



# INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

## ST. WINEFRIDE, MARTYR

### Patron of Our Church & Secondary Patron of the Diocese of Shrewsbury



Born at Holywell, Wales, about 600; died at Gwytherin, Wales, 3 Nov., 660. Her father was Thevit, a Cambrian magnate, the possessor of three manors in what is now Flintshire; her mother Wenlo, a sister of St. Beuno and a member of a family closely connected with the kings of South Wales. St. Beuno had led at first a solitary life, but afterwards established a community of cenobites at Clynog-vawr. While in search of a suitable place for a monastery he came to visit his sister's husband whose lands lay on a bluff overlooking the town of Holywell on the valley side of the well, and over against the present ruins of the Abbey of Basingstoke; tradition points this out as the spot on which the convent of St. Winefride was afterwards built. From this eminence there is a steep incline down to the stream and the well. In the hollow, then called the "Dry Hollow", beneath this incline St. Beuno lived and built a chapel in which he said Mass and preached to the people. Winefride was then one of his most attentive listeners.

Though only fifteen years old she gave herself to a life of devotion and austerity, passing whole nights watching in the church. Prior to the conquest of Wales the saint was known as Guenevra; after that her name was changed to the English form of Winefride. She was a maiden of great personal charm and endowed with rare gifts of intellect. Under the guidance of St. Beuno, Winefride made rapid progress in virtue and learning and with her parents' consent prepared to consecrate herself to God.

The fame of her beauty and accomplishments had reached the ears of Caradoc, son of the neighbouring Prince Alen, who resolved to seek her hand in marriage. Coming in person to press his suit he entered the house of Thevit, and found Winefride alone, her parents having gone early to Mass. The knowledge that Winefride had resolved to quit the world and consecrate herself to God seemed only to add fuel to his passion, and he pleaded his cause with extraordinary vehemence, even proceeding to threats as he saw her turn indignantly away. At length, terrified at his words and alarmed for her innocence, the maiden escaped from the house, and

hurried towards the church, where her parents were hearing Mass, that was being celebrated by her uncle, St. Beuno. Maddened by a disappointed passion, Caradoc pursued her and, overtaking her on the slope above the site of the present well, he drew his sword and at one blow severed her head from the body. The head rolled down the incline and, where it rested, there gushed forth a spring. St. Beuno, hearing of the tragedy, left the altar, and accompanied by the parents came to the spot where the head lay beside the spring. Taking up the maiden's head he carried it to where the body lay, covered both with his cloak, and then re-entered the church to finish the Holy Sacrifice. When Mass was ended he knelt beside the saint's body, offered up a fervent prayer to God, and ordered the cloak which covered it to be removed. Thereupon Winefride, as if awakening from a deep slumber, rose up with no sign of the severance of the head except a thin white circle round her neck. Seeing the murderer leaning on his sword with an insolent and defiant air, St. Beuno invoked the chastisement of heaven, and Caradoc fell dead on the spot, the popular belief being that the ground opened and swallowed him.

Miraculously restored to life, Winefride seems to have lived in almost perpetual ecstasy and to have had familiar converse with God. In fulfillment of her promise, she solemnly vowed virginity and poverty as a recluse. A convent was built on her father's land, where she became the abbess of a community of young maidens, and a chapel was erected over the well. St. Beuno left Holywell, and returned to Cærnarvon.

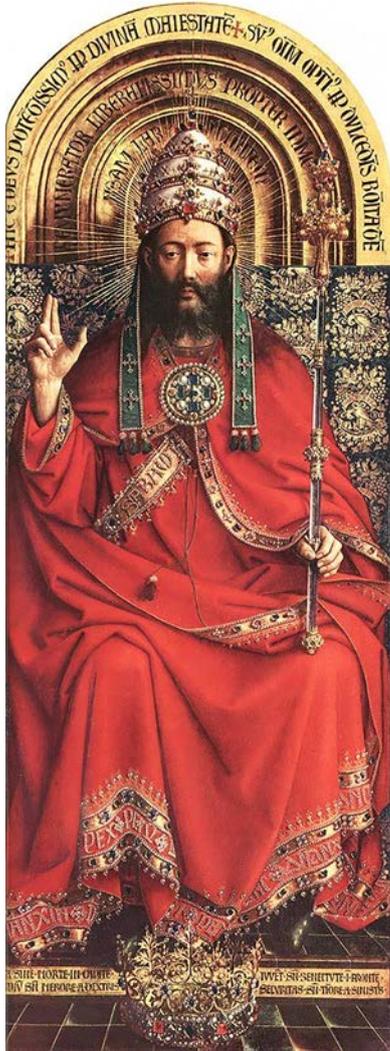
During her life she performed many miracles, and after her death, up to the present day, countless wonders and favours continue to be worked and obtained through her intercession. The details of St. Winefride's life are gathered from a manuscript in the British Museum, said to have been the work of the British monk, Elerius, a contemporary of the saint, and also from a manuscript life in the Bodleian Library, generally believed to have been compiled (1130) by Robert, prior of Shrewsbury.

*Source: Catholic Encyclopedia (Excerpts)*



*St. Winefride's Well at Holywell, Wales*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



❖ **OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**

## **FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING**

**Titular Feast of the  
Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest**

Plenary indulgence available under usual conditions:  
(confession, communion & prayer for the Sovereign Pontiff)

### ❖ **DONATIONS SUNDAY OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup>**

Collection	£208.00
Bank Transfer	£265.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£473.00</b>

Thank you very much!

*Christ the King, from the Ghent Altarpiece,  
Hubert van Eyck, before 1436-1442, Saint  
Bavo Cathedral, Ghent, Belgium*

## SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTIONS
Sun	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	12:30 pm	<b>Feast of Christ the King Titular feast of the Institute</b>	<b>First Communicants</b>
Mon	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	10:00 am	<b>The Feast of All Saints</b>	<b>P McQuaid RIP</b>
Tue	2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	6:30 pm	<b>Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed</b>	<b>Kathleen Murray</b>
Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	10:00 am	<b>St. Winefride, Martyr &amp; Patron</b>	<b>B McQuaid RIP</b>
Thu	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	6:30 pm	<b>St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop &amp; Confessor</b>	<b>Terry McQuaid RIP</b>
Fri	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10:00 am	<b>Commemoration of the Departed Members of the Institute of Christ the King</b>	<b>Edwina McQuaid RIP</b>
Sat	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10:00 am	<b>Our Lady of Saturday</b>	<b>Sarah Haughey RIP</b>
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	12:30 pm	<b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>Jackie Haughey RIP</b>

**All Masses (also Adoration and Benediction on Tuesday and Thursday) are at  
St. Winefride's Church, 187 Crowmere Rd, Shrewsbury SY2 5LA.**

**Note: Adoration and Benediction on Tuesdays and Thursdays start at 5.30pm before the 6.30pm Mass.**

St. Winefride's Presbytery, Mynd Close, Shrewsbury SY2 5RA  
Rev. Canon Michael Wiener, Prior of the House of Saint Chad  
email: [canon.wiener@institute-christ-king.org](mailto:canon.wiener@institute-christ-king.org) telephone: **07311 44 33 23**

