



OUR LADY AND ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Serving Romiley, Bredbury, and Woodley

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PARISH PRIEST: Canon Michael Gannon VG

31st JANUARY 2021 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DAY OF PRAYER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL On this day of prayer for racial justice let us remember all who are the victims of racism and pray for the recognition of all people as created equal in the image and likeness of God and therefore deserving of respect. Events in the fairly recent past have led to a much deeper awareness of the sin of racism and the need to do more to ensure that it is eradicated. We can all play our part in this and there is more information about this below.

On Tuesday we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord; this lovely feast recalls how the child Jesus was presented to God by his parents Mary & Joseph in the Temple in Jerusalem. It's a reminder to us of the importance of making a place for God in family life as well as praying for families especially those families that are really struggling due to the challenges in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. We ask the intercession of St Joseph for families in this year dedicated to him.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS – Sunday 31st January 2021 - Sunday 7th February 2021

Sunday	Evening Mass of following Sunday (Saturday) 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	Michael Wilson RIP Moira & Wilf Duddy RIP Catherine Bocking RIP
Monday	Ferial	9.30am	People of the Parish
Tuesday	The Presentation of the Lord Funeral Service	12.15pm 7.30pm	Bryan Mullinder RIP Barrie Carroll RIP
Wednesday	St Werburgh, V	9.30am	Birthday Mass (Mark)
Thursday	Ferial	9.30am	Sick person
Friday	St Agatha, V, M Requiem Mass	12.00pm 1.15pm	Pat Jackson Diana Aldred RIP
Saturday	St Paul Miki & Companions, Mm Evening Mass of following Sunday	9.30am 6.00pm	Bernard Marshall RIP All Healthcare Workers
Sunday	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am 11.00am	Melvin Fahy RIP People of the Parish

THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: Christine Beswick, Hillary Rustage, Kieran O'Brien, Debbie Sainsbury, Lionel & Jenny Rawlings, Matthew Norman, Jadar Jones, Michael Christie, Sonia Faure, Wilfred Hartley, Mandy Keane, Joyce Osbourne, Michael O'Sullivan, Bob Parker, Katelyn Reilly, Margaret Smith, Amy Harris, Elizabeth Brown, Bridget Robertson, Valerie Gahan, Marina Hernandez. Joshua Goddard, Eamon Curran, Pat Duggan, Ruth Grace Crosby, Mary Ready, Avril McCormack, Howard Moore, Eileen Bush, Ann Standing, Pat Stewart, Sheila Murphy, Kath Longden, Michael Sainsbury, Kathleen Zwierink, Moira McNeill, John Bardsley, Tricia Burke. We commend them to the prayers of Our Lady & St Christopher.

RECENTLY DECEASED Please pray for Denis Francis Mather who died recently. May he rest in peace. Please also pray for his family at this sad time.

LIVE STREAM Masses and other services may be viewed by clicking on the 'Live Stream' button on the home page of our Parish Website, or directly through <http://www.churchservices.tv/romiley>

SUNDAY & WEEKDAY MASS READINGS You can find the readings at:

www.universalis.com/20200802/masshtm The Prayer of the Church (Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Night prayer, etc.) is also on the website. Readings for Sunday 31st January: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 10; 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35; Mark 1: 21-28.

CONFESSION - RECONCILIATION Fr Michael is available to hear Confessions – please get in touch to arrange a suitable time to visit.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY This year's Racial Justice Sunday is more important than ever. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the powerful message on fraternity and equality by Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* speak of the need to actively oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. Please go to www.cbcew.org.uk for more information and to see a reflection on this theme from a parish in London.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL There will be a retiring collection at the Masses next weekend to support the work of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. SPUC is currently campaigning to stop home abortions, which gives women abortion pills to take at home without medical supervision. This is one of the most dangerous threats to unborn children and their mothers in decades. Donations can also be made online at www.spuc.org.uk/donate

ASK YOUR MP TO SIGN AN EARLY DAY MOTION calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP, and ask them to sign this motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool. This tool can be accessed by visiting the link below:

www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY MASS for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes will be live streamed on church services tv, <https://www.churchservices.tv/svdpknutsford> from St Vincent de Paul, Knutsford at 9.30am on 11th February 2021. A recording will be available to watch on the church services TV website. We will then be hosting a zoom social gathering that evening at 8pm, if you would like details to join in please email secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk or text/call 07451 249267.

