

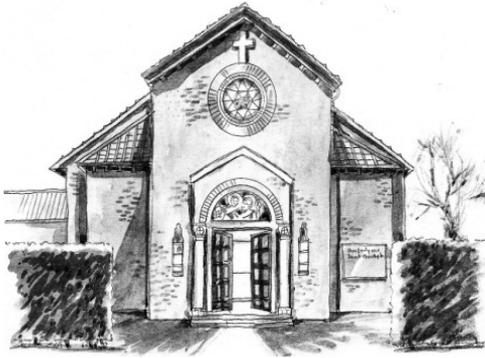
**OUR LADY AND ST. CHRISTOPHER'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Serving Romiley, Bredbury, and Woodley

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PARISH PRIEST: Canon Michael Gannon VG



19th DECEMBER 2021 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL

This Sunday marks the final week of the Advent season and in a few days' time we shall celebrate the joyful feast of Christmas. May the annual celebration of the Lord's Nativity remind us of the true meaning of Christmas and enable us to open our hearts to welcome the Prince of Peace. I hope that Christmas will be a blessed time for all families in our parish and an occasion for joyful celebration after the difficulties and challenges of the past year.

Let us not forget the sick, the lonely, the bereaved, the homeless or those who are troubled in any way over the Christmas season.

Alec Davey, the student on placement in the parish and I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS: *Sunday 19th December 2021 – Sunday 26th December 2021*

Sunday	Evening Mass of following Sunday THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	Dolores Smiley RIP Adele McCluskey RIP People of the Parish
Monday	Ferial	9.30am	Mary Ready RIP
Tuesday	Ferial	7.30pm	Louise Hopkinson RIP
Wednesday	Ferial	9.30am	Philip Smith RIP
Thursday	Ferial Requiem Mass (to be confirmed)	8.30am 10.00am	For the Sick & Dying Debbie Sainsbury RIP
Friday	CHRISTMAS EVE	6.00pm 9.00pm	James & Veronica Espley RIP Mary Thornley RIP
Saturday	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	9.00am 11.00am	Deceased of Nicholls Family People of the Parish
Sunday	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY & JOSEPH (BOXING DAY)	9.00am 11.00am	Frank & Dorothy Maher RIP Mary Keenan RIP

THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: Christine Beswick, Hillary Rustage, Kieran O'Brien, 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, Howard Moore, Eileen Bush, Ann Standing, Pat Stewart, Sheila Murphy, Kath Longden, Michael Sainsbury, Kathleen Zwierink, Moira McNeill, John Bardsley, Tricia Burke, Isaac Saed Iqbal, Simon Wright, Margaret Schofield, Margaret Wooliscroft, Winifred Corrigan, Mark Sorrell, Rory Ireland, Samuel Minnis. We commend them to the prayers of Our Lady & St Christopher.

RECENTLY DECEASED Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of Patricia (Pat) Frayne) and Patricia Whetham who died recently. May they rest in peace. Please also pray for their families at this sad time.

ANNIVERSARIES Please remember to pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Margaret Bennett, May McKeown, Elsie Laidlaw, Harry Leigh, Edith May Grieves, Annie Russon, Harry Wood, Eleanor Giles, Sheila Greenwood, James Castle, Mary Harrop, Philip Smith, Eileen Murphy, John Moloney, Mary Hinsley, Thomas Connolly, James Espley, Veronica Espley.

PARISH LIVE STREAM Please go to www.churchservices.tv/romiley

SUNDAY & WEEKDAY MASS READINGS www.universalis.com/20200802/masshtm Readings for the 4th Sunday of Advent: Micah 5: 1-4; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45.

TODAY WE WELCOME FR STEPHEN ROBERTS who will celebrate the 11.00 o'clock Mass. Stephen spent two periods in the parish on pastoral placement as part of his training for the priesthood and was one of three new priests ordained at St Anthony's, Wythenshawe, last July.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve 6.00pm & 9.00pm

Christmas Day 9.00am & 11.00am

Sunday (Boxing Day) 9.00am & 11.00am

Please note there will be no carol service before the 6.00pm & 9.00pm Christmas Eve Masses

WE WELCOME INTO THE FAMILY OF THE CHURCH Zachary Arthur Liston, Skye Alice Higgins Moon & Jax Michael Tinsley who were baptised recently.

PLEASE NOTE the change to the parish Mass time on Thursday which is now is at 8.30am.

