

Gospel Reflection

Christ the Lord When Jesus teaches, he takes an authoritative posture: he is not just giving advice, he is unveiling Truth. St. Matthew illustrates this with two details prefacing Chapters 5-7 of his Gospel, the chapters that present in summary form Christ's idea of how we ought to live, commonly called the Sermon on the Mount:

First, Jesus sat down before he began to teach. When rabbis in Israel sat down to teach, it indicated that they were presenting their official doctrine.

Second, the Greek used for "Then he began to speak..." contains a phrase that, literally translated, would read: "he opened his mouth." In the ancient world, this phrase indicated an official declaration or a setting forth of the speaker's most deeply held convictions.

When St. Matthew depicts Jesus as sitting down and opening his mouth, it is as if he were saying: "What follows is the soul of Christ's doctrine, his very heart expressed in the most important words spoken by the Word of God."

When Christ teaches, he claims to have authority; we can either accept it or reject it, but we cannot write it off, nor can we treat it like one opinion among many. Our attitude towards Jesus' teaching is our attitude toward the Lord himself.

Coffee morning

Our next coffee morning is on Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 10.30am, everyone is welcome.

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
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Deacon Chris Wells contact details:
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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

| 1st FEBRUARY 2026 4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES | | |
|---|---------|-------------------------------|
| Saturday 31st January | 5:15pm | Mass |
| Sunday 1st February | 10:00am | Mass (Livestreamed) |
| Monday 2nd February Candlemas | | No Mass or Service |
| Tuesday 3rd February | 10:00am | Service of Word and Communion |
| Wednesday 4th February | | No Mass or Service |
| Thursday 5th February | 10:00am | Service of Word and Communion |
| Friday 6th February | | No Mass or Service |
| Saturday 7th February | 5:15pm | Mass |
| Sunday 8th February | 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 Margaret O'Hare

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

"Preach the Gospel
always, if necessary
use words"

St Francis of Assisi

St Joseph's Parish Council

If you have any suggestions for social events, fundraising events, or other concerns that you would like to bring to our attention, please put them in writing and place in the suggestion box in the porch. Thank you.

Job vacancies

An opportunity has arisen for the right candidate as a **Sales Ledger Clerk** based at the Curial Offices in Prenton. Closing date 20 February 2026. Part time, permanent (20 hrs a week) £14.60 per hour.

Pilgrimage Bookings & Customer Services Coordinator

Part time, permanent (20 hrs a week) Term time only. £14.60 per hour, closing date 20 February

Go to the Shrewsbury Diocese website for more information:

<https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>

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 5 1-12

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

"You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

"You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

"You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.

"You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

"You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

"You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

"Not only that - count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens - give a cheer, even! - for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

