp=Exposition

27 Apr 2026 at 11:02:09

Planned Mass Intentions (may change: check weekly)

Sat 25 Apr 26 12:00 RIP Michael Jobburns
 Sat 25 Apr 26 18:00 RIP Sean Costello
 Sun 26 Apr 26 9:30 RIP John Martin
 Sun 26 Apr 26 11:00 RIP Allan Avery

Mon 27 Apr 26 9:30 Int Wilf Palmer
 Wed 29 Apr 26 9:30 RIP Angela Cooke
 Thu 30 Apr 26 9:30 RIP Alban & Margaret Rogers
 Fri 1 May 26 9:30 RIP Raymond Thomas Bishop

Sat 2 May 26 12:00 RIP Elizabeth & Larry Winwood
 Sat 2 May 26 18:00 RIP Shelagh Gleve
 Sun 3 May 26 9:30 RIP Departed of Costello family
 Sun 3 May 26 11:00 RIP Terence Boller

Mon 4 May 26 9:30 RIP Anthony Costello
 Wed 6 May 26 9:30 Int of Mary Duffy
 Thu 7 May 26 9:30 RIP Ray Bishop
 Fri 8 May 26 9:30 RIP Mike Lordan

Sat 9 May 26 12:00 RIP Margaret Gaughan
 Sat 9 May 26 18:00 RIP Brendan Hunston
 Sun 10 May 26 9:30 RIP Daisy Woollaston
 Sun 10 May 26 11:00 RIP Elsie & Bill Hunt

Mon 11 May 26 9:30 RIP Tony Bullivant
 Wed 13 May 26 9:30 RIP Alexis Gaughan
 Thu 14 May 26 9:30 RIP Ray Bishop
 Fri 15 May 26 9:30 RIP Katie Nelson

Sat 16 May 26 12:00 RIP John Martin
 Sat 16 May 26 18:00 RIP Anne Costello
 Sun 17 May 26 9:30 Int Nesta Martin & family
 Sun 17 May 26 11:00 Edith & Clem Brady RIP


Mon 18 May 26 9:30 RIP Alexis Gaughan
 Wed 20 May 26 9:30 RIP Bert Owen
 Thu 21 May 26 9:30 RIP Ray Bishop
 Fri 22 May 26 9:30 RIP Neil Wilkinson
 & Christopher Boot

Sat 23 May 26 12:00 Int Stephen & Christina Groves
 (50th W An)
 Sat 23 May 26 17:00 RIP Leo Carroll
 Sun 24 May 26 9:30 Int of Mary Duffy (85th Bday)
 Sun 24 May 26 11:00 Retirement Thanks Dcn Michael

Mon 25 May 26 9:30 Iwan & Lucia Selo
 Wed 27 May 26 to Fri 29 May 26 Fr Peter away

ACTIVITIES IN OUR PARISHES

Check weekly newsletter for current activities: bit.ly/M-Latest

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Mass</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>and other activities before and after mass</i></p>		<h2 style="text-align: center;">Other Activities</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Times may change, please consult weekly newsletter</i></p>
Day	<p style="text-align: center;">Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford, WS12 1DB</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock WS11 0AA</p>	<p>(H) - Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford (C) - St Mary & St Thomas More, Cannock</p>
<p>Saturday <i>fulfils Sunday Obligation</i></p>	<p>12 noon</p>		<p>(H) Exposition and Confessions from 11:15am</p>
		<p>5pm</p>	<p>(C) Confession from 5:15pm</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>9:30am</p>		<p>Children's Liturgy 1st Sunday (H)</p>
		<p>11am</p>	<p>Children's Liturgy term time (C)</p>
<p>Monday</p>		<p>9:30am Chaplet of the Divine Mercy after mass Confessions after Mass</p>	<p>2nd Monday 7pm Come Sit with Jesus (H) Last Monday 7:15pm Men's Group (H)</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>			<p>No Masses this day</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>11:30am Centenary Hall (H) Mass on one Wednesday each month when announced</p>	<p>9am Rosary 9:30am St Mary's School Mass in Church (term time) 1st & 3rd Wednesday 2:30pm Mass at St Thomas More School, Great Wyrley (term time)</p>	<p>12 noon Forget-me-nots Luncheon Club (H) 5:30pm (dates as announced) Confirmation and First Holy Communion Preparation</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>1st, 3rd & 5th Thursday 9:30am or 2nd & 4th Thursday 2:15pm (term time) Mass at St Josephs School, Hednesford</p>	<p>9am Rosary, followed by the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy</p>	<p>Journey in Faith: October to Easter 7pm - in the Presbytery at Hednesford</p>
<p>Friday</p>		<p>9am Rosary 9:30am First Friday devotions during mass</p>	

St Mary's Piety Stall

We are pleased to share that our Piety Stall will be open during the First Holy Communion celebrations on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May.

