CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART

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

27/07/2025

SEVENTEENTH 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.

Last Sunday we were delighted and privileged to welcome **Fr Adam Bamber**, along with Fr Michael, for the celebration of our Sunday mass, assisted by our own Deacon Mike, here at Sacred Heart church in Whaley Bridge. We heard in the announcements then that change is afoot for all of us here in our parish and a new beginning awaits in September. There will be time enough before then for us to register our sincere thanks to the parish of **Our Lady and St Christopher's** in Romiley, and in particular to **Fr Michael** and **Fr Humphrey** for the comprehensive support they have given to our parish over the last two years. But let us record here our heartfelt appreciation to them both for ensuring that the spiritual, pastoral and practical needs of our parish have been met with such care and without interruption during this time. We have been truly blessed by their faithful service, their generosity of spirit and, of course, their humour! *Thank you both!*

This Sunday, **Fr Bernard Forshaw** will be our celebrant and we extend to him the warmest of welcomes to our little church and to our community of believers here among the hills bordering the Peak District.

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: *I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak.*

Psalm 137: *On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.*

Second Reading: Colossians 2: *He has brought you to life in him, he has forgiven us all our sins.*

Gospel Acclamation: *The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.*

Gospel: Luke 11: 1-13: *Ask, and it will be given to you.*

Reflecting On Today's Gospel

Many Jewish rabbis would teach their disciples a simple prayer. This prayer of Jesus has depths we never totally fathom. We can linger on every word.

If we call God Father, we say that he knows our needs, and wants to give what will help us most. Lord, for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray. Give me your love and grace just for today.

I call you Father; Jesus taught me to use this metaphor. I know that you, Lord, are beyond gender and surpass our imagination. But I relish the overtones of Father, one who knows and loves me, and whose often mysterious providence is there in everything that befalls me.

Our Prayers Of Intercession and Thanksgiving

We keep in our prayers all our deceased parishioners, families and friends, especially **Florence Mary Heathcote**, **Rita Shallcross**, **Henry White**, **William Gough** and **Myra McVeigh**, whose anniversaries occur this week.

We remember also this week 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

Among our celebrations this week are the following:

27/07: Memorial of **Ss. Martha, Mary** and **Lazarus**. In the household of Bethany the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship. Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at his command.

29/07: Memorial of **St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)**. In the year 1521 a cannon ball fractured the left leg of Captain Ignatius Loyola, the future founder of the Jesuits. While he was convalescing, Ignatius turned wholly to God and thence acquired a good classical and theological education. The Society of Jesus became one of the greatest foreign mission organisations the world has known. Ignatius died on July 31, 1556. *For further information, related prayers, recipes, activities and much more visit* https://www.catholicculture.org.

Parish Rotas

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

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

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

Counters *(approx. every six weeks*): 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

Bishop Mark ordains Fr Adam Bamber.

Fr Adam's Ordination and First Mass: To view all of the photos please visit: *https://www.flickr.com/photos/olscromiley/*.

Fr Michael has joined the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes this week. Masses and other liturgies attended by the Diocesan party will be available to watch on **Lourdes TV**: *www.lourdes-france.com*.

Parish Financial Update: Standing Orders are currently £835.00 pcm; Gift Aid Envelopes £325.20 and Loose Plate £53.45 (*13/07+20/07*). *Thank you for your generosity!*

Churches Together in Whaley Bridge: Join us for our **Prayer Meeting** at Holy Trinity church on Monday 4th August, 7pm – 8.00pm. All are welcome as we gather to pray for the various activities of CTWB and the joys and challenges of the member churches.

CAFOD Coffee Morning This Sunday: Please join us if you can for a little social time together, with a cuppa and homemade refreshments, at our latest **Coffee Morning** in aid of CAFOD, the official overseas aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

And Finally…On The Importance of Prayer

As little Deborah sat down to eat dinner with her parents she instinctively reached for her fork. "Please hold on," her father replied. "We haven't said grace yet." This exasperated Deborah, who was tired and hungry. "Daddy," she said with a sigh, "why can't we just pray once a week? Why do we have to ask for our daily bread every day?"

Her older brother, wiser and eager to set her straight, weighed in before the dad could answer. "You don't think we want stale bread, do you?" he said.

Without realising it, her brother was confirming the importance of regular prayer!

https://jimdaly.focusonthefamily.com/

Keeping In Touch

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