

ST. ANNE'S NANTWICH NEWSLETTER

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH
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Parish Twitter Feed @stannesnantwich

Parish Priest: Fr. Tony Grace

Fr Michael Ryan OMI

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

The Community Hub is available for private events during term time,

Information and bookings: <https://hallbookingonline.com/stanne>

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

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

Saturday 17th May	5.00pm	Vigil Mass Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sue O'Dowd (sick)
Fifth Sunday of Easter 18th May	9.30am	Mass Fifth Sunday of Easter	The Parish
Monday 19th May St Milburga		No Mass or Service Today	
Tuesday 20th May St Bernadine of Siena Day of Special Prayer for survivors of Sexual Abuse	9.30am 10.00am	Exposition and Confession Mass	Pat Connors (sick)
Wednesday 21st May The Dedication of the Cathedral		No Mass or Service Today	
Thursday 22nd May St Rita of Cascia	9.30am 10.00am	Exposition and Confession Mass	Edith Betteley RIP Recently Deceased
Friday 23rd May		No Mass or Service Today	
Saturday 24th May Our Lady Help of Christians	5.00pm	Vigil Mass Sixth Sunday of Easter	Betty Whalley (sick)
Sixth Sunday of Easter 25th May	9.30am	Mass Sixth Sunday of Easter	Helen & Ron Griggs RIP Anniversaries



It is our joy to welcome our new Holy Father Pope Leo XIV into the heart of our mission in the Diocese of Shrewsbury and into the centre of our prayers. We give thanks to God for this moment of grace, and we assure the Holy Father of our prayerful support as he begins this important ministry of leading the Church with wisdom, compassion, and a heart open to all. With Pope Leo XIV, the successor of Peter, we continue the path of service. Guided by the Holy Spirit and together with our partners in schools, parishes, retreat houses, universities, and social ministries, we offer our prayers and actions to bring Christ's light to those most in need.

[National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse 2025 - 20th May 2025](#) It gives the Church in England and Wales an opportunity to reflect on the impact of abuse on individuals, their families and friends, and the communities of which they are part. The focus for 2025 is on the theme of "The Empty Chair". Our thoughts are on those who are not in church because they have suffered abuse in a church setting and cannot face being here. They may be the families or friends of survivors. They may be former members of a community affected by allegations or convictions for abuse. They may be people who are simply so disgusted or ashamed by what they have heard about abuse within the Church that they no longer want to be part of it. All these groups and others are represented by "The Empty Chair". Further information can be found for your consideration by following this link [National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse 2025 - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)



OFFERTORY

Last week's Envelope & Loose Plate - £497.72

Offertory received by Bank transfer in March = £2793

Thank you

Thank you for your Easter Offerings

Offertory Envelopes for 25 Can the holders of boxes 54 and 60 please contact Teri in the presbytery or via email at stannesnantwich@btinternet.com



The Card machine at the back of church is a convenient way of making donations to support the Mission of the Church in St Anne's, or there are options to support the **Red Boxes/ Missio and the SVP**

Alternatively, please scan QR code to take you to our donation web page or use the link. Many thanks. <https://donate.myдона.com/st-anne-nantwich>

Missio Red boxes– Please bring your boxes for year end counting by handing them to Pauline Binnie our Missio Local Secretary.

Gloria is hymn no.489
Creed is hymn no. 545

MARRIAGE HELP - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 20-22 June www.retrouvaille.org.uk
Tel: 0788 7296983

The Diocesan Mass for Marriage is at Holy Angels Hale Barnes on Saturday 21st June 2025 at 12.00 noon. Anyone who would like to go, please let us know.

Lourdes Hospitality:

Following a very positive meeting held early April, where we explored the role of the Hospitality, you are invited to continue this reflection at a further meeting. We hope to build on the previous lively discussions and consider areas for further development. The meeting will take place on Wed 21 May at 7pm at St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. Confirm your attendance at secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

From St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Stockport

Day of Formation in Liturgical Prayer & Sacred Music: A day of study, prayer, music and reflection. Led by Fr Guy Nicholls, Director of the St John Henry Newman Institute of Liturgical Music. Saturday 28th June at St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton Street, Stockport, SK1 1EJ. A practical day course on understanding the Liturgy and use of Sacred Music within Mass. Begins at 11am and ends with a sung Mass at 5pm. Cost £5 per person (suggested donation payable on the day). Bring a packed lunch. Tea/coffee and biscuits provided. To book or for more information, please email stockportshrine@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY JOB OPPORTUNITY // CASTLERIGG