We have a beautiful selection of First Communion gifts and a variety of meaningful religious items for all occasions.

We would love to welcome you and help you find something special to mark this joyful celebration.



In Church ... this weekend!

BEER AND SKITTLES!

"KNOCK THOSE PINS DRINK SOME TINS"

Friday 29th May - 7pm



**JOIN US FOR A
FUN EVENING OF
SKITTLES!**

**TEXT JAMES TO
PRE-BOOK PLACES
BY 24TH OF MAY**

07519917077

**(PAY ON THE NIGHT -
CASH ONLY)**

**FOR THOSE
PARTICIPATING
**ADULTS £5
CHILDREN £2****

SPECTATORS £2

**BRING YOUR OWN
ALCOHOLIC
DRINKS!**

**TEA AND COFFEE
WILL BE ON SALE
(CASH ONLY)**



**CENTENARY HALL
OUR LADY OF LOURDES
WS12 1DB**

YOUNG DISCERNERS GROUP

“What are you seeking?” - John 1:38

Are you a young man in **School Years 9 - 13**, who wants to **explore a vocation to the Catholic priesthood**?

Come to **St. Mary's College, Oscott** in Birmingham on **Saturday 9th May 2026, 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Spend time with others who are thinking about a vocation to the priesthood and **meet Fr. Craig Szmidt** (Diocesan Director of Vocations).

There will be time for **discussion and prayer**, a **tour of Oscott**, and an opportunity to **speak with seminarians**, joining them for the **celebration of Holy Mass** and lunch.

To find out more, or to book (by 26th April) contact **Deacon Owen Gresty** **0121 321 5135** or **deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk**

FREE OF CHARGE - BUT BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS OFFICE

Ask · Invite · Pray

www.vocations.org.uk



FIND OUT MORE
About Us **About Oscott**



Registered Charity 234216

Coming Soon:

Theology on Tap

WHAT TO EXPECT



For young adults 18-29 to build a community where the freedom to discover and share faith together is paramount.



This is a chance for young adults to explore the real and relevant topics that challenge us in our faith, as we navigate life as young Catholics in the world today, in a safe and inclusive environment. Everyone is welcome, no matter where you are in your journey of faith.

St Mary & St Thomas More, 100 Club

Rules of Operation

Purpose

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.

Rules

1. The 100 Club is run on an annual basis, from March to February each year.
2. Membership of the Club is open to any adult person who pays the annual subscription before the first draw of the year
3. Each member is allocated a number which is entered into the draw. Members keep the same number/s until they cancel their membership.
4. Members may have as many numbers as they wish, paying the subscription for each number.
5. There is no limit on the number of members.
6. The draw takes place quarterly as decided by the Parish Priest & advertised in the parish.
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.
8. Any prize which remains unclaimed after 12 months reverts to the Parish.
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.
10. All matters of interpretation and the variation of these rules are referred to the Parish Priest of *St Mary and St Thomas More, Cannock*, who acts in accordance with the guidance of the Licensing Authority, Cannock Chase District Council, as authorised by the Gambling Act (2005).

