

Parish of St Winefride, Lymm

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Newsletter 22 October 2020

Hello everybody. Have you noticed that the clock goes back one hour on Saturday night? I lost count of the times when my anticipated Sunday morning lie-in was upset by anxious ‘early Christians’ ringing a presbytery doorbell an hour early for mass. It will be a bit lighter in the mornings for a while, but the sun will set at 5pm on Sunday. As I write there is plenty of room at 9.00am Mass this Sunday, but the others are full up. I remind anyone reading this who wants to attend Mass should phone between 2pm and 10pm on a Wednesday afternoon, when I endeavour to be listening. NEXT WEEKEND 31 Oct/Nov 1 is the great feast day of ALL SAINTS. The next day Monday is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, and on the Tuesday it will be St Winefride our patron’s feast. On each of these two days I propose to offer Mass at 9am for anyone (the first thirty) who books in at the same time as booking in for the Sunday feast.

There are a couple of notices to draw to your attention. Each year you have kindly donated goodies at the back of our church to St Joseph’s Family Centre. This enabled them to distribute last Christmas 284 food hampers and 563 gift parcels to needy people in Warrington. This year because of Covid they have realised the complications involved in attempting to do the same. They intend to give vouchers instead. It is hoped that some of you will be able to contribute money to this fund. Details are available at <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/14597>

The other message also involves calls on your generosity. There is a collecting box for the British Legion enabling you to subscribe to the Poppy Appeal, as you go out of church the next couple of weekends. It’s that time of year again.

The Shrewsbury Diocesan Welfare Service known as Caritas is also requesting money to similarly help out families in need, but as in years past we will have a special collection on the Epiphany Sunday, which will I think provide cash flow funds after Christmas.

At Mass this Sunday, the Thirtieth in Ordinary Time, Matthew continues to describe clashes between Jesus and hostile people such as Sadducees and Pharisees. Jesus in response to their important question about the greatest commandment of the Jewish Law, quotes Deuteronomy and Leviticus – Love God above all things, and your neighbour as yourself. He would go on to tell his apostles at the last Supper about his own New Commandment – Love one another as I have loved you. We sometimes ignore or disobey God’s laws when it is inconvenient. It is hard. But none as difficult as this one. With God all things are possible. May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire us in this way of being true Christians, and be exemplary to the rest as were the followers of St Paul in Thessalonika.

Please keep saying the rosary with me during October. There are so many things to pray about. We ask our Lady’s support. Keep safe and God bless you all.

Fr Tony Elder