

# NEWSLETTER

## Gospel Reflection

John 11:25 includes one of the most life changing "I Am" statements made by Jesus.

Martha's response in verse 27 is a powerful confession of faith that must be replicated. She acknowledges Jesus as the Messiah (the Christ) and the Son of God. Her statement reflects a deep trust in Jesus's identity, even in the midst of her grief. It's a significant moment for her and for us because it shows that faith is not about having all the answers or being free from sorrow. It is about recognizing who Jesus is and trusting Him in the middle of life's pain and uncertainties. Martha's confession also reminds us that faith is not just an intellectual assent—it is a personal relationship with Jesus. It is trusting Him as the Christ, the Son of God. May we, like Martha, bring our honest questions to Jesus and confess with faith, "Yes, Lord. I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world." In Jesus and Jesus alone we find life—both now and forever.

### Job Vacancy

Due to retirement, a vacancy has arisen within the Diocese for a Health & Safety officer. **Salary** £32,000 - £38,000 dependant on experience. **Hours:** 25 per week, term time only, Please send CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch [recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) **Closing date** 10 April. Further details can be found on the Diocesan Website [Latest Vacancies - Diocese](#)

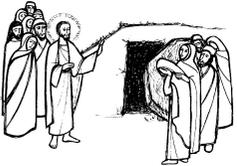
### BAPTISM PREPARATION

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**  
**Winsford**  
**CW7 2JS**  
 Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor  
 Tel: 01606 543877  
 Website; [www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk](http://www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk)  
 email: [stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk)  
 Deacon Chris Wells contact details:  
[deaconchriswells@gmail.com](mailto:deaconchriswells@gmail.com) or Mobile No. 07751 136957  
 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

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|---|--------------------|---|
| <p><b>22nd MARCH 2026</b><br/> <b>5th SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE A)</b><br/> <b>MASS &amp; SERVICE TIMES</b></p>  |                    |   |
| Saturday 21st March   | 5:15pm             | Mass – P and P O'Connor   |
| Sunday 22nd March   | 10:00am<br>11:00am | Mass - Parishioners<br>Shared Table (All welcome)                       |
| Monday 23rd March   |                    | <b>No Mass</b>  |
| Tuesday 24th March  | 10:00am<br>10:30am | Mass - Mary & William Cannon<br>Coffee morning                          |
| Wednesday 25th March  | 10:00am<br>7:30pm  | Mass - Julia & Phil Hodnett<br>Winsford Decides Vote @ Winsford Academy |
| Thursday 26th March   | 10:00am            | Mass - Clare Kendrick   |
| Friday 27th March   |                    | <b>No Mass</b>  |
| Saturday 28th March   | 5:15pm             | Mass - Parishioners   |
| Sunday 29th March   | 10:00am<br>11:00am | Mass - John Dooney<br>Cake sale (after Mass)                            |

If Fr Simon is unobtainable please leave a message and send an email to [stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk)

### 200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize  
This week – Mrs Catherine Kavanagh

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

### Jacob's Table

Shared table after Mass on  
Sunday 22nd – all are welcome



### Gospel

John 11

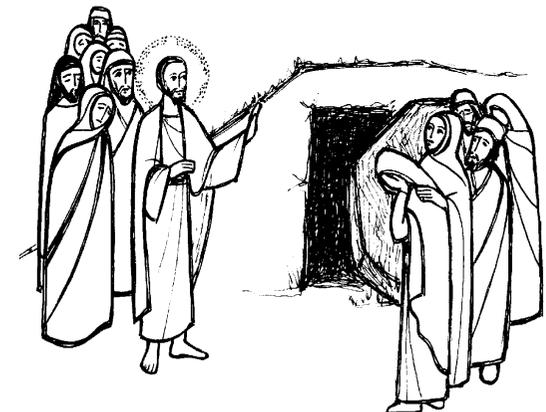


When Jesus saw her sobbing and the Jews with her sobbing, a deep anger welled up within him. He said, "Where did you put him?" Master, come and see," they said. Now Jesus wept. The Jews said, "Look how deeply he loved him." Others among them said, "Well, if he loved him so much, why didn't he do something to keep him from dying? After all, he opened the eyes of a blind man." Then Jesus, the anger again welling up within him, arrived at the tomb. It was a simple cave in the hillside with a slab of stone laid against it. Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

The sister of the dead man, Martha, said, "Master, by this time there's a stench. He's been dead four days!" Jesus looked her in the eye. "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" Then, to the others, "Go ahead, take away the stone."

