

ELLESMERE PORT & HOOTON

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



This week, the House of Commons will debate and then vote on the proposed Private Member's Bill before Parliament to legalise assisted suicide. Whenever the Sovereign opens Parliament and gives the Speech that opens the Parliamentary Session, the text of the Address to both Houses of Parliament ends with a prayer: *My Lords and Members of the House of Commons, I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.* That must be our prayer this coming week, too. That the Holy Spirit will direct the course of the debate and the vote that follows.

To this end, on Friday morning at 7.30am, I will offer a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit to ask God to grant the graces of wisdom and discernment to our elected representatives and their free vote in this incredibly significant and moral question. Please come and pray with me, if you are able.

Father Edmund

Online Donations to the Parish

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



CHRIST THE KING

This Sunday marks the climax of the Church's Year and the last Sunday of Ordinary Time



ADVENT 2024

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent, marking the period of preparation for the birth of the baby Jesus at Christmas



HOLY SOULS

As November draws to a close, we remember all those who have been on our November List and all the departed

Anderson Funeral Directors

A Family Run Funeral Directors

Remembrance Service

Thursday 28th November 2024 from 7pm
At St Paul's Church, Hooton

You are warmly invited to join us for our annual memorial night. This year the evening will be held at St Paul's Church, Hooton. Please join us from 7pm for an evening of honouring our loved ones.

Following the service, our Memorial Tree in aid of The Hospice of the Good Shepherd will be reinstalled outside our premises in Whitby Village after the event, please feel free to place a charm on the tree in memory of your loved one.

Should you wish for any more information or to RSVP to the evening please call our office on 0151 357 2671.

Anderson Funeral Directors
11 Chester Road
Whitby Village
Ellesmere Port
CH65 9DB



THE HOLY YEAR: JUBILEE 2025



As you may know, the Holy Father, Pope Francis has appointed 2025 to be a Holy Year, a Jubilee Year, when - based on the ancient Old Testament practice of Jubilees every 50 years - the Church celebrates a Jubilee every 25 years, or else on extraordinary occasions, such as in 2016, when the Holy Father called for a Year of Mercy, outside of the 25 and 50 year customs. The goal of a Jubilee from the Scriptures was a renewal of devotion and faithfulness to God and His Covenant, the forgiveness of sins and the cancelation of debt. You may remember the latter from the Jubilee for the Millennium in 2000. It will be important for us as a parish to mark the Holy Year, and I would principally want this to be a year of spiritual renewal for each of us through three basic and yet significant commitments:

1. Prayer every **day**
2. Mass every **week**
3. Confession every **month**

To pray at least once a day - but everyday, no matter how briefly; to attend Mass every week despite how busy our family and work commitments might be; to make a good Confession of our sins every month - these three simple steps could radically transform our parish, if we each made the decision to take up these three spiritual responsibilities beginning 1 January, 2025

To that end, I will share with the parish some more information in the coming weeks in the lead up to the New Year that to mark the beginning of the Holy Year, we will have Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on New Year's Eve and Mass on New Year's Day, when I will invite parishioners to sign up to this spiritual covenant to make 2025 a truly Holy Year. Please consider whether you might commit to these three steps to sanctifying 2025 and to help the conversion of our parish.



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

GIVING HOPE TO VULNERABLE CHRISTIANS

Friends of the Holy Land Appeal

Kath Keegan from the Parish Justice and Peace Group writes: *Usually at this time of year the Justice & Peace Group is appealing for members of our parishes to sign Christmas cards for the Holy Land but this year it is different due to the massive problems for Christians there. The Justice & Peace Group will send one Christmas greeting card to each of one of the nineteen parishes and organisations including Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem and for the first time in a number of years parishes in Israel proper including Nazareth.*

There are two reasons for this one is that the Liverpool Archdiocese have requested this because of conditions in Israel and also the high cost of postage.

