

Gospel Reflection

The use of Lazarus-Eleazar (Lazarus, the Greek form of the Hebrew name “Eleazar,”) and Abraham in the parable reminds the Jewish audience of Eleazar of Damascus, Abraham’s chief steward mentioned in Genesis 15:2-3. Eleazar, also a Gentile steward, was initially the heir to Abraham’s estate until Isaac was born. Despite this, Eleazar faithfully executed Abraham’s wishes, even at the cost of his own inheritance. This disinheritance is symbolically captured in the parable, where Lazarus-Eleazar, representing Eleazar, is depicted as a “beggar” who has nothing of earthly value. The connection between Abraham and Eleazar adds depth to Jesus’s parable, highlighting previous themes of stewardship.

Though the Rich Man was given Abraham’s blessings, he was shown to be unfaithful. In contrast, Lazarus (Eleazar, the faithful steward) was now in Abraham’s bosom, received into the “everlasting habitations”. In a sense, this parable can be seen as Jesus’ sarcastic answer to the Pharisees’ declaration, “We are Abraham’s descendants” (John 8:33) and “Abraham is our father” (John 8:39). This theme emerges early in Luke’s gospel, where John the Baptist proclaims, “do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’” (Luke 3:8)

Fire, a symbol of the Rich Man’s punishment, does not signify the duration of his punishment. Rather, “fire” carries profound symbolism of purification in Judaism and the Hebrew Scriptures.

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
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Parish Priest- Fr Simon O’Connor

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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

 <div>28th SEPTEMBER 2025 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE C) MASS & SERVICE TIMES</div>		
Saturday 27th September	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 28th September	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 29th September		No Mass
Tuesday 30th September	10:00am	Mass
Wednesday 1st October	10:00am	Funeral – Gerry Moreland RIP
Thursday 2nd October	10:00am	Mass
Friday 3rd October		No Mass
Saturday 4th October	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 5th October	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 – Mrs Catherine Chilton

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

Please continue to bring in your unwanted spectacles and cases

Cake sales

The cake sales last Sunday raised £113. Thank you to Maureen who baked the cakes, and thank you to everyone who donated ingredients. The next cake sale will be on Sunday 19th October.

Coffee morning

Our next coffee morning is on Tuesday 14th October at 10:30am, everyone is welcome.

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.' The bingo night is on Friday 7th November.

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

Gospel Luke 16 19-31

There was once a rich man who wore expensive clothes and every day ate the best food. But a poor beggar named Lazarus was brought to the gate of the rich man's house. He was happy just to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. His body was covered with sores, and dogs kept coming up to lick them.

The poor man died, and angels took him to the place of honour next to Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. He went to hell and was suffering terribly.

When he looked up and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side, he said to Abraham, "Have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and touch my tongue. I'm suffering terribly in this fire."

Abraham answered, "My friend, remember that while you lived, you had everything good, and Lazarus had everything bad. Now he is happy, and you are in pain. And besides, there is a deep ditch between us, and no one from either side can cross over."

But the rich man said, "Abraham, then please send Lazarus to my father's home. Let him warn my five brothers, so they won't come to this horrible place."

Abraham answered, "Your brothers can read what Moses and the prophets wrote. They should pay attention to that."

Then the rich man said, "No, that's not enough! If only someone from the dead would go to them, they would listen and turn to God."

So Abraham said, "If they won't pay attention to Moses and the prophets, they won't listen even to someone who comes back from the dead."



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi