

NEWSLETTER

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH
PILLORY STREET
NANTWICH. CW5 5SS
Tel: 01270 625494

Email stannesnantwich@btinternet.com Website www.stannesnantwich.org.uk

Parish Twitter Feed @stannesnantwich

Parish Priest: Fr. Tony Grace

Fr Michael Ryan OMI

Permanent Deacons: Rev. Peter Mascarenhas and Rev. John Penny

OUR COMMUNITY HUB is now available for booking for private events. Here is the link to the public website for information and bookings :<https://hallbookingonline.com/stanne>

4th FEBRUARY 2024 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

IN NEED OF A PRIEST Please contact Fr Tony Grace on 01270 877736

Prayer and Mass Intentions can be sent by email to us at stannesnantwich@btinternet.com

Saturday St Werburgh	3	5.00pm	Vigil Mass Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Intentions of the Moore Family David Perkins RIP Recently Deceased George Rogers RIP Anniversary Thanksgiving Intention for Pat Connors 94 th Birthday
Sunday	4	9.30am	Mass Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Followed by FHC Reconciliation Preparation in Community Hub	Pat Smith RIP 1 st Anniversary Jeff Hindle RIP Recently Deceased Martin Breyley RIP 2 nd Anniversary Presentation of St Brigid
Monday St Agatha	5		No Mass or Service Today	
Tuesday St Paul Miki & Companions	6	10.00am	Mass St Anne's KS1 children joining us	Paul Dwerryhouse RIP Recently Deceased
Wednesday	7	11.00am	Requiem Mass for Paul Dwerryhouse RIP	
Thursday St Jerome Emiliani St Josephine Bakhita Day of Special Prayer for Victims of Trafficking	8	9.30am 10.00am	Adoration and Confession Mass	Guy Baccelliere RIP Anniversary Norman Young RIP Recently Deceased
Friday The Presentation of the Lord	9		No Mass or Service Today	
Saturday St Scholastica	10	5.00pm	Vigil Mass Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Intention for Mark Oneshchuk for a successful operation Patsy Farrell Birthday Intention Chinese New Year
Sunday World Day of Special Prayer for the Sick & Special Day of Prayer for the unemployed	11	9.30am	Mass Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Patsy Farrell Birthday Intention Creighton Morley RIP Recently Deceased Intention of Ryan McIlhone Fr David Craig RIP Anniversary

Requiem Mass for Paul Dwerryhouse RIP on Wednesday 7th February at 11.00am followed by interment at Nantwich Cemetery at 12.30pm. Please pray for his soul and keep the family and friends of Paul in your prayers.

Funeral Service for Creighton Warren Morley RIP on Tuesday 20th February 2024 at Crewe Crematorium at 11.30am. Please pray for his soul and keep Creighton's family and friends in your prayers.

Lent Reflection Group on Fridays 2.00 to 3.30 pm starting 23rd February. Led by Chris Oliver. Details next week

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024: Brochures and booking forms are now available on the pilgrimage website

www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk or on 07773 324264, or if you are aged 16 – 22 please email

youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org for an application form to join the youth section of our pilgrimage. This year our pilgrimage dates are: by air is from Fri 26 Jul to Thurs 1 Aug by coach Thurs 25 July to Fri 2 Aug and for our young people Weds 24 July to Fri 2 Aug. If you are a first time pilgrim or a returning pilgrim we look forward to you joining us in Lourdes this year.

Privacy Notice The parish of St Anne's sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

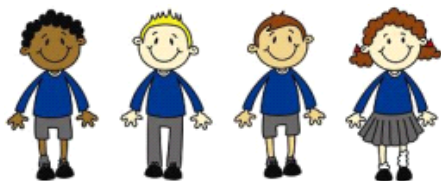
RC Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity No. 234025

St Anne's Safeguarding Officer is Philippe Blenkiron philippe.blenkiron@gmail.com 07492 063835

Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality: You are invited by the Lourdes Hospitality to celebrate Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, at St Mary's, Crewe CW1 2JP on February 10th at 12 noon . Light refreshments will be available after Mass.