This weekend Fr Edmund has kindly agreed to a second collection for the Friends of the Holy Land to help in their work for the Christian communities over the Masses of 23/24 November. Due to the conditions there are no pilgrims or visitors to East Jerusalem or Bethlehem and the West Bank so there is a great deal of hardship. In Gaza all the Christians are sheltering at the Holy Family Church in Gaza City and Fr Romanelli, who was out of Gaza last October was able to rejoin his people as he was part of an official delegation. More information on the Friends of the Holy Land website, www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk, also opportunities to donate, buy Christmas cards and cribs, Christmas decorations etc handcrafted by people in Bethlehem. Thank you for support to help those suffering in the Holy Land.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

Two Administrator vacancies, (full time: 35 hours and part time: 25 hours) have arisen within our Inter-Diocesan Fuel Management Department, which is a Catholic organisation purchasing gas, electricity, fuel oil and biomass for all Catholic Dioceses in England and Wales. Salary: £23K to £25K (pro rata). Further details: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> completed application should be sent to Pauline McCulloch, recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org The closing date for applications is Friday 29 November .



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

New Lectionaries

This weekend, the final weekend of the present Lectionaries, I will place the new Lectionaries on the lower Sanctuary for you to have a look at and I will bless them at the end of all the Masses. My sincere thanks, once again, to all who gave towards the purchase. We will use the new Lectionaries for the first time next Sunday 1 December, the first Sunday of Advent, when the new translation to be used takes effect.

New Sunday Missals

Sign Up Sheet at the back of Church for you to order your Missal. Please write your details on the sheet. God willing, the Missals will arrive ahead of 1 December, too.

Gospel of Luke Series

We resume this Wednesday, 27 November. All welcome to these talks in Our Lady Star of the Parish Centre.

Talk 2 will explore the Annunciation to Zechariah, something that you may never have heard of! We know of the Annunciation to our Lady, but who is Zechariah and what is this narrative about? Wednesday 27 November at 6.30pm. Please be sure to bring a Bible with you, as we will be delving into the Old Testament and pushing beyond Luke into the New Testament more broadly.

Assisted Suicide Bill: Vote in Parliament

I received an appeal from the Bishop's Office that I share with you. Bishop Mark has been contacted by the Director of Operations at 'Right to Life' regarding the disability campaign group *Not Dead Yet UK*, who are a network of people with disabilities who oppose assisted suicide. Last weekend postcards from *Not Dead Yet UK* have been delivered to every Catholic church in the country. Parishioners can use these to easily contact their MP to encourage them to vote against assisted suicide and I encourage you to do so. Bishop Mark asks that I distribute these cards to you and to encourage you to send a postcard to our MPs in good time before the vote on 29 November.

Special Mass of the Holy Spirit

I will offer a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit on Friday at 7.30am at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church ahead of the day's debate and vote in the House of Commons, asking that the Holy Spirit guide the exchange and the outcome of the vote. This moral issue is urgent and we have a spiritual duty to pray that this Bill is defeated. I have arranged the Holy Mass for 7.30am to make it possible for many to attend: working people, children and young people, our teachers and school staff, our retired and those heading off to work might make a special effort to come to Mass that morning to unite in prayer to safeguard the most vulnerable.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Pat, Edna, Lowell Dawson, 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, Baby Isaac, Joanne, Michael, Sophie, Elliott, David, Karen Seymour, Mavis O'Donnell, Baby Alana, Honora Ellis, Marie, and Sheila. Please pray for the repose the souls of: Phylis Seymour, George Fairbrother, Ellen Shone, Ian Hobson, Patricia Done, Pietro Zavettieri, and Patricia Harrop.





last week from St Thomas & All Saints Church on Whitby Road. The total dispatched was 625 Shoeboxes. TEAMS4U thanks all parishioners and schools who supported them. This year your Shoebox Gifts will be heading to vulnerable children & families in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania.

CAFOD Disasters Emergency Committee

Catherine Jones writes: CAFOD has been in touch to express thanks for the generous support which the parish gave to the recent Harvest Day Appeal which will be used to support its ongoing development work in the poorest parts of the world. They have also asked us to highlight the Disasters Emergency Committee Middle East Humanitarian Appeal, of which CAFOD is part, which is raising funds to help families who are caught up in the terrible conflict in the Middle East. The funds which CAFOD raises through the appeal will support CAFOD's local Caritas partners in Gaza and Lebanon as they continue to provide essential food, water and shelter. If you want to give to the Appeal, you can do so at cafod.org.uk/give

Missio End of Year Box Collections

Noreen, our Missio parish secretary has asked if red box holders can bring their boxes to Church and hand them into the Sacristy for emptying. The boxes will then be placed on the back of Church near the hymn books for collection. Many thanks for all your support.

