

Gospel Reflection

In our 21st c. Christian ears, what Jesus says is charming. But something is lost. We translate two different words from Matthew's Greek manuscript. One word, "Kosmos," we hear as "world," as in "the light of the world." The other we translate as "earth," as in "the salt of the earth," but only because that is as close as English can get.

And if that isn't enough, Jesus reminds us again just how Jewish he is. "You are the light of the Kosmos," he says. To people who are familiar with Torah, even in passing, the phrase is a traditionally Jewish comment. Rabbis still teach that light is a metaphor for Torah and for acting on those teachings, as well as an image of the human soul.

Matthew's Jesus does not say "I am the light" as John's Jesus does. Instead, he says to a group of people who have so far done very little to earn praise: "You are the light of the Kosmos." "Let your light shine before others,"

Jesus implores his followers. "Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Now, while his insistence on "good works" may not have made Jesus a good Protestant, there should be no lingering doubt that he was wise and joyfully Jewish teacher.

Right relationship and right action are good. In fact, right action is more important than right belief!



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.

**St Joseph's RC Church
Woodford Lane
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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

**8th FEBRUARY 2026
5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE A)
MASS & SERVICE TIMES**

Saturday 7th February	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 8th February	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 9th February		No Mass
Tuesday 10th February	10:00am	Mass
Wednesday 11th February	10:00am	Mass
Thursday 12th February	10:30am	Requiem Mass – Margaret O'Hare RIP
Friday 13th February		No Mass
Saturday 14th February	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 15th 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 – Mr Alex Zoka

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

Celebrating 60 Years of St Nicholas Catholic High School –Jubilee Afternoon tea on Thursday, 26th March at 4.30.

This year marks a wonderful milestone for our Catholic community as St Nicholas' celebrates its 60th anniversary. For six decades, the school has been a place where young people have grown in faith, friendship, and learning—supported by dedicated staff, loving families, and the prayers of all our parishes. To mark this special occasion, we warmly invite past pupils, former staff, governors, and friends of the school to join us to come and see how the school has grown and changed over the years. There will be guided tours, displays of old photographs, and refreshments. A wonderful chance to reminisce and reconnect.

We ask that people sign up so that we have an idea of numbers – by emailing at the address below.

We would also love to hear from past students and staff so we are also inviting people to write or email their memories of St Nicholas' over the years. Email address for memories and to book a place for our Afternoon tea - alumni@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk

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

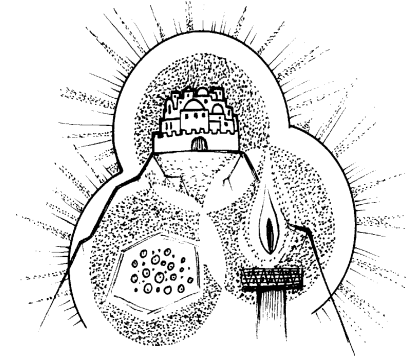
Gospel

Matthew 5 13 -16

Jesus said: You are like salt for everyone on earth.
But if salt no longer tastes like salt, how can it make
food salty? All it is good for is to be thrown out and walked on.



You are like a light for the whole world.
A city built on top of a hill cannot be
hidden, and no one would light a lamp
and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is
placed on a lamp stand, where it can
give light to everyone in the house.
Make your light shine, so that others
will see the good that you do and will
praise your Father in heaven.



“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the
God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going
public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers,
you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m
putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop,
on a light stand - shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives.
By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God,
this generous Father in heaven.

“Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words”

St Francis of Assisi

Coffee morning

Our next coffee morning is on Tuesday 17th February 2026 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