

### Gospel Reflection

Jesus withdrew. To grieve. To be alone. To catch his breath.  
To pray. To consider what could happen to him.

He got no chance to relax. The crowds pursued until they found him. They were probably grieving too, horrified by what had happened to John.

Herod's persistent fear was that the Jews would revolt (14:5). If Jesus wanted to lead a revolt, now would be a good time. Surely it was time to take earth's kingship from the rulers who resist God's reign, killing any who dare question their authority?

That's how this crowd thought. John's Gospel says they were ready to use forceful means to make Jesus their king (John 6:15).

But Jesus refused to fight. Whatever he was feeling over John's death, he turned that emotion into compassion for the crowd who lived under such unjust rulers. His energies were directed not into avenging his cousin's death, but into caring for the frail who'd struggled to reach this desolate place.

What a king! With no sword, he withdraws from his enemies. With no palace, he's among his people in the desert. In his pain, he feels and heals theirs (14:14). Earth has never known a king like this!



### **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**

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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

### **2nd AUGUST 2026** **18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE A)** **MASS & SERVICE TIMES**

|                      |         |                                                     |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 1st August  | 5:15pm  | Mass - Parishioners                                 |
| Sunday 2nd August    | 10:00am | Mass – Deceased members of Rimmer & Butler families |
| Monday 3rd August    |         | No Mass                                             |
| Tuesday 4th August   |         | No Mass                                             |
| Wednesday 5th August |         | No Mass                                             |
| Thursday 6th August  |         | No Mass                                             |
| Friday 7th August    |         | No Mass                                             |
| Saturday 8th August  | 5:15pm  | Mass                                                |
| Sunday 9th August    | 10:00am | 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 Sarah Williams

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

### Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be in  
September, date to be confirmed

### Prayer

O Lord God, destroy and root out whatever the Adversary plants in my soul, that with my sins destroyed you may sow understanding and good work in my mouth and heart, so that in act and in truth I may serve only You. Give me memory, give me love, give me faith. O Lord, work good in me, and provide me with what You know that I need. Amen.

### Bingo Night

It's that time of the year, we are starting to collect prizes for our bingo night in November, raising money for parish funds. Please leave any donations in the Sacristy marked 'bingo.'

### 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 14 13 – 21



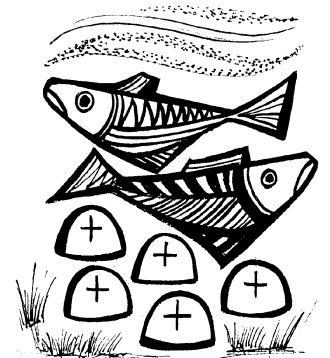
When Jesus got the news of John the Baptist's death, he slipped away by boat to an out-of-the-way place by himself. But unsuccessfully – someone saw him and the word got around. Soon a lot of people from the nearby villages walked around the lake to where he was. When he saw them coming, he was overcome with pity and healed their sick.

Toward evening the disciples approached him. "We're out in the country and it's getting late. Dismiss the people so they can go to the villages and get some supper."

But Jesus said, "There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper."

"All we have are five loaves of bread and two fish," they said.

Jesus said, "Bring them here." Then he had the people sit on the grass. He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the bread to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to the congregation. They all ate their fill. They gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. About five thousand were fed.



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi