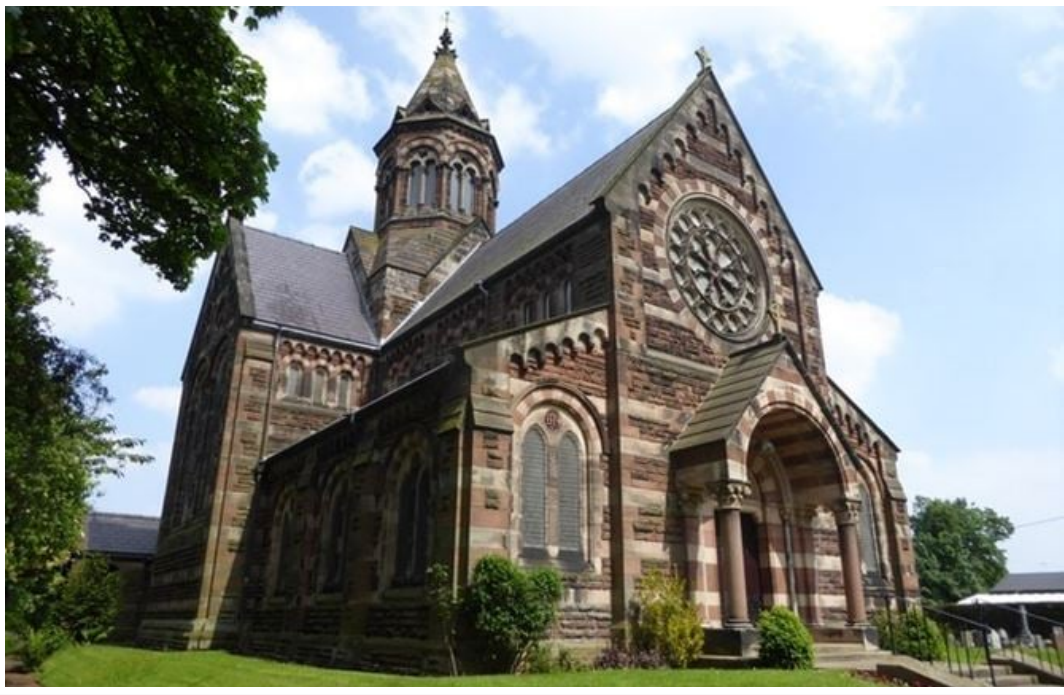


# ELLESMERE PORT & HOOTON

Our Lady Star of the Sea & St Bernard | St Saviour & St Mary of the Angels



This past week, I was very sorry to hear the news of the death of Fr Mark Turner, the Vicar of St Paul, Hooton. We had enjoyed a very good relationship since his appointment in January 2023; we were due to meet for a coffee and a catch up last Wednesday afternoon. Our prayerful condolences go to his wife, Sarah, and son, James. May he rest in peace. Our sympathies also go to the parish of St Paul at Hooton who will be mourning the loss of their pastor. Please pray for the repose of Fr Marks' soul, the comfort of his family, and the community at St Paul, Hooton.

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent. There are Masses at 8am, 12.15pm, and 6.15pm to enable as many as possible to begin Lent in the best way possible. For those who are in good health and are not infirm or elderly, the Church asks that we keep Ash Wednesday as a day of fast and abstinence - no meat, and one main meal with two smaller meals permitted. Please use your discretion and discernment as to what is appropriate in your own circumstances.

*Father Edmund*

## Online Donations to the Parish

To making giving easier, please consider donating online via the Parish Website [www.rcchep.co.uk](http://www.rcchep.co.uk) or via the QR code printed here. Thank you for your generosity.



## POPE FRANCIS

Please pray for the Holy Father, Pope Francis, who is seriously ill in Hospital at this time



## BIBLE WOMEN

The series continues, with a talk on Women Warriors, Judges, and Prophets. Wednesday at 7pm. All welcome!



## FRIDAY STATIONS

The Lent devotion of Stations of the Cross resumes this first Friday of Lent, 7pm Our Lady Star of the Sea

### St Mary of the Angels, Hooton

As anticipated back in November, the 9am Mass will return to St Mary of the Angels on Sunday 23 March, with the return of milder weather, this Mass having transferred to Our Lady Star of the Sea for the Winter months due to no heating at St Mary of the Angels.

