



OUR LADY AND ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Serving Romiley, Bredbury, and Woodley

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PARISH PRIEST: Canon Michael Gannon VG

7th FEBRUARY 2021 – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL

On Thursday we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Lourdes, where Our Lady appeared to a poor, sickly child named Bernadette Soubirous in 1858, is a well-known place of pilgrimage at the foot of the Pyrenees in south west France. Millions of people including many sick pilgrims travel there on pilgrimage each year but of course this has now been severely impacted by the current health pandemic. However, we can still pray for the sick especially those affected by Covid-19. Let us pray therefore for all who are sick especially on the feastday itself which has been designated World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

It's also good to note that the rate of infection continues to decrease which is encouraging news and gives hope for the future whilst being mindful of the need to remain vigilant and observe all the measures that are in place to ensure everyone stays safe and well.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS – Sunday 7th February 2021 - Sunday 14th February 2021

Sunday	Evening Mass of following Sunday (Saturday) 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	All Healthcare Workers Melvin Fahy RIP People of the Parish
Monday	St Josephine Bakhita, V Day of Special Prayer for Victims of Trafficking	9.30am	Higgins RIP
Tuesday	Ferial	7.30pm	Bernard Marshall RIP
Wednesday	St Scholastica, V	9.30am	Gerda Carroll RIP
Thursday	Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of Prayer for the Sick	9.30am	David Howells RIP
Friday	Ferial	12.00pm	Fr Jack McLeish RIP
Saturday	Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday Evening Mass of following Sunday	9.30am 6.00pm	Eileen Wallace RIP Jim Ryan RIP
Sunday	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am 11.00am	Caroline Shaw 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 Sheila Margaret Clapworthy who died recently. May she rest in peace. Please also pray for her 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 7th February: Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23; Mark 1: 29-39.

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

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL There will be a retiring collection at the Masses this 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

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 £977.65; CAFOD £3.00. Thank you for your generosity.

FOOD BANK Collections of food, toiletries, etc. resume again from this weekend. The church will be open today (Sunday) and tomorrow between 2.00pm – 4.00pm to receive your donations. Financial contributions may be posted through the presbytery letterbox. Thank you.

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