



# THE BEACON



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**27TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

**THE 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**The Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligation is suspended until further notice.**

Sat	26th	18:15	Gareth Davies	St Patrick's
Sun	27th	09:00	Joseph Austin	Our Lady's
		12:30	Baptism – Zuzanna Wasilewska	St Patrick's
	<b>The 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	11:00	Private Intention	St Patrick's
	<b>In Ordinary Time</b>	17:00	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's
Mon	28th	<b>Ferial</b> No Mass today		
Tue	29th	<b>Feast of Ss Michael, Gabriel &amp; Raphael, Archangels</b> 12:00 Anne Bizazza		St Patrick's
Wed	30th	<b>St Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church</b> 19:00 Private Intention		Our Lady's
Thurs	1st	<b>St Theresa of the Child Jesus, Virgin</b> No Mass today		
Fri	2nd	<b>Guardian Angels</b> 12:00 For my Parents' Departed Souls		St Patrick's
Sat	3rd	<b>Ferial</b> 15:00 Polish First Holy Communions		St Patrick's
Sat	3rd	18:15	Patricia Bamford	St Patrick's
Sun	4th	09:00	Alphonsa Joseph	Our Lady's
	<b>The 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	11:00	Margaret Coyle & Family	St Patrick's
	<b>In Ordinary Time</b>	17:00	Mass in Polish	St Patrick's

Confessions heard by appointment

Newsletter items: [newsletter@stpatrickstelford.com](mailto:newsletter@stpatrickstelford.com)  
 Please send items by 5pm on Wednesday

*The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity (No.234025)*

### **Data Protection Privacy Notice**

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## THE 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### FIRST READING *(Ezekiel 18: 25-28)*

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: People of Israel, you say, "The Lord isn't fair!"

But you are the ones who are wrong.

I am fair, and if any of you stop doing right and start sinning, you will die because of your sins.

But if any of you turn from your sins and start doing right, you will be safe.

You won't die because of your sins, if you really think about the things you have done wrong and turn away from them.

Do this and you will go on living.

The word of the Lord.

*Response:* **Thanks be to God**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM *(Psalm 24)*

*Response:* **Remember your mercy, Lord.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. **R/**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R/**
3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. **R/**

### SECOND READING *(Philippians 2: 1-11)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interest first but everybody thinks of other people's interest instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

*Response:* **Thanks be to God**

### ALLELUIA VERSE

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.**

**Alleluia!**

### THE GOSPEL *(Matthew 21: 28-32)*

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, "What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, 'My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not go,' but after-wards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, 'Certainly sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?" "The first," they said. Jesus said to them, "I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Response:* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

For October, Pope Francis asks us all to keep in our prayers the following intention:

*"The by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church."*

## PRAYER REMEMBRANCES

Your prayers are asked for the sick and the housebound and all those who are in hospital, the Hospice or local nursing homes. We remember especially the doctors, nurses and all medical staff at the PRH and RSH; also all the staff at our local nursing and care homes. Please pray for Fr Michael Dyson, a retired diocesan priest who is gravely ill and also for Patricia Bamford.

We remember in prayer all who have died, especially **Christopher Quinn** (died last Monday) and **June Austin** (died last Tuesday), and all who are mourning the death of a loved one, and all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Our prayerful congratulations go out to **Zuzanna Wasilewska** to be Baptised today and to her parents and family members.

## HOLY COMMUNIONS IN 2020

We will be in touch with all the families to begin to discuss how to complete the children's formation and look towards celebrating their 2020 First Holy Communion safely and with their families.

Enquiries about the First Holy Communion programme for 2021 are coming in. I would ask for your patience at present with the need to complete the 2020 cohort's preparation and celebration of their First Holy Communion. Please God, we can turn to the 2021 programme before too long. Planning ahead is not easy when COVID-19 is considered, and we don't want families to become frustrated or disappointed.

## LIVESTREAM MASSES

If you are shielding or otherwise can't get to church for Mass you can livestream the Mass from the Cathedral in Shrewsbury.

### At Shrewsbury Cathedral

<http://www.churchservices.tv/shrewsburycathedral>

**Sunday Morning:** Sunday, 08:00hrs & 10:00hrs

**Weekday Mass:** Daily at 12:15hrs.

If you prefer to livestream a more "homely" parish church celebration, then you can always log-on to <http://www.churchservices.tv>. In the "churches" section you will find where livestreaming is now available across the UK and Ireland, and also the schedule of service times.

## DRIVE THROUGH FOODBANK DONATION

This Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September, between 2pm and 5pm All Saints Church in Wellington will be hosting a drive-through donation point for Telford Food Banks. There is information on the notice board.

## MASS ON THURSDAYS?

With the latest COVID-19 restrictions coming into force last Thursday, now is not the time to reduce our safe-distancing to one metre rather than two.

The Sunday Mass obligation continues to be lifted, meaning that people can attend Mass on weekdays rather than the weekends. However, some of our weekly Masses are quickly getting filled, and we have had to disappoint some parishioners by having to turn them away.