St Annes 200 Club 2024 Congratulations to our January winners: 1st £100 Antonia Wilcox, 2nd £60 Lavinia Vaviski, 3rd £40 Teresa Kowalski. If you would like to join the 200 club and support the running of St Anne's please see information at the back of church or contact Michael Wilcock Mob: 07968520276 email: mjwilcock64@gmail.com

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Dane Bank Avenue, Crewe, CW2 8AD



St. Mary's Catholic Primary school in Crewe invites applications for a Foundation Stage Governor position. As a member of our governing body, you'll contribute to the strategic direction of the school, ensuring its Catholic ethos thrives. More information on the role and application forms can be obtained from our Governor clerk, Sarah Lomas please email sarah.lomas@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Confirmation programme 2024 The sacrament of Confirmation will take place at St. Annes on the 10th May 2024 at 7pm. Bishop Mark will celebrate the confirmation Mass. If you have children who are in Year 9 and over who would like to be confirmed please pick up a form at the back of church or contact the office on stannesnantwich@btinternet.com. Programme details have been sent to those who have already registered. Extra copies can be found at the back of Church.

Join us for LOVE NANTWICH 18:00, 24th February 2024 at St Mary's Nantwich or an evening of worship and prayer for our town. Visit our LOVE NANTWICH page on Facebook and join us in praying blessing upon our community.

Diocesan Choir Festival – 'Sing a New Song' You are invited to come along and sing as part of a diocesan choir. Learn music throughout the day and lead the singing for Mass at 5pm. We will learn Schutz: Praise to you Lord Jesus, Schubert: Mass in G and more, on Saturday 24 February, 10.30am-4.30pm with Mass beginning at 5pm. At St Anthony's, Dunkery Road, Woodhouse Park, Wythenshawe, M22 0WR. Refreshments and registration from 10.30am, rehearsals begin at 11am. Tea and coffee will be provided, please bring a packed lunch. The cost is £5 per person, payable on the day. Book by completing the form at [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/DIOCESANCHOIRFESTIVAL](http://tinyurl.com/diocesanchoirfestival) The deadline for bookings is Friday 16 February. For more information contact reception@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Our local Catholic High School St Thomas More is looking to recruit more foundation governors to support it in continuing to deliver first class education in keeping with Catholic values and Ethos. Applicants must be practising Catholics. No specific previous experience is required. The job is not onerous and there is usually only one or two meetings per term. Further information can be found at: [www.https://st-thomasmorehigh.greenschoolsonline.co.uk/Governor-Information/](https://st-thomasmorehigh.greenschoolsonline.co.uk/Governor-Information/) St Thomas More is one of the highest performing schools in Cheshire; recently it also received the highest score possible of Outstanding from the National Catholic Schools Inspectorate. If you are interested please contact Simon Burns at mr.s.burns@st-thomasmore.cheshire.sch.uk

The Year 2025 is the next Jubilee year in the Church. Pope Francis has asked the church to prepare well, and in order to help us do so Pope Francis has call 2024 'A year of Prayer'. In response the team for evangelisation and mission will be organising retreat days on Prayer throughout the year. Come and Understand what the Church teaches about prayer and experience different types of prayer throughout the day. Please bring a packed lunch. For more information: Jane Deegan 07517 906435 jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Natalie Orefice 07730526826 natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org



Loose Plate = £574.63

Offertory received by Bank transfer in December = £2641.00

Thank you

Last week's Envelope &



Here is your webpage link to support the Mission of the Church in St Anne's and through the Red Boxes and Missio, to the poorest parts of the world or please scan QR code. Many thanks. <https://donate.myдона.com/st-annenantwich>

Pope's January Prayer Intention For the Gift of Diversity within the Church: We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian Community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals within the Catholic Church.

Missio Red boxes – Please bring your boxes for counting ensuring your name is on the box. You can hand them to Pauline Binnie our Missio Local Secretary. New boxes are available at the back of church – why not take one for your house to collect for this worthy cause – all those spare pennies soon add up!

Shrewsbury Diocese Ongoing Formation for Sacramental Marriage

Overview : Presentations on both the relational aspects of the marital relationship, and the faith/spiritual meaning of holy matrimony to help strengthen, heal and enrich your marriage.



There is no group sharing

Next Retreat: - 9th-11th February 2024 (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon) - 25th -27th October 2024 (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon)

PLACE: Wistaston Hall Retreat Centre 89, Broughton Lane, Crewe CW2 8JS

Information and Bookings: Booking is essential - Go to the website at www.loving4life.co.uk or Contact: Jane Deegan jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Mobile: 07517 906435

Missio Red Box holders can donate to Missio – Mill Hill Missionaries in a variety of ways: Please leave your Red box in church with name on it for counting or Give online: missio.org.uk/redbox.

Make a bank transfer: Account name: Missio; Sort Code: 16-00-16; Account Number: 10824230. Please use the reference RB + your postcode.