DEBBIE SAINSBURY RIP The Requiem Mass for Debbie will take place on Thursday at 10.00am, (this date is still subject to confirmation). Her family have requested that for family health reasons and to ensure social distancing in church, only those who have been invited should attend the Mass. The Mass may be followed on the parish live stream by those not attending in person. They have also asked me to thank everyone for their prayers and messages of condolence and support received since Debbie's death and they ask for your continued prayers for the family at this time. *Thank you. Fr Michael*

COVID-19 NEW VARIANT In light of the new Omicron variant it is important that we do all we can to stay safe and help others feel comfortable in church by sanitising hands and wearing a face covering (unless medically exempt) as strongly recommended by the Catholic Bishops' Conference. Thank you.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturday 5.15pm – 5.45pm, Sunday 10.20am – 10.45am. Please allow one minute after the previous penitent has left before entering the confessional.

REFRESHMENTS in the St Christopher Centre after the 9.00am & 11.00am Masses today.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION Please see details of the procedure to be followed by all EMHC when assisting with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass which is displayed on the noticeboard in the small sacristy. Thank you.

PRAYER BOOKLETS & BOOK MARKERS FROM THE PRAYER TRUST You are welcome to take the latest booklets and book markers from the small baskets at the front and back of the church. They contain some lovely and meaningful prayers for Christmas and are free of charge.

COUNTERS Please collect your 2022 rotas from the small sacristy (in blue pockets). Thank you.

MEMORY TREE Hopefully we will be able to have our Christmas Memory Tree on show this year to remember those we love and the ones we have lost. The hearts are at the back of church you can take them home pop a photo or a message on them then return to the box on the table at the back of church. The Tree will be blessed on Christmas Eve. Donations will be for church funds.

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 Sunday's collection £629.86, CAFOD £98.00, green loose change boxes ££37.81. Thank you for your generosity.

FUNDRAISING GROUP The group met this week to discuss events for next year. These will include the 5 mile Sponsored Parish Walk on Saturday 14th May and a Family Treasure Trail around Bredbury and Romiley which will take place over the May half term holiday. We are also hoping to hold a Quiz Night in June and Last Night of the Proms with Marple Band in September as well as a (non fund-raising) celebration for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The 200 club will be inviting current and new members to join from February 2022. As a parish we still owe the Diocese just over £400,000 so every amount we raise goes some way to reducing this debt. Over the last 20 months just over £40,000 has been repaid from fundraising activities, rental income from 1 Old Bank Close, and other Parish income. Many thanks to all those who have supported fundraising activities in any way during the recent difficult period.

MANY THANKS to all who ordered and bought Tea Towels. £152 was raised for Mary's Meals. This will be matched by a generous supporter in Scotland. By providing a daily meal in a place of learning in the developing world, Mary's Meals meets the immediate needs of hungry children and encourages them to go to school to gain an education that can, in the future, help lead them out of poverty. THANKS AGAIN.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Many thanks to everyone who helped to bring happiness to 117 children in Eastern Europe by filling a box with lots of wonderful treasures for these poor children, some of whom are homeless. In addition, 260 warm beautiful hats were knitted as well as 76 scarves and 64 sets of mittens. Also, 9 bars of soap were donated. Many thanks to everyone who made a dream come true! *Karin Moore*

CAFOD URGENT APPEAL - Please continue to keep the people of Afghanistan in your prayers. In Afghanistan, more than 8 million people are on the brink of famine, and things are likely to get worse. Decades of conflict, recent droughts, coronavirus and now the extreme winter weather mean that Afghan families need urgent practical support – water, food, and shelter.

CAFOD is joining with the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to make sure they can reach people in urgent need. Whatever you can give will help us reach more families with the urgent assistance they need and deserve. **YOU CAN DONATE AT** <https://cafod.org.uk> Thank you.

FOOD BANK Thank you for your continued generous donations to the foodbank. Six crates and six large carrier bags of food and toiletries plus cash donations amounting to £135 (£35, £30, £25, £20, £20, £5) were delivered last Tuesday. The church will be open today (Sunday) and tomorrow (Monday) between 2.00pm – 4.00pm for your donations.

Cash donations marked “Food Bank” may be posted through the presbytery letterbox. Thank you.

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 389380.

JOB VACANCY St Christopher's Catholic Primary School is looking for an enthusiastic and energetic School Business Manager. An application form is available from the school office, Greater Jobs or on the school website. For further information or to send an application, please email headteacher@st-christophers.stockport.sch.uk Closing date 17th January 2022.



**FR MICHAEL WISHES PARISHIONERS
AND VISITORS TO THE PARISH A HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
& A BLESSED NEW YEAR**

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
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