MANOR Castlerigg Manor is a Catholic retreat Centre in the Lake District run by the Diocese of Lancaster Youth Service. They are looking for a Programme Leader to help look after the residential team of young interns and to lead programmes both at Castlerigg and occasionally around the area. Competitive salary, as well as accommodation and food provided. Anyone interested can contact jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

A FREE COACH TRIP TO SHREWSBURY CATHEDRAL has been arranged for SATURDAY 7TH June 2025. The coach will leave St Gabriel's Church at 9.30am and pick up at St Anne's Church Nantwich at 10am. On return the coach will depart Shrewsbury at 4pm. **The coach is now full. If you wish to go onto the waiting list please give your details to Alan Brown or any member of the SVP.**

The SVP are offering support to anyone who is in debt or struggling with energy bills. For confidential assistance please contact a member of the SVP or Deacon John.

St Annes 200 Club 2025 To date membership has raised £49,000.

We are looking forward to you renewing your membership - or most importantly: **Joining our community if you are not already a member** You might win £100 every month!! See flyer at church entrance on the ways to subscribe

Pope's May Prayer Intention Remembering Pope Francis, in May we pray that through work each person may find fulfilment; that families will be sustained in dignity, and that society becomes more human. <https://youtu.be/s-yWv5euD6Q>

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

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2024 WORLD DAY OF VOCATIONS (21st April 2024)

Called to Sow Seeds of Hope and to Build Peace

Dear brothers and sisters!

Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life. Hearing that divine call, which is far from being an imposed duty – even in the name of a religious ideal – is the surest way for us to fulfil our deepest desire for happiness. Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find ourselves.

This Day, then, is always a good occasion to recall with gratitude to the Lord the faithful, persevering and frequently hidden efforts of all those who have responded to a call that embraces their entire existence. I think of mothers and fathers who do not think first of themselves or follow fleeting fads of the moment, but shape their lives through relationships marked by love and graciousness, openness to the gift of life and commitment to their children and their growth in maturity. I think of all those who carry out their work in a spirit of cooperation with others, and those who strive in various

ways to build a more just world, a more solidary economy, a more equitable social policy and a more humane society. In a word, of all those men and women of good will who devote their lives to working for the common good. I think too of all those consecrated men and women who offer their lives to the Lord in the silence of prayer and in apostolic activity, sometimes on the fringes of society, tirelessly and creatively exercising their charism by serving those around them. And I think of all those who have accepted God's call to the ordained priesthood, devoting themselves to the preaching of the Gospel, breaking open their own lives, together with the bread of the Eucharist, for their brothers and sisters, sowing seeds of hope and revealing to all the beauty of God's kingdom.

To young people, and especially those who feel distant or uncertain about the Church, I want to say this: Let Jesus draw you to himself; bring him your important questions by reading the Gospels; let him challenge you by his presence, which always provokes in us a healthy crisis. More than anyone else, Jesus respects our freedom. He does not impose, but proposes. Make room for him and you will find the way to happiness by following him. And, should he ask it of you, by giving yourself completely to him.

A people on the move

The polyphony of diverse charisms and vocations that the Christian community recognizes and accompanies helps us to appreciate more fully what it means to be Christians. As God's people in this world, guided by his Holy Spirit, and as living stones in the Body of Christ, we come to realize that we are members of a great family, children of the Father and brothers and sisters of one another. We are not self-enclosed islands but parts of a greater whole. In this sense, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations has a synodal character: amid the variety of our charisms, we are called to listen to one another and to journey together in order to acknowledge them and to discern where the Spirit is leading us for the benefit of all. At this point in time, then, our common journey is bringing us to the Jubilee Year of 2025. Let us travel

as *pilgrims of hope* towards the Holy Year, for by discovering our own vocation and its place amid the different gifts bestowed by the Spirit, we can become for our world messengers and witnesses of Jesus' dream of a single human family, united in God's love and in the bond of charity, cooperation and fraternity.