PRAYER COURSE – you are most welcome Our first session was on Wednesday 20th at 7.30 but we are happy for you to come along and be part of the course when you can – make sure we know you want to join us - you can't get into the Zoom session unless we let you in! **Please contact Judith and Tony 0161 465 1368, judithone2@gmail.com**

The sessions are available for you to take part in from home, **on Zoom, every Wednesday evening between 20 January and 3 March, at 7.30 and last around an hour.**

The sessions include videos and small discussion groups on topics including why and when you pray, different ways of praying, unanswered prayer and help for personal prayer. Please pass on this open invitation to anyone you think might be interested. We are very happy to welcome anyone regardless of faith background, home location or any other factors. **And finally to all parishioners - we need your support in prayer** throughout January and February that for all of us, course organisers and participants, it may be a blessed and transforming experience.

ONLINE GIVING TO THE PARISH For those Parishioners who normally give in the collection (Planned Giving envelopes & cash) at Mass and wish to help the Parish at this time, an online donation page to allow you to donate to the Parish has been added to the Parish website. Please go to: **www.ourladyandstchristophersromiley.org.uk** to see the link.

PARISH FINANCE Last week's collection £354; Retired Priests' Fund £182.57 to date; CAFOD £18. Thank you for your generosity.

FOOD BANK Due to the high level of donations over the Christmas period the Food Bank has run out of storage space and there will be no further collections in church until the weekend of 7th/8th February. Accordingly, the church will not be open today (Sunday) or on Monday to receive donations of food, toiletries, etc. Cash donations posted through the presbytery door will be kept safe and handed over in due course. Thank you again for your tremendous support for the Food Bank over the years and especially during the pandemic which I am sure is greatly appreciated by those who use the Food Bank.

JOB VACANCY Sacred Heart Fathers (Stockport) Housekeeper required at St John's, 266 Wellington Road North, Stockport, SK4 2QR. "We are looking for a Housekeeper to provide a high standard of care and maintenance, ensuring the involvement of the members of the Religious Community at all times. Duties will include shopping for the Religious Community, cooking, cleaning and hospitality". For further information and application details please go to St John Of God Hospitaller Society at <https://isw.changeworknow.co.uk/sjog/vms/e/careers/candidates/applications>

MARRIAGE CARE If you are going through difficulties in your relationship, Stockport Marriage Care can offer a confidential counselling service. Marriage Care is still here for you and is at the end of the phone if you need help. You can contact them on 0800 3893801.

Celebration of Mass – guidance for parishioners

Please follow this simple guidance to ensure we are all kept safe:

1. Please do not come to church if you feel unwell in any way or you have a temperature.
2. In line with Government guidance a face covering must be worn at all times inside the Church building.
3. We are using 1m+ guidance in church. This means that you can expect to be seated at least 1m away from someone who is not in your family or household “bubble”. We will maintain 2m distance between rows of seats.
4. As we may still need to limit the number of people in the church at any one time, please take advice from the steward at the door as to whether you can enter. It may be necessary to queue for a short time
5. Use the hand sanitiser at the front door as you enter church
6. A steward will direct you to a seat.
7. The wooden benches can now be used for 2 people from the same household at each end (with a minimum of 1m in between), or 3 people at one end and 1 person at the other (with a minimum of 1m in between) or for more than 3 people from the same household alone.
8. At each seat you will find a card, please fill in your name(s) and a contact number if possible. Only 1 card need be completed per household group. **Please bring your own pen.** This is to comply with the Government’s “Track and Trace” initiative to stop the spread of infection. The cards will be stored in church and discarded after 14 days. The details will only be shared if we are notified that someone who attended church has tested positive for the virus.
9. Mass will last around 35 minutes and you will be able to receive Holy Communion in your hands. Father will say “The Body of Christ” once to the whole congregation from the altar, and the congregation will respond with “Amen” before distribution of Holy Communion begins. There will not be any need for the Priest or recipient to speak as they receive the Host.
10. Stewards will direct people forward to receive Holy Communion.
11. If you wish to light a candle before or after Mass please use one of the candles placed in the holder for you and light it from the already lit candle.
12. On leaving the church please take all of your belongings and any papers you have used with you.
13. Please leave church via the side door where hand sanitiser is also available.



Data Protection Privacy Notice The parish of Our Lady & St Christopher sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed & stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary & used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish & for legitimate reasons such as admin. & religious purposes. Read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

Our Lady and St Christopher’s Church is a parish of the RC Diocese of Shrewsbury, which is a registered charity No 234025