



## OUR LADY AND ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

***Serving Romiley, Bredbury, and Woodley***

52 Barrack Hill, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire. SK6 3BA

Tel: 0161-430 2704

[www.ourladyandstchristophersromiley.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstchristophersromiley.org.uk)

e-mail: [stchris52@gmail.com](mailto:stchris52@gmail.com)

PARISH PRIEST: Canon Michael Gannon VG

### 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL** We are now in the season of Lent which began on Ash Wednesday when ninety people received the ashes at two Masses in church on that day. Lent is a short season in the Church's year when we focus on the renewal our lives as we look forward to Holy Week and Easter and the celebration of the victory of Christ over sin and death. Through the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving may we grow deeper in our relationship with Christ and become more intent on following him. This Sunday's Gospel which highlights Christ's struggle in the desert should inspire us in our own daily struggles to be faithful to doing God's amid the trials and temptations of daily life.

Finally, a reminder that you can join in the Stations of the Cross via the parish live stream service on the Fridays and Sundays of Lent – please see further details below.

### MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS – *Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021*

Sunday	<b>Evening Mass of following Sunday (Saturday)</b> <b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b> <b>3.00pm</b>	Eileen Murphy RIP People of the Parish Nick Donovan RIP
	Stations of the Cross (live stream only)		
Monday	<b>The Chair of St Peter, Ap</b> <b>Funeral service</b>	9.30am <b>11.00pm</b>	John Turner Ints. Sheila Margaret Clapworthy
Tuesday	<b>St Polycarp, B, M</b>	7.30pm	Healthcare Workers
Wednesday	Ferial	9.30am	Alan Henderson RIP
Thursday	Ferial	9.30am	Eileen Wallace RIP
Friday	Ferial – <b>Family Fast Day</b> Stations of the Cross (live stream only)	12.00pm <b>7.00pm</b>	Kay Monaghan RIP
Saturday	Ferial <b>Evening Mass of following Sunday</b>	9.30am <b>6.00pm</b>	The Holy Souls People of the Parish
Sunday	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b> <b>3.00pm</b>	Anthony Idehen RIP Eileen Owen RIP
	Stations of the Cross (live stream only)		

**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.

**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](http://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 21<sup>st</sup> February: Genesis 9: 8-15; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 12-15.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT** Kevin Hogan will lead the Stations on the Fridays of Lent at 7.00pm and Fr Michael will lead them on the Sundays of Lent at 3.00pm. You are welcome to join in this traditional Catholic devotion during the Lenten season via the live stream.

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

**ATTENTION ALL GIFT AID DONORS** The tax year 2020/'21 will be coming to an end on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and the parish will then undertake the process of claiming back the Gift Aid refunds on donations made in the tax year. If your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay income tax (or if for any other reason you do not wish to remain in the Gift Aid scheme) please let Fr Michael know or contact Dominic Berry (0161 494 1174) by 5<sup>th</sup> April, otherwise it will be assumed you have paid sufficient income tax for the parish to reclaim Gift Aid on donations made in the tax year.

**CAFOD-Take the 'Walk for Water' challenge** Thanks to all those who have already got involved in the CAFOD challenge. If you haven't already done so, it's not too late to take part. You can still join us by simply emailing your total daily/weekly steps to [stchristophersw4w@gmail.com](mailto:stchristophersw4w@gmail.com) and sharing our Just Giving page. You can donate on our Just Giving page <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/our-lady-and-st-christophers-walk-for-water>

For further details contact the above email or call Kevin Hogan on 07762 091388.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY Friday 26 Feb – Everyone needs clean water** Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Please Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and other vital support. **Donate online at [Cafod.org.uk/give](http://Cafod.org.uk/give)** or by using one of the **envelopes in church or Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10\***. \*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD'S work and fundraising via telephone or SMS. To donate £10 without marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460.

**THE LADIES GUILD** meeting on Thursday 25th February at 7.30pm will be a Presentation and news on the work of Missio by Theresa Codd, Regional Community Fundraiser (North). Parish Promoters, Red Box holders and direct debit supporters will be most welcome to this Zoom meeting. Please contact Margaret Hughes 406 0833.

**MISSIO** There will be Lenten Reflections, beginning 19th February, each Friday in Lent at 10.30am on YouTube. Each time of prayer and reflection will last about 20mins, with the Mill Hill Missionaries and other speakers from the Missio family. Please join us on the Missio YouTube channel.

**THE PRAYER COURSE** As the course approaches its conclusion; the team would like to thank everyone who has prayed for us and the success of the course throughout the last 5 weeks. It has been a very positive experience and brought blessings to all involved.

**YOUNG CARITAS - Ella, age 10, writes ...**

Following a Zoom meeting this week, Young Caritas members agreed to support the parish fundraising initiative for CAFOD. We invite parishioners to help us to take part in CAFOD's water droplet trail. We are trying to walk 10,000 steps per family, per day during Lent, and would like you to print off (or draw) your own water droplet to stick in your window, to encourage others to take part. We will count how many we see in the windows or count up the number of steps we can take between us. Some of us will set a small fundraising target and seek sponsorship. So please - put a droplet in your window and / or go on a walk around the parish and try to find as many water droplets as possible. #WalkForWater. Website link: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/School-fundraising/Water-Droplet-Trail>

National Lottery grant comes to an end. Young Caritas delivered the last of the shopping vouchers this week for families we have been able to support since August with the £10,000 awarded to us. We have completed the end of grant report to the funder and were delighted to tell them that we have been able to support around 40 families with in excess of 200 individuals with food shopping, supermarket vouchers, school uniform, school shoes, stationery supplies, digital support and 150 Christmas bags of children's gifts. Wow! Thank you for all of your prayers of support and personal donations that have made all of this possible.

**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](http://www.ourladyandstchristophersromiley.org.uk) to see the link.

**PARISH FINANCE** Last week's collection £449; CAFOD £13. Thank you for your generosity.

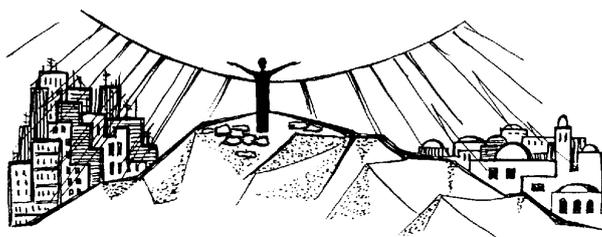
**FOOD BANK** Five crates and ten shopping bags of food, toiletries, etc. were delivered to St Mark's last week plus cash donations amounting to £90.00. (£50, £20, £10, £10). Thank you. The church will be open today (Sunday) and tomorrow between 2.00pm – 4.00pm to receive your donations. **There is currently a shortage of milk and orange juice.** Cash donations marked "Food Bank" may be posted through the presbytery letterbox.

**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. If you do not scan the QR code at the church entrance you will be given a card and asked to 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](http://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