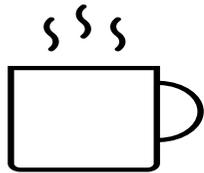
They removed the stone. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, "Father, I'm grateful that you have listened to me. I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I've spoken so that they might believe that you sent me."

Then he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And he came out, a cadaver, wrapped from head to toe, and with a kerchief over his face. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him loose."



### Coffee morning

Our next coffee morning is on Tuesday 24th March at 10:30am, everyone is welcome. We will have games of bingo, a raffle and a chance for a nice chat with a tea or coffee.



### Cake Sale

Maureen will be selling cakes on Sunday 29th March, please remember to bring some money on that day if you would like 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

"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi

### **Save The Date!**

The bid to apply for funding from Winsford Town Council to upgrade the Parish Centre has been accepted to take part in the Winsford Decides Event at Winsford Academy on Wed 25th March, presentations start at 7.00pm. Please arrive at least 15 mins before presentations.

Only Winsford Residents over 16 years are allowed to vote. The success of the application will be decided by the audience members on the night, so please come along and vote for St Joseph's! Rachel Ellis who has prepared the application has asked for £4,000 to upgrade the Parish Centre kitchen, so your votes will mean a lot to the parish and the community.

Thank you!

Please continue to pray for the success of the Parish Renovation Project and also for the Parish Centre Upgrade. Laudato Si!

### **Invitation**

St Wilfred's have invited St Joseph's parishioners to join them on a coach trip to the poor Clare's convent at Ellesmere, where Mass will be celebrated. Tea and cakes after Mass, then on to Shrewsbury for some shopping therapy.

Easter Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Coach leaves St Wilfred's 9am, £15 each.

For further details phone Pat – 07999344465.

the skills and confidence needed to hold and guide groups of those who wish to deepen their relationship with Jesus, in conversation with others, through reflectively praying with gospel texts. Time: Tuesday evenings, 6.30pm-8.30pm

**Dates: April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 9.**

**<https://www.jesuitinstitute.org/events/encountering-jesus-in-the-gospels>**

### **Diocese of Shrewsbury Lourdes Pilgrimage – YOUTH 2026**

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> June – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2026

Cost: ?740 (Bursary, match funding and support are available)

Age: 16 to 23

Closing Date for all applications – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

Why go to Lourdes?

For our young people Lourdes offers a unique opportunity to grow in faith, service, and community. The shrine, associated with the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to St Bernadette, welcomes pilgrims from around the world. Our young pilgrims volunteer to help the sick and elderly, taking part in a powerful tradition of compassion and care.

Alongside this service, they experience prayer, reflection, and friendship with other young Catholics from across our Diocese, often returning home with a deeper sense of faith and a stronger commitment to serving others.

Our Lady called each one of us – now we have to answer the call.

### **Encountering Jesus in the Gospels**

How to lead groups in reflective prayer

Join us for a short online formation course building

# JACOB'S TABLE EVENT

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH  
22ND MARCH • 11AM



**HOT & COLD DRINKS  
FOR SALE**

SHARED TABLE - BRING FOOD TO SHARE

**RAFFLE PRIZES  
DONATIONS WELCOME**

COME SHARE AND CHAT • KIDS WELCOME

# YOUR VOTE CAN TRANSFORM OUR PARISH CENTRE



St Joseph's Parish Centre has applied for a £4,000 community grant through Winsford Decides,

This funding would allow us to renovate the parish kitchen, making it safer, more welcoming, and better for all our parish groups, events, and community outreach.

We need your support. To win the grant, parishioners must attend the event in person and vote.

**WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH  
7:00PM WINSFORD ACADEMY**

Book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/winsford-decides-2026-tickets-1980903186756>  
If you don't book a ticket, we recommend arriving by 6:30pm to make sure you get a place