CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART

Serving the people of Whaley Bridge, Bridgemont, Furness Vale, Buxworth, Disley and Kettleshulme in the Diocese of Shrewsbury

20/07/2025

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Welcome to all of our parishioners and visitors. If you are new to our parish please introduce yourself to Canon Michael, Fr Humphrey or Deacon Mike (retired) after mass.

HOSPITALITY AND PRAYER

Action or contemplation? Service or worship? Hospitality or prayer? For as long as Christianity has existed, we've debated these dichotomies. Which is more important – kneeling at the altar, or mopping the church floors? What should we prioritize? How should we find a good balance between the mystical and the practical? The Christian life and spirituality are all about creating a balance between being with the Lord in contemplation and prayer and doing or rendering humble and generous services to our brothers and sisters known and unknown to us. The key to the Christian life is setting priorities: Jesus Christ first, then everything else. The only way really to learn that lesson is to spend some time every day "sitting at the feet of Jesus." *Extract from https://www.linkedin.com/*

Services at The Sacred Heart This Week

***Sunday**: 10.00am Mass (Sacrament of Reconciliation 9.30am - 9.50am)*

***Friday**: 9.30am Service of the Word with Holy Communion*

The Word Of The Lord - Our Sunday Readings

First Reading: Genesis 18: *Lord, do not pass your servant by.*
Psalm 14: *The just will live in the presence of the Lord.*
Second Reading: Colossians 1: *A mystery hidden for centuries has now been revealed to God's saints.*
Gospel Acclamation: *Open our hearts, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son*
Gospel: Luke 10: 38-42: *Martha welcomed Jesus into her house. Mary has chosen the better part.*

Reflecting On Today's Gospel

Loving Martha: In this Gospel passage it appears that Jesus was chastising Martha. Did he not value her service? We need to look again at Jesus' words and ask for the grace to see into his heart. Jesus knew Martha's heart and her personality. He saw her incessant concern for ensuring that all was well and taken care of in the household. He saw her desire to give him the best meal and hospitality, preparing the way for him and his disciples every time they passed through Bethany. As Scripture indicates, he appreciated her welcome. It may be good to note that Luke did not introduce Martha as the busybody woman of Bethany. Her main characteristic was the woman who "welcomed him." Jesus must have loved Martha for her spirit of hospitality and for receiving him into her home.

The "Chastisement": While Martha had already done the first necessary thing to please the Lord, once he was present in her house, something distracted Martha from truly being with Jesus. She was anxious about many things. Jesus wanted to get Martha's attention. He called her by name, not once, but twice. Imagine the manner in which he called her name: with a firm voice, but gentle manner; with his eyes beckoning her to turn her heart to him and listen. Imagine Martha's reaction. Perhaps the first time she heard Jesus speak her name it felt like a sharp awakening to the one who desired her attention. But the second time was a gentle appeal to heed what he was about to tell her. Imagine Jesus calling you by name.

Resolution: *Lord, today by your grace I will recall that your grace is stronger than my weakness. I will recognise any fear that creeps in. I will bring it before you, like Mary at your feet, and ask you to cast it aside and centre my trust in you. Extract from https://epriest.com/.*

Our Prayers Of Intercession and Thanksgiving

We pray for all our deceased parishioners, families and friends, especially **Colin Crane**, **Gerrard G Mason**, **Mary McCarthy**, **Thomas Peter Collins**, **John Joseph Hurley**, **Winifred Patricia Ibbotson**, **Mary Fairclough** and **Joseph Smith**, whose anniversaries occur this week.

We remember this week also all our friends and family members who are sick or housebound, especially **Chris Saunders**, **Val Smith**, **Marie Horton**, **David Donnelly**, **Rosemary** and **Werner Neugebauer**, **Paddy McHugh, Sean Walsh**, **Chris O'Dowd**, **Kathleen Healy**, **Joe Latham, Sue Reynolds, Angela Oldfield, Malcolm** and **Libby Styan** and **Freddie Martin**.

Celebrations This Week To Inspire And Uplift Us

Many of our celebrations this week are linked very closely to the day-to-day life of Jesus and involve saints who will be familiar to us as notable figures in the New Testament.

22/07: The feast of **St Mary Magdalene** is considered one of the most mystical of feasts, and it is said that of all the songs of the saints, that of Mary Magdalene is the sweetest and strongest because her love was so great. That love was praised by Jesus Himself, who said that much was forgiven her because she loved much.

25/07*:* The Feast of **St James, the Apostle, known as the Greater,** is celebrated today. The designation "the Greater" is in order to distinguish him from the other Apostle St James, and it indicates he was chosen first before the other James. James the Greater was our Lord's cousin, and was St John's brother. With Peter and John he was one of the witnesses of the Transfiguration, as later he was also of the agony in the garden.

26/07: Today is the Memorial of **Ss Joachim and Anne,** the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also the grandparents of Jesus. It was in the home of Saints Joachim and Anne where the Virgin Mary received her training to be the Mother of God.

Other celebrations this week include **St Lawrence** (21/07), **St Bridget** (23/07) and **St Sharbel Makhluf** (24/07). *For further information, related prayers, recipes, activities and much more visit https://www.catholicculture.org.*

Parish Rotas

Hospitality *(approx. annually):* 27/07 Heather and Chris; 31/08 Eileen; 28/09 Anne; 26/10 Margaret; 30/11 Monica; 21/12 Team Effort.

Readers *(approx. bimonthly)*: 20/07: Andrew; 27/07 Margaret; 03/08 Ambrose; 10/08 Ita; 17/08 Ken.

Flower Group *(approx. bimonthly):* 20/07 Helen; 27/07 Monica and Janet; 03/08 Annette and Margaret; 10/08 Bernadette.

Counters *(approx. every six weeks*): 20/07 Anne and Gerard; 03/08 Jane and Pete; 17/08 Graham and Mike; 31/08 Anne and Gerard; 14/09 Jane and Pete. *Thank you to all of our volunteers! If you would like to join one of our teams please speak with Canon Michael, Fr Humphrey or Deacon Mike.*

Our Notices

Welcome! We welcome into the family of the Church **Niamh Lisa Elaine Doherty** who was baptised recently at Sacred Heart church.

Parish Financial Update: Standing Orders are currently £835.00 pcm; Gift Aid Envelopes £320.10 and Loose Plate £72.20 (*29/6+6/6*). *Thank you for your generosity!*

Medical Missionaries of Mary: Please place your used stamps in the box in our porch. A small team of dedicated Sisters will trim and sort the stamps, which are then sold to collectors. The money earned goes straight out to one of several needy missions in Kenya. *Please don't throw your used stamps away, donate them to the Sisters in Drogheda!*

And Finally…

Talking of Sisters, did you hear about the police officer who pulled over a car carrying a group of nuns? He says, "Sister, this is a 55 mph highway. Why are you going so slow?" The Sister replies, "Sir, I saw a lot of signs that said 41, not 55." The cop answers, "Oh, Sister, that's not the speed limit, that's the name of the highway you are on!" The Sister says, "Oh! Silly me! Thanks for letting me know. I'll be more careful." At this point, he looks in the backseat where the other nuns are shaking and trembling. He asks, "Excuse me, Sister, what's wrong with your friends back there? They are shaking something terrible." The Sister answers, "Oh we just got off Highway 101." *Anon.*

Keeping In Touch

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