



**St. David's Parish  
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,  
Holywell. CH8 8PE**



**September 10, 2023**

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**"Do not rebuke an older man, but appeal to him as a father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters with complete purity". *1 Tim 5:1-12***

**Mass Timings**

**Saturday Vigil Mass 4.00 Pm**

**Sunday Mass 10.00am**

**Weekdays 9.00 am In Denbigh House**

**READINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ez 33:7-9**

**Reading 2 Rom 13:8-10**

**GOSPEL Mt 18:15-20**

**INTRODUCTION:** The common theme of today's readings is the impact of our membership in the Church on our "private" lives. Being members of the Church means we belong to the single Body of Christ and form a community of brothers and sisters in Christ. We are, therefore, the "keepers" of our brothers and sisters, for each one of us is important to all the others in our Faith community. That is why we have to be meaningfully present to, and take responsibility for, other people. Inhuman behavior against defenseless people, like child-abuse, elder-abuse or spouse-abuse, is something about which we need to be really concerned, to the point of taking appropriate action to protect the victims. This individual responsibility in a Christian society includes, as today's readings remind us, our responsibility for each other. Perhaps the most painful obligations of watchful love are fraternal correction and generosity in forgiving and forgetting injuries.

**The first reading (Ezekiel 33:7-9) explained:** In today's first reading, the Lord God defines the role of an Old Testament prophet. The prophet is Ezekiel who was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar and brought from Jerusalem to Babylon in 597 B.C., together with King Jehoiachin of Judah (Ez 1:1-3), and most of the nobles of the country. "*You, son of man,*" Yahweh addresses His prophet, "*I have appointed you watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear Me say anything, you shall warn them for Me.*" Like a watchman, the prophet exists only for the good of others, in this case, those deported with him from Israel to Babylon. He is to give them God's words, to challenge them, and to correct them from time to time, so that if they should go wrong, the responsibility would be theirs. Here, Ezekiel gets straightforward orders from Yahweh, assigning responsibility to him and to the people, with no *ifs*, *ands*, or *buts* tolerated. God charges Ezekiel with the responsibility of remaining faithful to his prophetic mission, confronting the wicked with their own wickedness as the Lord God instructs him.

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls the Church to the same responsibility for confronting the sinful. Very few people in the world today would consider themselves accountable and responsible for anything that happens in the society, but the truth is that we are. For, as Christians, we are all God's prophets, God's representatives, God's watchmen, set on elevated places to give warning of approaching danger to our brothers and sisters. The prophets of all times have a grave responsibility for their people's salvation. None of us can retire from the task of being watchmen. As Ezekiel is appointed watchman over the house of Israel in today's first Reading, so Jesus in the Gospel today establishes His disciples as guardians of the new Israel of God, the Church (see Gal 6:16). They have the power to bind and loose, to forgive sins and to reconcile sinners in His name (see Jn 20:21-23). (Scott Hann).

**The second reading, (Romans 13:8-10) explained:** After finishing his treatment of doctrinal questions on Christ and our relationship with him, Paul used to write an application of the doctrine to the day-to-day behavior of the congregation receiving the letter. In today's reading, after urging the Christian converts of Rome to obey their lawful civil authorities, and after discussing the inability of the Mosaic Law to save anyone, no matter how well he may keep it, Paul adds such an application. He seems to be saying, "You still want the Law? I'll give you the real law! Love one another. That fulfills the law." If God is not known and loved, there can be no basis or motive for true love of neighbor. It is only the Presence of God in each

human being and the recognition of others as God’s children that can form a sound basis for the love of our neighbors. In short, love is the basis of the law, and we fulfill the law by loving our neighbor. Paul reminds us that love requires that we should watch out for one another’s souls, and love specifies the way our watchful care of one another should be exercised. Mutual and self-giving love is to be the motivation which guides all rescue efforts, whether physical or spiritual.

**Gospel exegesis:** Today’s Gospel deals with the relationship of members of the Church to each other and highlights one of the most painful responsibilities that we have towards others, namely fraternal correction. Matthew expands a saying of Jesus, originally concerned primarily with forgiveness (compare the shorter version in Lk 17:3-4), into a four-step procedure for disciplining members in the new eschatological Community of the Church. In the seventeenth century, the great Anglican priest and poet John Donne reminded us, “*No man is an island, entire unto himself.*” In today’s Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about relationships among members of the Church, because through Baptism we assume a serious responsibility for our fellow-believers. Suppose a son or daughter, friend or acquaintance, relative, neighbor, even parent or teacher, does “*something wrong*” to us, whether the sin is of commission or omission. By outlining a four-step process of confrontation, negotiation, adjudication and excommunication, Jesus tells us how to deal with and finally mend a broken relationship within the Christian fellowship.

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS- SEPTEMBER 2-3**

<b>Loose cash</b>	<b>153.67</b>
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>70.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>223.67</u></b>

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Ann Parry, Patrick Ngale, Philip McGreavy, Antony Parry

**ANNIVERSARIES (Sept 9- 15)**

Mgr. Alban Swarbrick ‘79: Fr. Rudolph Keeler, Kathleen Rhodes, Fr. John Michael Alexis May, 2021, Canon Cyril Schwarz ‘89:, Gertrude Williams: Basil Wilfred Schwarz, Margaret Hughes, ’12, Annie Patricia Andham 2022, Fr. James Law ‘83:

## **PADRE PIO AND ST. VINCENT DAY**

We cordially invite all of you to the celebration of the Feasts of St. Vincent De Paul and St. Padre Pio on September 23, 2023, Saturday. The programme will be from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. There will be praise and worship, preaching, Healing Mass, Healing Adoration, Novena to St. Vincent and St. Padre Pio and veneration of the relic.

### **NOVENA TO PADRE PIO**

**In preparation to the celebration of the Feast of St. Padre Pio we start the Novena on September 14<sup>th</sup> after the daily Holy Mass**

### **NO VIGIL MASS**

**There will not be the usual Vigil Mass at 4.00 pm on Saturday, September 23, 2023 due to the celebration of the Feasts of St. Padre Pio and St. Vincent De Paul**

### **FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mary Toumaine who was a parishioner of St. David's Parish was called to eternal life on August 27, 2023. The Funeral Mass is scheduled for September 14, 2023 at 11.00 am at St. David's Parish, Pantasaph. Let us pray for the repose her soul.

#### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday  
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

#### **DONATIONS TO THE PARISH**

**Account Name: Wrexham Diocesan Trust**

**Account Number: 08190771, Sort Code: 55-81-42**

Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>,

Email: [pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com](mailto:pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com)

Phone: **0741-749-4277**, 01352 711053,

Registered Charity No. 70042