You will recall there are several outstanding building maintenance and repairs: 1) the Side Chapel, due to water ingress and stone erosion; 2) substantial repairs on two of the four the Cottages; 3) the complete replacement of the boilers for the Church. These works remain pending because of the lengthy processes the diocese has to undertake given that St Mary of the Angels is a listed building and the significant workload that the diocese manages across the whole of our Shrewsbury diocese - including schools, churches, and parish centres. The costs, to be borne by the parish, are estimated at around £165,000.

When building works begin, it is likely that the car park at St Mary of the Angels will be affected, with the presence of builders vehicles and perhaps a welfare unit and toilet to allow contractors to take their lunch and other breaks, operate a small working office, and have facilities for their own use. Although we will return to the Sunday 9am at Hooton from Sunday 23 March, I must share with you there may be some disruption over the coming weeks and months as each of these

building projects are undertaken at a timetable determined by the diocese and the availability of contractors to complete the works. This may not be able to be communicated with much notice, depending on these factors and the Sunday Mass may need to once again be relocated if the Church needs to be handed over to the contractors entirely and/or if the building works take over the site, limiting car parking to ensure spaces for the residents of the rental properties.

### Possible Additional Sunday Mass

The 9am Mass congregation, which has increased in numbers whilst at Our Lady Star of the sea, might be too large now upon return to Hooton. I may need to consider an additional Sunday Mass, especially as we work with the five schools of the parish to boost the attendance at Mass. What might be a good time?

### Offertory Envelopes

Offertory envelope boxes 2025/26 will be available for collection from Our Lady Star of the Sea Church from this weekend, 1/2 March. At this time of the year we are also asked by the Diocese to contact parishioners who have made a Gift Aid for Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Bernard, to confirm their tax status. Patricia Jenkins, will be in Our Lady Star of the Sea Church the weekend of 1/2 March and 8/9 March, for you to confirm/update your Tax Status for 2025/26. Patricia will also have standing order forms available, should you wish to move from using weekly offertory envelopes.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: THIS FRIDAY

This year's World Day of Prayer service will be held at St Mary of the Angels this Friday 7 March at 2pm. The World Day of Prayer is a woman-led, global, ecumenical prayer movement and this year the service, with the theme 'I have made you wonderful', has been prepared by the Christian women of the Cook Islands, in the Pacific. It will be an opportunity to learn about the lives of the people of that island nation and to pray with them and groups of Christians all around the world. Everyone (men as well as women!) is welcome at the service.



**Women of the Bible Series**

Continues Wednesday 7pm, Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Centre. All welcome.

**Lent Fast Day**

The CAFOD Lent Fast Day this year will be on Friday 14 March. The twice-yearly Fast Days are our opportunity to eat more simply, to pray and to give what we can to support those in the world who face the biggest challenges through the impacts of poverty, war, global debt and climate change. Envelopes to make contributions to support CAFOD's development work will be available from the weekend before the Fast Day.

**Lent Lunch at St Mary of the Angels**

There will be an ecumenical Lent Lunch in the Stanley Hall at St Mary of the Angels on Saturday 15 March. Please come along at any time between 12 noon and 2pm for a bowl of soup, bread and cheese, a cup of tea or coffee and a chat with friends. Cost - £5, with proceeds going to CAFOD. There will also be Hot Cross Bun Coffee Mornings at Little Sutton Methodist Church on Saturday 5 April at 10.30am and at St Paul's Church, Hooton on Saturday 12 April at 10am. Everyone welcome!

**Lourdes 2025**

Deacon Tony writes: *Unfortunately, due to the limited responses received to travel by independent coach to Lourdes, this option is not now viable. However, we do have 22 pilgrims and 10 young pilgrims from our*

*Ellesmere Port parishes area who have indicated they will be joining in the Shrewsbury Diocese Jubilee Year 2025 Lourdes pilgrimage, from 25th July 2025 to 31 July 2025, led by Bishop Mark. Booking forms are available on their website. [www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk) and a number of pilgrims from Ellesmere Port and Hooton will be staying in the Hotel Stella this year whilst in Lourdes. Do consider joining with us this year in the Holy Shrine of Lourdes. Details on the Shrewsbury website as above or speak with me.*

**Have Your Say on Parish Social Events!**

We want to make our parish social events more engaging and enjoyable for everyone! Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey and share your thoughts on the types of events you'd love to see, how often they should happen, and the best ways to keep you informed. Your feedback will help shape our future gatherings! [rcchep.co.uk/survey](http://rcchep.co.uk/survey) or there are some surveys at the back of Our Lady' Star of the Sea Church.

