

# ELLESMERE PORT & HOOTON

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



As Lent begins, we ask God for a double blessing this year: that the season of Lent, the annual opportunity to intensify our love for God shown in prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, may be even more efficacious in this Holy Year of 2025. At New Year, I proposed three concrete ways we might keep 2025 holy: prayer every day, Mass every week, Confession every month. If you did not take this up at New Year, why not take this up now, for Lent. It will be an enormous help to you in your spiritual life and have a positive impact on your heart and your working and family lives, too. If we get the basics of our spiritual lives set in place and working well, it is wonderful to see even more clearly the presence and power of God's grace in our lives. My hope for the parish this Lent is that if we put in place the foundations of daily prayer, weekly Mass, and monthly Confession, God's grace will build on these firm foundations and help us be nearer to God and more like Jesus.

*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 remains ill in Hospital in Rome at this time



## FAMILY FAST DAY

This coming Friday in aid of CAFOD. Envelopes available and a short presentation at the end of the weekend Masses, too



## FRIDAY STATIONS

The Lent devotion of Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent, 7pm Our Lady Star of the Sea

### No Flowers during Lent

My thanks to all those who so regularly, and out of love for our Lady, bring flowers to her statue in Church or else have kindly provided flowers for the Church. It has been a special joy to see how many of you have brought flowers to our Lady's statue as a sign of love since last May when I encouraged this beautiful devotion. Thank you. During Lent, however, we do not have flowers to reflect the sobriety and penance of this season. Perhaps we can make an exception for our Lady for Mother's Day on 30 March? Apart from that, flowers next in Church for Easter.

### Women of the Bible Series

No talk this coming week. We resume Wednesday 19 March at 7pm, with an exploration of several women who were unexpected mothers in the Bible.

### Lent Fast Day

The CAFOD Lent Fast Day is this 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 this weekend.

### 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 this

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.

### 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) I 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.*

### 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: Rod Adams, John Bjork, Sheila Hill, Keith Lockett, and Fr Mark Turner.



### 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.

### 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.

### Holy Year Retreat

Come and learn about the biblical roots of a year of jubilee, and why a jubilee year includes an important focus on the family. Come and understand what that can mean for us today, in and through Jesus Christ. Venue: St. Columba, Chester, Saturday 15 March, 9.45am-1pm.

## ADDITIONAL MASS CONSULTATION

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 will need to consider an additional Sunday Mass, especially as we work with the five schools of the parish to boost the attendance at Mass. As we are a growing parish, and desire to work with our five schools to continue this increase, it will be important to fill Church to its full capacity, considering that for young families it might be Sunday morning in particular that might be best, rather than a Sunday afternoon or evening Mass.



# PARISH HOLY MASS & LITURGY

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

## Sunday Missal Page: 819

<b>Sunday 9 March</b> First Sunday of Lent	Our Lady	4pm	Confessions available until 4.55pm
	Our Lady	5pm	Bridget Harris RIP
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	Our Lady	9am	Hugh Jones RIP
<b>Monday 10 March</b> Lent Feria	Our Lady	11am	Margaret & Anthony Connolly 52nd Anni.
	Our Lady	1.30pm	Funeral: Rodney Warwick Adams RIP
<b>Tuesday 11 March</b> Lent Feria	Our Lady	12.15pm	Fr Michael O'Connor RIP
<b>Wednesday 12 March</b> Lent Feria	Chester	10.40am	Funeral: Sheila Veronica Hill RIP
	Our Lady	12.15pm	Margaret and Philip Shannon RIP
	Our Lady	6.15pm	Novena
<b>Thursday 13 March</b> Lent feria	Our Lady	12.15pm	Ramsey Family Deceased RIP
<b>Friday 14 March</b> Lent feria	Our Lady	7pm	Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday 15 March</b> Lent feria	Our Lady	11am	Confessions available until 12noon
<b>Sunday 16 March</b> Second Sunday of Lent	Our Lady	4pm	Confessions available until 4.55pm
	Our Lady	5pm	Mollie Edwards RIP
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	Our Lady	9am	Parishioners
	Our Lady	11am	Patsy Beaman 70th Birthday Intentions

From Sunday 23 March, the parish Sunday 9am Mass will be offered at St Mary of the Angels, Hooton

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	(Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Bernard)
	Mrs Michele Mulville 07745 481122	(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.