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. 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

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

Rota <i>Date is of Sunday</i>	<i>Saturday 6pm</i>		<i>Sunday 11:00am</i>	
	<i>Readers</i>	<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Readers</i>	<i>Ministers</i>
Mar 8	Wendy Owens Jeev Jinson	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	Doug Bruce 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	<i>Easter Vigil Rota</i>	Amy Pritchard Tony Gaughan	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
Apr 19	Wendy Owens Jeev Jinson	Lisa Gretton Sr Norbert	Colman Whitelaw Doug Bruce	Shirley Weatherby Cath Hunt
Apr 26	Amy Pritchard Margaret Tym	Lindsay Rotchell Grace Bishop	William Pearce, Dave Guy	Doug Bruce David Korzonek
May 3	Vikki Wilson Lynn Jones	Wendy Owens Sr Norbert	Shirley Weatherby Denisse Perks	Helen Land Stephanie Hewitt
May 10	Alex & Tamsin Davis	Eileen Clancy Doug Bruce	Stephanie Hewitt Gerard Dillon	Sheila Houghton Carol Garnett
May 17	Patrick Warren Cath Hunt	Amy Pritchard Tony Gaughan	Mike Burrowes Liz Fraser	Caroline Baker Chris Hewitt
May 24	Kay Rimmer Lindsay Rotchell	Clare Bridges Cath Hunt	Justine Lomas Miriam Gannon	Colman Whitelaw Gail Korzonek

Saturday 6pm Stewards Rota ...

A	Mar 28	Apr 25	May 24	Jun 21	Jul 19	Aug 16	Sep 13	Oct 11	Patrick & Patsy Warren
B	Apr 4	May 2	May 31	Jun 28	Jul 26	Aug 23	Sep 20	Oct 18	Gerard Dillon & Kay Rimmer
C	Apr 11	May 9	Jun 7	Jul 5	Aug 2	Aug 30	Sep 27	Oct 25	Eileen Clancy
D	Apr 18	May 16	Jun 14	Jul 12	Aug 9	Sep 6	Oct 4	Nov 1	Ann Spencer & John Gay

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

Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford

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)

Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford

Why am I a priest? *Fr Peter Weatherby*



Last weekend we celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday, when the Church prays especially for vocations to the priesthood.

These do not seem, perhaps, to be easy times to encourage vocations to the priesthood or the religious life.

The numbers of those going forward for the priesthood are much smaller than they ever used to be. The average age of priests is increasing, in some places alarmingly so. We are often told that the great woes of the Church are the fault of the clergy, of clericalism, of celibacy, of the secrecy and privilege which surrounds the priestly life.

Why would anyone at present want to be a priest? Why am *I* a priest? Let me tell you.

I am a priest because this gives me the greatest privilege any person can ever have: to share something of people's lives, and in doing so bring the grace of God to them.

Every week I sit and talk with those who are bereaved and distressed. Every week I discuss the struggles of prayer and daily living with those who come to confession. Every week I am asked for advice by those in difficulty. Every week I am challenged to justify what I believe in. Every week I have the joy of sharing what I hold to be true and I try explain it. Every week I visit homes, schools, hospitals and sometimes prisons and meet the young and the old, the working and the retired, the healthy and the sick, the good and the not so good. I frequently share with a family the joy of the gift of their child, by celebrating baptism with them. And I am part of the preparations of a family as they approach the joy and excitement of their wedding. I am called out to anoint the dying and pray with them,



to console their relatives, to bring some little comfort in a difficult time. I chat with young children, talk to teenagers and converse with adults. On occasion I meet the homeless, the desperate, alcoholics, parents separated from their children. I sometimes sit on committees and boards and have the responsibility and privilege of sharing in decisions which affect people's lives.

And most of all, I celebrate, with joy, the sacraments and especially the mass, the supreme sacrifice in which bread and wine become His body and blood, in which grace touches our lives, in which heaven touches earth.

And this is the point - the *real* point.

Because I know there are many things I'm not so good at. I talk a bit too quick and I'm always a bit too busy. I'm late starting mass and sometimes forget appointments. It is often difficult to know what to say to those in distress, and to know how to help those in trouble. I make decisions which sometimes work out, but sometimes don't. Sometimes people are upset, or hurt, or overlooked. I forget people's names ... I'm sure you could add to the this.

But here is the amazing thing. When I have struggled with my words or an answer, or discussed for a long time a difficult problem

someone says to me, "Thank you so much Father, I feel so much better" or "your words are really helpful" or even "I enjoyed your homily".

Sometimes such comments are about words I have written or said or are they are some other extraordinary and unexpected words of thanks.

And I know I don't deserve them. This is not me who has done this. I know that. This is God working within me. This is heaven touching earth. This is the operation of grace. The grace of holy orders.

And this is why I am a priest.



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May 10th
2026