We do have a bit of "wriggle room". Fr Alban is wondering about introducing a Thursday evening Mass at St Patrick's to relieve pressure on the other Masses. It depends on whether we have people who would volunteer to be stewards, readers and eucharistic ministers. Without them we could not introduce the extra Mass. If you are willing to volunteer your service, please have a word with Fr Alban, Fr Joe or Moira, our parish secretary. There is also a sign-up list in the church porch.

Unfortunately, the extra Mass cannot be introduced at Our Lady's as the venue. With the fabric seating in the church we have to leave seventy-two hours between Masses to allow time for any virus infection to be cleared.

Despite the prime minister's warning that the current regulations might have to last until 2021, it is wonderful to see that more people are wanting to attend our Masses.

If you want to reserve a seat for Mass on a weekday or at one of the weekend Masses **do contact us early to avoid disappointment. Phone 01952 242423 between 9am and 11am** on weekdays. If you leave a message on the answerphone, please leave your phone number. We will ring you back if we have no space. Alternatively, you can email us using [ccntelford@gmail.com](mailto:ccntelford@gmail.com).

In the meantime, do let's all keep safe, and also let's keep one another in prayer.

## MONEY MATTERS

Last Sunday's collections:

St Patrick's: £ 817.00

Our Lady's: £ 217.75

Many thanks for your continued generosity. We thank all those who have carefully accumulated their envelopes during lock-down and are paying them in together.

## NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please email [newsletter@stpatrickstelford.com](mailto:newsletter@stpatrickstelford.com) or hand items for inclusion in that week's newsletter to the office by Wednesday.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

Do you regularly attend the same Mass? Are you under 70 with no medical issues? Please consider becoming a steward, reader or Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. If you are the shy and retiring type but would still like to help out, we are in need of people who can clean our churches on a rota basis.

Please email Moira in the office on [ccntelford.com](mailto:ccntelford.com) if you can help in any way or leave your details with the stewards.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY RESOURCES

Families may be interested to know about some resources available to help children pray and participate in a time of prayer designed to be child-friendly.

Members of CAFOD run a national Children's Liturgy webinar at 10am on Sunday mornings, which lasts for approximately 20-25 minutes. The webinar is interactive and children are encouraged to sing along and can answer questions and join in discussions using the chat box.

All webinars are recorded and can therefore be watched on the CAFOD Website at a later time.

There are also activity sheets, which can be downloaded. See the link here: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

Another great resource that is available free for the moment is The Wednesday Word. Available to print at <http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

We also have a handout available to children attending Mass.

## REPOSITORY

At present the repository stalls are not in operation but if there is something you need please contact Moira in the Parish office on 242423 and, if the item is not in stock, we can arrange for orders to be placed.

Orders of Christmas items will be taken from 1<sup>st</sup> October.

## MASS INTENTIONS

We try to fulfil Mass Intention requests on the correct day if a date is specifically requested. On occasion there may not be a Mass that day or there may be a funeral or Liturgy of the Word and on those occasions the Mass will be celebrated on the nearest available date.

If a specific date is required, please give at least 3 weeks' notice. There are Mass Intention envelopes in both porches. Please print the requests clearly to make sure we spell your loved one's name correctly.

## WILL YOU RISE TO THE CHALLENGE?

The SVP groups have been doing vital work during the pandemic but now they need your help. They have been delivering grocery supplies to vulnerable people who are shielding and can't get out to their local shops, as well as providing food to those who are struggling to afford to feed their families.

In addition, they've been phoning or writing to lonely and isolated people, providing friendship and someone to talk to for those who can't visit family and friends. But now they need you to support them in one of the following ways:

- **Volunteer** with the SVP and give a little bit of time to help out with 'knock and drop' food deliveries, for example
- **Donate to them** – you could either send a cheque made out to the SVP and add it to the collection here at church, or, if you prefer, make a donation online at [www.svp.org.uk](http://www.svp.org.uk)
- **Raise money by fundraising for them** – there are lots of fun ways to fundraise on the SVP website.

The SVP has been rising to the challenge of helping those in need during the pandemic; will you now rise to the challenge of supporting them?

## CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY [capuk.org](http://capuk.org)

*The local CAP group has written...*

Debt has not stopped because of Coronavirus. In fact, the COVID-19 pandemic has seen a tidal wave of people facing unemployment, struggling with money and in desperate need of a lifeline.

If you are in debt and need support, we're here for you. Our **CAP Debt Centre** here in Telford is continuing to provide our life-transforming service while following the Government's social distancing advice.

Get in touch today to find out how we can support your journey out of debt: freephone 0800 328 0006.

## 150 CLUB

The weekly draw for the 150 Club has been suspended during the Pandemic and will resume when Government restrictions allow at some time in the future.

We will credit those who are paid up members with £5 as part of their subscription to the next session of the 150 Club. Thank you for your support.

## LAST WEEK'S MUSIC AT ST PATRICK'S

Was the *Andantino* from Mozart's *Flute and Harp Concerto in C*. Can you recognise this week's offering without resorting to the aid of your mobile phone. No cheating!

