

Gospel Reflection

One of the most dramatic moments in this passage is the opening of heaven. In Jewish thought, the heavens represented the realm of God, often perceived as distant from the earthly realm. The image of heaven opening signifies a moment of divine intervention and revelation. It signals that what is about to occur is of cosmic significance.

The opening of heaven is reminiscent of prophetic visions in the Old Testament, such as those experienced by Ezekiel and Isaiah. In these accounts, the opening of heaven indicated a new era of God's activity among humanity. Here, at Jesus' baptism, the opened heaven marks the dawn of the Messianic age.



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

Deacon Chris Wells contact details:

deaconchriswells@gmail.com or Mobile No.

07751 136957



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

 11th JANUARY 2026 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES		
Saturday 10th January	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 11th January	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 12th January		No Mass or Service
Tuesday 13th January	10:00am	Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 14th January		No Mass or Service
Thursday 15th January	10:00am	Service of Word and Communion
Friday 16th January		No Mass or Service
Saturday 17th January	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 18th January	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 Barbara Carney

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

*"Preach the Gospel
always, if necessary
use words"*

St Francis of Assisi

Prisoner Outreach

Do you – like me – find carrying round small coins a waste of time? The Prisoner Outreach Organisation is a Christian network of volunteers who have been voluntarily working in HM Prisons and supplies copies of the BIBLE ALIVE booklets to prisoners. Drop your loose change into the bottle on the table in the porch and help to support this good cause.

Coffee morning

Our next coffee morning is on Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 10.30am, everyone is welcome. Money from the coffee mornings has been used to buy another Hoover for the church.

Cake Sale

Maureen is selling cakes on Sunday 18th January, so please remember to bring some money if you want to buy some cakes.

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:

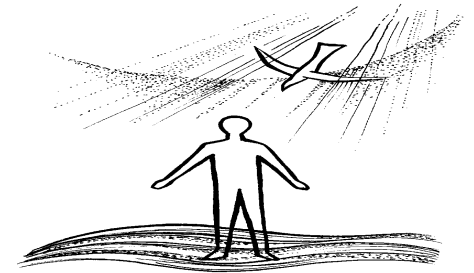
Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

.....
St Joseph pray for us

Gospel Matthew 3 13 – 17

Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptise him. John objected, "I'm the one who needs to be baptised, not *you!*"

But Jesus insisted. "Do it. God's work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism." So John did it. The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God's Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: "This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life."



An Introduction to Deacon Chris.

Fr Simon thought it would be useful for me to briefly introduce myself to you – so here goes....

My name is Chris Wells and I come originally from west London. My wife Teresa and I have been married for 45 years and we have seven children and (currently!) four grandchildren. I worked in the Chemical Industry which meant we moved around quite a lot and we have been privileged to live in several parts of England as well as in Scotland and the USA. I have been involved in music ministry for around thirty years and then about fifteen years ago I discerned a calling to the Diaconate and I was ordained in 2015. I served at St Mary's Middlewich for the last ten years and for the last three years I have also been the Catholic Chaplain at Manchester airport where I work two days a week.

I'd like to thank you all for making me feel so welcome, you are obviously a very caring community and I look forward to serving the parish of St Joseph's as we continue our faith journeys together. Please pray for me and I can assure you of my prayers for you all.

Every blessing, Deacon Chris.