

8th February 2026 • Sunday 5 (A)

Newsletter Online

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In this edition ...

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

[Walsingham Pilgrimage](#) • [Journey in Faith](#) • [Hosanna!](#) • [World Day of Prayer](#)

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

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 olol.hednesford@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 8th February 2026 – Fifth Sunday

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

Sat	7 Feb	12 noon	H	RIP Glenda Raddie	Fifth Sunday <i>Children's Liturgy 9.30am</i> Mass (H) Blue Bag = Building Fund / Car Park (C)
Sat	7 Feb	6 pm	C	RIP Maeve Synnott (Anniversary)	
Sun	8 Feb	9.30 am	H	RIP Billy Davies	
Sun	8 Feb	11 am	C	RIP John Tyrell	
Mon	9 Feb	1 pm	H	Requiem Mass for Anthony Costello	
Mon	9 Feb	7 pm	H	<i>Come and Sit with Jesus</i>	
Wed	11 Feb	9.30 am	C	RIP Elsie & Bill Hunt	Our Lady of Lourdes
Thu	12 Feb	9.30 am	C	RIP Iwan & Lucia Selo	Week 5
Fri	13 Feb	9.30 am	C	RIP Penn, Wood & Dockery families	Week 5
Sat	14 Feb	12 noon	H	RIP Geraint Philips	Sixth Sunday Blue Bag = Pro Life
Sat	14 Feb	6 pm	C	RIP Ray Wright	
Sun	15 Feb	9.30 am	H	RIP Departed of the Costello family	
Sun	15 Feb	11 am	C	RIP Jim & Beryl Cranney	

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 (2 nd & 4 th Thursday) and St Thomas More (1 st & 3 rd Wednesday) are in school. However, no mass at St Joseph's this week. Wednesday mass (C) is in church and includes children from St Mary's School.

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

Gathered Network Meeting – online meeting to discuss Youth Ministry in the Stafford deanery. The meeting is online and takes place on 10 February (revised date). If you would like to take part, please speak to Fr Peter for details.

World Day of Prayer: Service at St Mary's Cannock on Friday March 6th at 2pm.

Forms: Online Application forms are now available for you to request Baptisms and Mass Intentions, and the Mass Intention Calendar bit.ly/M-Masscalendar is again up to date.

Baptism Form: bit.ly/M-BaptismForm **Mass Intention Form:** bit.ly/M-MassInt

Applications through the old forms will be possible for the time being – please do not re-send an application ... this causes extra work. For queries send a message to Fr Peter.

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.

Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday 18 February Masses 9:30am (H) and 7pm (C) ... Lent materials: Cafod, Bible Alive, Walk with Me ... available in Church

YOU ARE INVITED: HOSANNA is an Easter cantata in song and mime, At St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, Sat 7 March, with rehearsal from 10am (all welcome!) and performance at 2.30pm; to take part or find out more, contact Julia on 07947 191352 or handinhandbirmingham@gmail.com.

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

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.olol.hednesford@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

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



All who are sick or other kinds of need: Mary Jevons, 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 Chmielecki, 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, Cecilia Ejideaku, and Jude Ejideaku.

Funeral Details: Anthony Costello, Our Lady's 9 Feb 1pm; Peter Hinsley, Cannock Crematorium 19 Feb 12:30pm.

Anniversaries

- 8/2** Michael Kur 1986, Bridie Murphy 1994, Frederick James Curtis, Keiran Madigan
9/2 John Tonks 1961, Thomas Angus 1992, Ellen Davey 1995, Marjorie MacHugh 1995, Michael McHugh 2004, John O'Leary 2015
10/2 Edna Barratt 1979, John Cullen 2011
11/2 Mary Lloyd 1977, Isabella Fierro 1986, George Nicholls 1987, Arthur William Hunt, Mary Sander
12/2 James Cannon 1973, Thomas Cashin 1992, Frances Stovey 1994, Harold Goode 2007, Sarah Fox, Peter Hannigan
13/2 Kazimiecz Grabowski, John Felton, Jack Evans 2003, Lucy Lavender 2013, Kathleen Murphy, Maureen Murphy
14/2 Adele Thomas, James Martin, Winnie Taylor, Gordon Stanton, Bienvenido Quiruga, Angela D'Angona, Helen Ward, Bernadette Lordan, Ray Wright, Agnes Mary Rotchell, Frank Webb, Helen Pawlak

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: 1 Feb Standing Orders £149. GA £153, other £268.19, Second collection for Church Maintenance GA £42.50, other £91.10, Coffee Morning £21.80.

St Mary & St Thomas More Feb 1st St Orders £439, Collection Gift Aid 81; other £81; Car Park £101
Foodbank from Hednesford and Cannock: 22kg. Thanks for your support!