## **PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP MARK**

My dear brothers and sisters,

As 2020 dawned, few of us could have imagined the testing times that lay ahead. Times unprecedented in the long story of this Diocese, when in response to public health measures the doors of our churches were closed. During those long weeks between March and June, we saw many initiatives to reach out to the most vulnerable and isolated: we did not forget the poor<sup>1</sup>. Amid many restrictions, priests devotedly ministered to the dying. We prayed for the souls of those who had died and for all who mourned the loss of loved ones. During those same months, many remained close to the Church in prayer, not least by the livestreaming of Masses. Some of our churches recorded the largest attendances in their history, albeit virtual attendances. At the Cathedral alone, tens of thousands would share via the internet in the celebration of Easter and Holy Week. Yet, we felt deeply, the loss of the public celebration of the Mass and being unable to fully participate in the Eucharist that is the living heart of our faith.

The long-awaited return came at the beginning of July, with the gradual re-opening of our churches dependent on each parish putting in place stringent, public safety measures. This was an enormous undertaking and must surely stand among the most remarkable achievements in the history of the Diocese. Today, I wish to record the gratitude of the whole Diocese for the work of clergy and parish volunteers together with diocesan officers that enabled us to return with joy to the Holy Eucharist. Along-side key workers in our health and essential services, your generosity deserves to be long remembered.

Times of trial and upheaval can lead people to deeper faith and commitment or tragically to fall away. Like the two sons described in the Gospel, our faith is proved not by sentiment, it is proved by what we do. This is the simple question Jesus asks at the end of Gospel: "Which did the father's will?"<sup>2</sup>. Faithfulness in carrying out our duties and protecting the gift of faith leads me to turn to

the example of a man who, through testing times, did all the Lord asked of him. This man is Saint Joseph, to whom the Eternal Father entrusted the care of His only Begotten Son together with His Blessed Mother Mary through the most bitter trials of poverty and exile. To Saint Joseph the whole Church is now entrusted; and we look to him especially as a guide in the life of prayer, so we may be attentive to what the Lord asks of us. Saint Teresa of Avila wrote, "If we cannot find a guide to teach us how to pray, let us take this glorious saint as a master and we will not go astray"<sup>3</sup>. How much we need the prayer and example of Saint Joseph! Accordingly, it is to Saint Joseph that I want to entrust the recovery of all the communities of our Diocese from this testing time. Today, I wish to invite the whole Diocese to celebrate a year of prayer dedicated to Saint Joseph from October until the beginning of Advent next year.

The 1<sup>st</sup> October marks the beginning of the second decade of my service as Bishop of Shrewsbury. On 21<sup>st</sup> October we will be remembering the first anniversary of the death of Bishop Brian Noble who guided the Diocese through many challenges. We have been warned to anticipate challenging months ahead and so will ask Saint Joseph's help to discern how best we can each respond to the challenges of our time. Pope Francis reminds us how Saint Joseph responded to his calling "to be the protector of Mary, Jesus and the Church ... by being constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God's presence and attentive to God's plans not simply his own"<sup>4</sup>. In a similar way, says Pope Francis, we are invited to protect with love all that God has given us. This will be the happiest challenge of the year ahead, that will lead us to "Go to Joseph"<sup>5</sup> in order to ask his prayers and learn from his example. The Joseph of the Old Testament, whose story is recounted in the Book of Genesis, helped his people in time of famine with the earthly grain that Pharaoh had entrusted to him. In the Gospel, Saint Joseph would be entrusted with the care of Him who is the true Bread come down from Heaven<sup>6</sup> and to guard the Holy Family on earth amid every danger.

May Saint Joseph help us in testing times, to protect the gifts of faith and grace God has entrusted to us. In imitation of Saint Joseph's faithfulness, testing times, did all the Lord asked of him. This man is Saint Joseph, to whom the Eternal Father entrusted the care of His only Begotten Son together with His Blessed Mother Mary through the most bitter trials of poverty and exile. To Saint Joseph the whole Church is now entrusted; and we look to him especially as a guide in the life of prayer, so we may be attentive to what the Lord asks of us. Saint Teresa of Avila wrote, "If we cannot find a guide to teach us how to pray, let us take this glorious saint as a master and we will not go astray"<sup>3</sup>. How much we need the prayer and example of Saint Joseph! Accordingly, it is to Saint Joseph that I want to entrust the recovery of all the communities of our Diocese from this testing time. Today, I wish to invite the whole Diocese to celebrate a year of prayer dedicated to Saint Joseph from October until the beginning of Advent next year.

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entrusted with the care of Him who is the true Bread come down from Heaven<sup>6</sup> and to guard the Holy Family on earth amid every danger. May Saint Joseph help us in testing may we do what the Lord asks of us, above all, when we come together in the Mass to do what the Lord Jesus commanded us to do in His memory<sup>7</sup>.

Entrusting each of you to the prayers of Saint Joseph,

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury

Notes:

- 1 Cf. Gal. 2:10
- 2 Mt. 21:31
- 3 Book of Her Life, Chapter 6
- 4 Homily at the Mass for the Inauguration of his Pontificate 19th March 2013
- 5 Gen: 41:49
- 6 Cf. Jn. 6:42
- 7 Cf. I Cor. 11:25