



OUR LADY AND ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Serving Romiley, Bredbury, and Woodley

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PARISH PRIEST: Canon Michael Gannon VG

28TH MARCH 2021 – PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL Passion or Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week – sometimes referred to as the Great Week - during which we will celebrate the central mysteries of our faith. Unlike a year ago when the church was closed due to the national lockdown, this year it will be wonderful to welcome parishioners to the various Holy Week services. The Holy Thursday & Good Friday services are now fully booked; however all services will be live-streamed so those unable to be physically present in church can join in online.

The track & trace system that we use has been amended with effect from Monday for those who do not scan the QR code at the church entrance - please note point no. 8 on the back page.

May this Holy Week be for us and our parish a time of renewal and growth in faith, hope and love.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS – Sunday 28th March 2021 – Sunday 4th April 2021

Sunday	Evening Mass of following Sunday (Saturday) PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Stephen Stockton RIP Kathleen Lennon RIP
	Stations of the Cross (live stream only)	3.00pm	
Monday	Ferial Funeral Service	9.30am 12.00pm	Patrick Gannon RIP Margaret Amato RIP
Tuesday	Ferial	7.30pm	Jim McLoughlin RIP
Wednesday	Ferial Funeral Service	9.30am 1.30pm	Patrick Devlin RIP Sheila Skeer RIP
Thursday	HOLY THURSDAY Funeral Service Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	 12.00pm 7.00pm	 Ann Kelly RIP Melvin Fahy RIP
Friday	GOOD FRIDAY Day of Fasting & Abstinence	 3.00pm	 Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
Saturday	HOLY SATURDAY Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter	 8.00pm	 Alan James Hardy RIP
Sunday	EASTER SUNDAY	9.00am 11.00am	Fr Michael Murray RIP People of the Parish RIP

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 The Prayer of the Church (Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Night prayer, etc.) is also on the website. Readings for Sunday 28th March: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2: 6-11; Mark 14: 1-15: 47.

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

A BIG THANK YOU to the team of volunteers who turned up last week to clean and prepare the church for the Holy Week / Easter services. A splendid job!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2021 The Holy Thursday Mass and Good Friday service are now fully booked with a reserve list in case anyone is unable to attend. In this case, please let us know so that your place can be reallocated. There are still some places available for the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses. **Please telephone the parish office tomorrow (Monday) on 430 2704 between 10.00am – 12.00pm if you wish to book a place(s).** Identify how many people in your “bubble” will be attending together (total number including adults and children). Unless you are contacted with other information please attend the services you have booked – the stewards at each service will have a list of allocated seating and will direct you to your seats.

All previous COVID-safe guidelines for celebrating Mass as detailed on the back of the newsletter will remain in place over the Easter season.

THE CHRISM MASS will be live-streamed from Shrewsbury Cathedral on Wednesday at 3.00pm: www.shrewsburycathedral.org/live-stream-mass

HOLY THURSDAY VIRTUAL WATCHING This year watching at the Altar of Repose will not be possible in our parish churches due to Covid safety measures. However, there will be an opportunity following the Mass of the Lord's Supper to share in watching via the internet before the Tabernacle of Shrewsbury Cathedral from 8.30pm to 10.30pm on Holy Thursday night: www.shrewsburycathedral.org/live-stream-mass

COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND There will be the usual collection for the Holy Places on Good Friday. Bishop Mark has asked that we not forget the plight of the Christians in the Holy Land who have been even more isolated during the pandemic. Please see the letter and report on the parish website which details the numerous educational, health and pastoral initiatives which this annual collection makes possible: www.ourladyandstchristophersromiley.org.uk

BEREAVEMENT GROUP The next bereavement support group will take place from 1.00pm until 2.30pm on Thursday 1 April 2021. If you would like to join us for this virtual meeting then please contact Susan Carr on 07543 408551 or by email: susancarr10@hotmail.com to receive the link. Support with the technical aspects is also available if anyone is unsure of what is involved.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES It is difficult to distribute all the boxes this time. Therefore, boxes for each weekend Mass will be put on the table at the back of church prior to each Mass. Please collect your box. The new envelopes should be used from 11th April. Thank you.

ATTENTION ALL GIFT AID DONORS The tax year 2020/'21 will be coming to an end on 5th April 2021 and the parish will then claim 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 5th 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.

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 £761.70; CAFOD £20.50. Thank you for your generosity. The white envelope collection is next weekend. Thank you.

FOOD BANK Nine trays and nine shopping bags of food, toiletries, etc. were delivered to St Mark's last week plus cash donations amounting to £230 (£150, £20, £20, £10, £10, £10, £10). Thank you. As a result of your great generosity, we have good stocks of most food items. **As we have very limited storage space, we are struggling to store nappies, so would ask that such donations are discontinued for now. We are however short of washing powder (tablets), baby wipes and antibacterial kitchen/bathroom sprays.** The church will be open today (Sunday) and tomorrow between 2.00pm – 4.00pm to receive your donations. Cash donations marked "Food Bank" may be posted through the presbytery letterbox.

TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES READERS If you are unable to collect your paper at Mass you can now get it delivered direct to your home every week post free - just go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call us on (0161) 820 5722 and we will arrange delivery for you. Special offer 3 months - £25; special offer 12 months - £99; digital copy 12 months £55 or digital & hard copy 12 months £115. All papers are Covid safe and paced in a sterile environment.

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 directed to a steward and asked to fill in your name(s) and a contact number on a form at the back of church. Only 1 entry needs to be completed per household group. **Please bring your own pen if possible.** This is to comply with the Government’s “Track and Trace” initiative to stop the spread of infection. The lists 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