- Donate by telephone with your debit/credit card by ringing 020 7821 9755 during office hours.
- Donate via texting REDBOX 5 (to donate £5.00) or REDBOX 10 (to donate £10) to 70085. To ensure that your donation is attributed to **St Anne's, Nantwich**, it would be helpful (but not essential) if you would quote reference **SHR063/1117**.
- If you are a Gift Aid contributor, please inform Missio, so that they can recoup the tax from your donation.

☆☆☆☆☆ Is your child joining Reception in 2024? Do you want to find out more about St. Anne's? Open to Catholics and non-Catholics. Ring school on 01270260783 or e-mail office@stannes.cheshire.sch.uk to come to look around ☆

Mass Preparation: WEDNESDAY WORD: www.wednesdayword.org/parish
PREGO: <https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/prego/>

NANTWICH FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS.

We praise God for our many volunteers however we have a particular shortage of delivery drivers. If you are interested in volunteering to drive please contact Teri at the presbytery to obtain more details. Our current shopping list is: Long life milk and fruit juice, coffee, tinned vegetables and tinned fruit, toothbrushes and nappies [size 5 & 6]. **DONATIONS CAN BE MADE IN NANTWICH** at St Anne's, (Box in porch), St Mary's Parish Office, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Nationwide, M&S and Elim Church.

Mary's Meals <https://marysmeals.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=71642ed3d70deb2b1c25da8f0&id=7d7f84ea81&e=f7949e3fb3>

Carmelite Priory in Oxford. The Friars are looking to increase their ministry to Young Adults to help grow and form the faith of Young Adults. The Friars are currently hosting free online talks on the formation of Young Adults and if this interests you, please see here: <https://www.carmelite.uk.net/events/young-adult-formation-for-the-third-millennium/>

Useful links and resources

Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team – Online Ministry Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by searching for @Shrewsbury_ymt. Find us on YouTube by searching for Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team – SYMT, don't forget to subscribe.

Sanctuaries, shrines Catholics can 'visit' virtually in Europe, Mideast. <https://catholicsentinel.org/Content/Arts/Arts-and-Entertainment/Article/Sanctuaries-shrines-Catholics-can-visit-virtually-in-Europe-Mideast/6/31/40431>

Journeying Together <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/journeying-together/>

The National Shrine for Our Lady of Walsingham www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream

Laudato Tree <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2020-05/laudato-tree-sahel-pope-francis-laudato-si-year.html>

Watch a Mass from home. Live-streaming of Masses Shrewsbury Diocese: <http://www.churchservices.tv/shrewsburycathedral/embed#tab-player> Church Services TV: <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Prayer resources at: <http://pathwaystogod.org/>. <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> <http://ln54.blogspot.com>
<http://prayasyougo.org/>

Sunday Message

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • 4 February 2024 • Pralfer Week 1

THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING

JOB 7:1-4, 6-7



You're probably familiar with the film *Shadowlands*, about Belfast-born writer, C.S. Lewis.

For years his life has followed the same comfortable, predictable patterns. He is a lecturer and a writer, a pipe-smoking bachelor who lives in his book-lined Oxford home with his brother. His Narnia books and his theology have made him famous, and he gives comforting talks about God and religion.

One of his books, called *The Problem of Pain*, explores the mystery of suffering. Lewis is confident that he knows the purpose of suffering: It is God's way of perfecting us, of carving away the wrong parts, of leaving a soul ready to enter heaven. It's a nice, rational way of thinking of suffering.

And then, Lewis's life is disrupted. He meets a divorced American named Joy Davidman. She wrote him an admiring letter, which led to her first visit to England, along with her young son.

Joy and Lewis are very different. She is loud and vivacious. He is in a comfortable rut - dinners at his college dining hall, evenings in front of the fire, reading while the wireless plays classical music.

Lewis received her as a courtesy, but soon he begins to bring her along to his events and they grow close. But he is so settled in his ways that he hardly knows what to do when he begins to realise he is in love. This buttoned-down intellectual surprises himself by falling in love. Joy turns his life upside down.

Then tragedy strikes. She contracts terminal cancer. When she finds herself in awful agony, his theory about pain and all his certainties

begin to fall apart. Grief overwhelms him. He has just found love, and now he's losing it.

After Joy dies, he writes a very different book about pain called *A Grief Observed*. It describes his reactions, as a Christian, to his wife's death. His rational faith fell to pieces when confronted with devastatingly personal suffering. He writes, "Where is God? Go to him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face and a sound of boiling and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence."