**Palm Sunday Weekend Pathway Charity Walk**

A 12-mile charity walk along the scenic Wirral Way on Palm Sunday weekend, Saturday 12 April. Funds raised will go towards essential maintenance and building projects. Sign up today! Entry is £5 per person or £10 for a group of 5. You can also support us by sponsoring a walker or making a donation. Register now via the website: [rcchep.co.uk](http://rcchep.co.uk) or email contact [events@rcchep.co.uk](mailto:events@rcchep.co.uk)

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Colin Wood, Josie Rice, Nicola Avery, Baby Jake, Kevin Brady, Pat, Marion Andrew, Lisa Gilmore, Ella-May Ehlen, Pat, Edna, Anne Donnelly, David Fitzgeraldson, Jean Bowles, Tony Kemp, Pat McMahon, Margaret Kenny, Antoinette Denney, Francis Ellis, Babies Avery and Vincent White, Christine Fernandes, Christine Brown, Kath Leahey, Jim Shepherd, Joanne, Michael, Sophie, Elliott, David, Karen Seymour, Mavis O'Donnell, Baby Alana, Honora Ellis, Marie, Sheila, and Vincent Smith. Please pray for those who have died: Peter Duffy, Pam Jarvis, Ian Brady, and Rod Adams.



# PARISH HOLY MASS & LITURGY

Monthly devotion | March is dedicated to St Joseph, Spouse of our Lady

## Sunday Missal Page: 808

	Our Lady	4pm	Confessions available until 4.55pm
	Our Lady	5pm	Giuseppe Contilli RIP Birthday Remembr.
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<b>Sunday 2 March</b>	Our Lady	9am	Bernie Garner RIP
Eighth Sunday	Our Lady	11am	Parishioners
	Our Lady	12.45pm	Baptism: Zane Chiziterem Okah
	Our Lady	1.30pm	Baptism: Renne Madeline McNally
	Our Lady	2.15pm	Baptism: Órlaith Alice Rose Bullock
	Our Lady	5pm	Charismatic Prayer Group
<b>Monday 3 March</b>	Our Lady	12.15pm	Peter Awin RIP
Feria			
<b>Tuesday 4 March</b>	Our Lady	1.30pm	Requiem: Marjorie Stubbs RIP
Feria			
<b>Wednesday 5 March</b>	Our Lady	8am	Additional Mass for Ash Wednesday
Ash Wednesday	Our Lady	12.15pm	Nicola Gormley RIP
<i>Day of Fast &amp; Abstinence</i>	Our Lady	6.15pm	Additional Mass for Ash Wednesday
<b>Thursday 6 March</b>	Our Lady	11.45pm	The holy Rosary is prayed before Mass
Lent feria	Our Lady	12.15pm	Pat McMahan
<b>Friday 7 March</b>	St Mary	2pm	World Day of Prayer Service
Lent feria	Our Lady	7pm	Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday 8 March</b>	Our Lady	11am	Confessions available until 12noon
Lent feria			
	Our Lady	4pm	Confessions available until 4.55pm
	Our Lady	5pm	Bridget Harris RIP
	— — —	— — —	— — —
<b>Sunday 9 March</b>	Our Lady	9am	Hugh Jones RIP
First Sunday of Lent	Our Lady	11am	Margaret & Anthony Connolly 52nd Anni.

Parish Priest:

Fr Edmund Montgomery

Parish Deacon:

Rev Tony Nuttall

Parish Deacon Emeritus:

Rev Paul Sutton

Parish Secretary:

Miss Ann O'Connor

Parish Phone:

0151 355 5877

Parish Website:

www.rcchep.co.uk

Parish Email:

parishoffice@rcchep.co.uk

Safeguarding:

Mrs Bernie LeTissier 07885 736149

Mrs Michele Mulville 07745 481122

(Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Bernard)

(St Saviour and St Mary of the Angels)

The Parish Office is staffed Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 9am-4pm.

The 'phone and answer machine is monitored outside these times for sick calls and emergencies.