

Gospel Reflection

Around 11km outside the city of Siauliai in northern Lithuania, an old, earthen mound hunches under the weight of thousands of crosses. As the wind blows across the fields of rural Siauliai County, ornate rosaries clink against metal and wooden crucifixes, filling the air with eerie chimes.

Known as the Hill of Crosses, the mound's history is a complex narrative of wars and uprisings. Ancient legends, mysterious visions and accounts of haunting surround the hill, and its exact origins remain a mystery to this day.

Yet not every cross has been left by an optimistic pilgrim – some are instead reminders of quiet rebellion. After surviving medieval sieges by the invading German crusaders and 19th-Century uprisings by Lithuanians against Russian Tsar Alexander II, the Hill of Crosses faced its most aggressive threat: the Soviet Union.

In an effort to stamp out Christianity in the Eastern bloc, the Soviet government attempted to level the hill numerous times during the 1960s and '70s: they bulldozed it, burned the wooden crosses and removed the metal and stone ones for scrap and construction. People who brought crosses to the hill were fined and incarcerated.

But the crosses on the mound just kept multiplying, left in the dead of night as an act of defiance against religious oppression. Now, more than a quarter of a century after the fall of the Soviet Union, the crosses still stand.

Article adapted from **Lithuania's miraculous hill of 100,000 crosses** (full article available at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/travel/article/20171026-lithuanias-miraculous-hill-of-100000-crosses>)

Some of the images of the Hill of the Crosses are shown in the porch.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon or see him at Mass at 10am on Sunday.

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Chris Wells.

NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's RC Church
Woodford Lane
Winsford
CW7 2JS

Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor

Tel: 01606 543877

Website; www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk

email: stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk

General Queries – ring the Parish Number
and/or send an email to the Parish

Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



"United in conviction and united
in love, with a common purpose
and a common mind"
Philippians 2:2



14th SEPTEMBER 2025 THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS (CYCLE C) MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 13th September	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 14th September	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 15th September	9:15am	Mass (whole school Mass)
Tuesday 16th September	10:00am 10:30am	Mass Coffee morning
Wednesday 17th September		No Mass
Thursday 18th September		No Mass (Mass at High School)
Friday 19th September		No Mass
Saturday 20th September	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 21st September	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)

If Fr Simon is unobtainable please leave a message and send an email
to stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mr Dave Quinn

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

Kidney Research UK

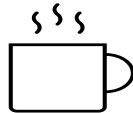
Clare O'Connor will be taking part in this years Liverpool Bridges walk on Sunday 14th September, in memory of her husband Paul (Father Simon's brother). There is a donation page set up on the following webpage:

<https://kidneyresearchuk.enthuse.com/pf/clare-o-connor?sfnsn=scwspwa>

Please help to raise vital funds for Kidney Research UK. Thank you.

Coffee morning

Our next coffee morning is on Tuesday
16th September at 10:30am, everyone
is welcome.



PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function,
please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

.....
St Joseph pray for us

SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

Please continue to bring in your
unwanted spectacles and cases

Gospel

John 3 13 - 17



Jesus said to Nicodemus.

"No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.

"This is how much God loved the world:

He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.

God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi

Bingo Night

It's that time of the year, we are starting to collect prizes for our bingo night raising money for parish funds. Please leave any donations in the Sacristy marked 'bingo.'

Cake donations

Maureen will start to sell her cakes on Sunday 21st September, so bring in some money next weekend if you want to buy some cakes. Ann will also be selling raffle tickets for the bingo night prizes.