But though Lewis's rational faith is tested by Joy's death, it does not collapse. Through the darkness of this experience he even claims to have come to love his wife even more. God had helped him realise that because the love he and Joy had for each other had reached its earthly limit, it was ready for its heavenly fulfilment.

Lewis's loss is like Job's in today's first reading. Job's life is a success. He is a prosperous landowner, blessed with a happy home, and a strong religious faith. God boasts to Satan about how virtuous Job is, but Satan retorts that Job's faith would collapse if his prosperity collapsed.

God lets Satan test Job, and then everything goes wrong for Job. He loses his money, his family, everything. His friends' pious words of comfort offer him no consolation. Still, Job clings to his faith. Though it is tested, he won't let it go. The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Suffering, especially innocent suffering, is one of the great tests of faith. Like Job, like C.S. Lewis, we hold onto our faith because we know that it gives us the strength and fortitude to face the difficult times. ■

LEARN

God is close to those who suffer. God never abandons us.

PRAY

Pray today for all who are suffering and those who care for them.

REFLECT

Like Job and C.S. Lewis, we're all acquainted with suffering. Marriages collapse, relationships sunder, debts pile up, sickness strikes, loved ones die. The world seems full of injustice, cruelty, caprice, misery. There are three things we can say in the face of pain.

First, to always appreciate the now, the present moment - your health, your loved ones, the beauty of life and the people who make your heart leap. Towards the end of *Shadowlands*, Lewis doesn't want to talk to Joy about her dying, but she says, "The pain now is part of the happiness then. That's the deal." The sadness you experience now is because of the happiness you had before. Appreciate the good you have now, in this moment. Treasure it.

Second, God is with us when we suffer. Jesus entered fully into the darkness of human suffering. In C.S. Lewis's words, on the cross Jesus turned to God and found a door slammed in his face when he cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Yet God did not forsake Jesus, but brought him through death into the fullness of life. The Jesus nailed to a cross is the same risen Lord who is with us in our own suffering, just as he was with the suffering and the broken in today's Gospel. He is with us as one who knows our experience from the inside. And so we can confidently turn to him in our distress.

Third, do not be afraid. In 2018, English politician Tessa Jowell spoke in the House of Lords about the brain cancer that would soon kill her. Her words, she said, in the face of suffering were the same last words Seamus Heaney uttered before he died: "Don't be afraid."

Because we are Christians, at the end of the day, no matter what faces us, we know we don't have to be afraid. ■

DO

Visit or contact a loved one or neighbour who is ill or housebound. Spend quality time with them.

SAY

"Lord, help me to know that you always hold me in the palm of your hand."

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unailing care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly
grace,
they may be defended always by your protection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of Job.
Job began to speak:
Is not man's life on earth nothing more than
pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have
passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 146 (147): 1-6

Response:
Praise the Lord who heals the
broken-hearted.

or
Alleluia!

1 Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving;
to him our praise is due. (R.)

2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,

he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. (R.)

3 Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15:16-22, 23-28

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it
is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be
punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen
this work myself, I might have been paid for it,
but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has
been put into my hands. Do you know what my
reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able
to offer the Good News free, and not insist on
the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have
made myself the slave of everyone so as to win
as many as I could. For the weak I made myself
weak: I made myself all things to all men in order
to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for
the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its
blessings.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of
life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with
James and John straight to the house of Simon
and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had
gone to bed with fever, and they told him about
her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the
hand and helped her up. And the fever left her
and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought
to him all who were sick and those who were
possessed by devils. The whole town came
crowding round the door, and he cured many
who were suffering from diseases of one kind
or another; he also cast out many devils, but he
would not allow them to speak, because they
knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got
up and left the house, and went off to a
lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his
companions set out in search of him, and when
they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking
for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to
the neighbouring country towns, so that I can
preach there too, because that is why I came.'
And he went all through Galilee, preaching in
their synagogues and casting out devils.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, our God,
who once established these created things
to sustain us in our frailty,
grant, we pray,
that they may become for us now
the Sacrament of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who have willed that we be partakers
in the one Bread and the one Chalice,
grant us, we pray, so to live
that, made one in Christ,
we may joyfully bear fruit
for the salvation of the world.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

I often think of the film, *Babette's Feast*, when
a well-served meal brought together a divided
group in mutual love and forgiveness. I also
think of a saying in the film that the only thing
we can take with us when we die is what we
have given away. May the good God help
us in the coming week to live what we have
celebrated here together.

(Fr Sean Kealy CSSp)