100 Club (C) Feb 26 draw Winners: First Prize £150 (83) Lynne Jones; Second £100 (13) Church Fund (JP) Third (152) £50 Josie Morris.

100 Club (C) New Year begins! – please see more information in Church and on the Newsletter Online which will answer most of your questions. You can pay subs £25 for the Year at cannock.mydona.com

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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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

2pm, at

St Mary's

Catholic Church

Cannock

Hallcourt Crescent

Off Walsall Road.

WS11 0AA

Carpark:

Off Hunter Rd.



Nigeria 2026



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

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

*“You are the light of the world.”
(Matthew 5:14)*

It is striking that Jesus speaks these words at the very beginning of his public teaching. He does not wait

until the disciples are trained, confident, or experienced. He speaks them to ordinary people who have only just begun to follow him. Fishermen, labourers, listeners on the hillside – people who know their limits, their fears, and their uncertainties. And yet Jesus says to them, “You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14).

Many of us struggle to hear those words and believe them. When we look at the world around us, we often feel inadequate and powerless. We are confronted daily with stories of war, displacement, rising costs, environmental damage, and deep social divisions. The problems seem vast, complex, and beyond our reach. We may want to help, to make things better, but we feel that whatever we offer will be too small to matter.

That same feeling of powerlessness appears much closer to home. We hear of illness, grief, and broken relationships. We become aware of anxieties carried quietly by those around us – in families, friendships, and workplaces. We want to help, but we do not know how. Sometimes we are afraid of saying the wrong thing. Sometimes we tell ourselves that others are better placed to act. And sometimes, if we are honest, we turn away because it is easier than facing our own sense of helplessness.

Jesus’ images of salt and light speak directly into this experience. Salt does not transform food by force. It works quietly, invisibly, drawing out what is already there. Light does not need to overwhelm darkness. Even a small flame changes the space around it, making it possible to see, to move, to hope. Jesus is not asking for dramatic gestures or heroic feats. He is pointing us towards goodness lived faithfully, patiently, and consistently.

This matters because it reshapes how we understand our own lives. We often measure worth by visibility and impact. Jesus measures it by faithfulness. A small

act of goodness, offered with love, carries real weight. A word of encouragement. A listening ear. A moment of patience when irritation would be easier. These are not insignificant. They are precisely how light enters the world.

Scripture reinforces this again and again. God chooses what is small, overlooked, and unimpressive by worldly standards. Mary proclaims, “He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate” (Luke 1:52). God’s work does not depend on power or status, but on hearts willing to trust and respond.

We see this truth lived out in the saints. Saint Teresa of Calcutta did not set out to change the world through grand plans. She committed herself to small acts of goodness, repeated day after day, offered to those who were forgotten and ignored. Over time, those small acts became a light that reached far beyond what she could ever have imagined.

We recognise the same pattern in ordinary life. A brief visit can lift someone who feels forgotten. A word spoken at the right moment can steady a person who is close to despair. An apology can begin to heal a relationship that seemed beyond repair. These acts do not erase suffering, but they make it bearable. They open a way forward.

Jesus does not ask us to solve every problem or carry every burden. He asks us to remain open to goodness. To allow the light we have received to pass through us to others. “Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.” (Matthew 5:15). Light is not meant to draw attention to itself. It is meant to help others see.

The world does not need more noise or display. It needs quiet goodness lived with integrity. It needs people willing to shine gently, steadily, without needing recognition. This is how God continues to work – not through force, but through love.

A grain of salt. A candle flame. A single act of goodness offered in faith. In God’s hands, these are never small things. They are how the light continues to shine. When our hearts are shaped by mercy, justice, and peace, we begin to experience a joy that no circumstance can finally take away.



Goodness

— You Are the Light of the World —



“Do small things with great love.”

— *Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Collected Writings*

“Let us not love with words or speech but
with actions and in truth.

— *Saint John, First Letter of John*

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

— *Saint John of the Cross, Letters*

“Goodness is something that flows outward from
a life rooted in God.”

— *Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est*

“Light is not meant be hidden, but to help others see.”

— *Saint Augustine, Sermons*

“Never believe that a few caring people cannot change the world.”

— *Margaret Mead, Anthropologist and writer*

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES IN OUR PARISHES

Check weekly newsletter for current activities

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

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 7th 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



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 7th 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

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 for Cannock or 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 or 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

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

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/dplfY8MIDVvk> 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED IN CLIMATE ACTION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM, PLEASE CONTACT CLIMATEACTION@RCAOB.ORG.UK

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/
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?
	Thu 6 Nov 25	Break	
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
	Thu 19 Feb 26	<i>Half Term</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>
	Sun 22 Feb 26	<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

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

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>
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	<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

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

* 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 7th August - Sunday 9th 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 11th
2026