This Day is dedicated in a particular way to imploring from the Father the gift of holy vocations for the building up of his Kingdom: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Lk 10:2). Prayer – as we all know – is more about listening to God than about talking to him. The Lord speaks to our heart, and he wants to find it open, sincere and generous. His Word became flesh in Jesus Christ, who reveals to us the entire will of the Father. In this present year, devoted to prayer and preparation for the Jubilee, all of us are called to rediscover the inestimable blessing of our ability to enter into heartfelt dialogue with the Lord and thus become pilgrims of hope. For "prayer is the first strength of hope. You pray and hope grows, it moves forward. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. Hope is there, but by my prayer I open the door" (Catechesis, 20 May 2020).

Pilgrims of hope and builders of peace

Yet what does it mean to be *pilgrims*? Those who go on pilgrimage seek above all to keep their eyes fixed on the goal, to keep it always in their mind and heart. To achieve that goal, however, they need to concentrate on every step, which means travelling light, getting rid of what weighs them down, carrying only the essentials and striving daily to set aside all weariness, fear, uncertainty and hesitation. Being a pilgrim means setting out each day, *beginning ever anew*, rediscovering the enthusiasm and strength needed to pursue the various stages of a journey that, however tiring and difficult, always opens before our eyes new horizons and previously unknown vistas.

This is the ultimate meaning of our Christian pilgrimage: we set out on a journey to discover the love of God and at the same time to discover ourselves, thanks to an interior journey nourished by our relationships with others. We are *pilgrims* because we have been called: called to love God and to love one another. Our pilgrimage on this earth is far from a pointless journey or aimless wandering; on the contrary, each day, by responding to God's call, we try to take every step needed to advance towards a new world where people can live in peace, justice and love. We are pilgrims of hope because we are pressing forward towards a better future, committed at every step to bringing it about.

This is, in the end, the goal of every vocation: to become men and women of hope. As individuals and as communities, amid the variety of charisms and ministries, all of us are called to embody and communicate the Gospel message of hope in a world marked by epochal challenges. These include the baneful spectre of a third world war fought piecemeal; the flood of migrants fleeing their homelands in search of a better future; the burgeoning numbers of the poor; the threat of irreversibly compromising the health of our planet. To say nothing of all the difficulties we encounter each day, which at times risk plunging us into resignation or defeatism.

In our day, then, it is decisive that we Christians cultivate a gaze full of hope and work fruitfully in response to the vocation we have received, in service to God's kingdom of love, justice and peace.

This hope – Saint Paul tells us – "does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5), since it is born of the Lord's promise that he will remain always with us and include us in the work of redemption that he wants to accomplish in the heart of each individual and in the "heart" of all creation. This hope finds its propulsive force in Christ's resurrection, which "contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force. Often it seems that God does not exist: all around us, we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and cruelty. But it is also true that in the midst of darkness something new always springs

to life and sooner or later produces fruit" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 276). Again, the Apostle Paul tells us that, "in hope we were saved" (Rom 8:24). The redemption accomplished in the paschal mystery is a source of hope, a sure and trustworthy hope, thanks to which we can face the challenges of the present.

To be pilgrims of hope and builders of peace, then, means to base our lives on the rock of Christ's resurrection, knowing that every effort made in the vocation that we have embraced and seek to live out, will never be in vain. Failures and obstacles may arise along the way, but the seeds of goodness we sow are quietly growing and nothing can separate us from the final goal: our encounter with Christ and the joy of living for eternity in fraternal love. This ultimate calling is one that we must anticipate daily: even now our loving relationship with God and our brothers and sisters is beginning to bring about God's dream of unity, peace and fraternity. May no one feel excluded from this calling! Each of us in our own small way, in our particular state of life, can, with the help of the Spirit, be a sower of seeds of hope and peace.

The courage to commit

In this light, I would say once more, as I did at World Youth Day in Lisbon: “*Rise up!*” Let us awaken from sleep, let us leave indifference behind, let us open the doors of the prison in which we so often enclose ourselves, so that each of us can discover his or her proper vocation in the Church and in the world, and become a pilgrim of hope and a builder of peace! Let us be passionate about life, and commit ourselves to caring lovingly for those around us, in every place where we live. Let me say it again: “Have the courage to commit!” Father Oreste Benzi, a tireless apostle of charity, ever on the side of the poor and the defenceless, used to say that no one is so poor as to have nothing to give, and no one is so rich as not to need something to receive. Let us rise up, then, and set out as pilgrims of hope, so that, as Mary was for Elizabeth, we too can be messengers of joy, sources of new life and artisans of fraternity and peace.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 21 April 2024, Fourth Sunday of Easter.

Franciscus