Christmas Celebration: Donations

Kathryn and Matthew Joyce and their team write: We will have a planning meeting about the Christmas Celebration this Tuesday 26 November at 7pm at St Saviour. Ahead of the Christmas Celebration on Sunday 15 December after the 11am Mass, we are inviting donations of:

- Beauty sets
- Unwanted gifts
- Raffle prizes
- Teddy bears
- Bottles (alcohol and non-alcoholic)
- Chocolates

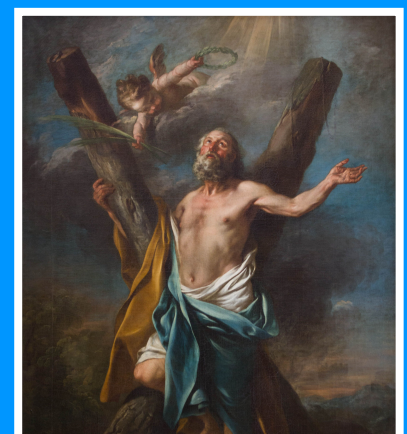
Cakes also would be needed, but we will invite these nearer the date itself.

TEAMS4U Christmas Shoeboxes 2024

Eileen Brennan writes: Thank you for the generosity of everyone who supported the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We have sent 58 Shoeboxes to TEAMS4U. They were collected

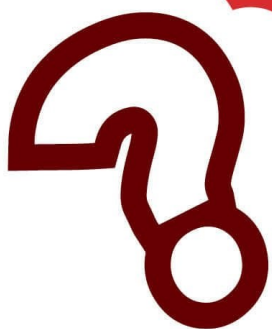
ST ANDREW, PATRON OF SCOTLAND

This coming Saturday is the feast of the patron saint of Scotland, St Andrew. Andrew was the first of the Twelve Apostles to be called and he was the one who brought Simon (later, Peter) to Jesus, telling his brother, *We have found the Messiah!* Andrew is therefore given the title *The First-Called* and traditionally the Patriarch of Constantinople was regarded as the successor to St Andrew in a similar way to how we believe the pope to be the successor of Peter. Andrew became Scotland's patron when his relics were carried to the town that bears his name: St Andrews.



CHRISTMAS

QUIZ



29th November

Doors Open 7pm

**Join us for a Family Friendly Quiz, Doors open at 7pm for
Quiz Start time at 7:30pm**

£5 for a Family Ticket or £2 Each

**Pay on the night or Book in advance
on the Parish Website**



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



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES
Of Ellesmere Port & Hooton

www.rcchep.co.uk | 2a Enfield Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 8BY

PARISH HOLY MASS & LITURGY

Monthly devotion | November is dedicated to prayer for the holy souls

Sunday 24 November Christ the King	Our Lady	4pm	Confessions available until 4.55pm Bryan Armstrong RIP ----- Pat Doyle RIP Parishioners Baptism: Andrew Ohioze Aikpokpo
	Our Lady	5pm	
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	Our Lady	9am	
Monday 25 November St Catherine of Alexandria	Our Lady	11am	Funeral: George Fairbrother RIP Pat Sullivan 85th Remembrance
	Our Lady	12.45pm	
Tuesday 26 November Feria	Chester	10am	Requiem: Phylis Seymour RIP
Wednesday 27 November Feria	Our Lady	10am	Mark Hobson RIP Novena
	St Saviour	12.15pm	
Thursday 28 November Feria	Chester	10am	Funeral: Ian Hobson RIP Paul Childs RIP Andersons Annual Memorial Service
	Our Lady	12.15pm	
	St Paul	7pm	
Friday 29 November Feria	Our Lady	7.30am	Special Mass of the Holy Spirit ahead of Assisted Suicide Vote Funeral: Patricia Done RIP
	Chester	10am	
Saturday 30 November St Andrew	Our Lady	11am	Confessions available until 12noon
Sunday 1 December First Sunday of Advent	Our Lady	4pm	Confessions available until 4.55pm Thomas Joseph & Bridget Harris ----- Parishioners John, Alison, and Cameron RIP Charismatic Prayer Group
	Our Lady	5pm	
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	Our Lady	9am	
	Our Lady	11am	
	Our Lady	5pm	

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.