



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

*Serving Romiley, Bredbury, and Woodley*

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PARISH PRIEST: Canon Michael Gannon VG  
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Humphrey Agbim  
Fr John Paul Raj MSSCC

### SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**MESSAGE FROM Fr Michael** In this Sunday's Gospel we meet John the Baptist who is one of the great Advent figures. As the forerunner of Christ, he reminds us of the need to prepare ourselves for his coming by the call to repentance, to conversion of heart. May we take his call to heart as we continue our Advent journey towards Christmas.

I am looking forward to welcoming people from the local parishes and many too, I hope, from our own parish to the day on prayer being held in the parish centre on Saturday. The day will be led by our Diocesan Team for Evangelisation & Mission and will focus on what the Church teaches about prayer as well as looking at different types of prayer. Please see further details below.

#### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Sunday	Evening Mass of following Sunday <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Brian & Barbara Marshall RIP People of the Parish Adele McCluskey RIP
Monday	Ferial	9.30am	Bernard Doyle RIP
Tuesday	Ferial	7.30pm	Patricia O'Neill RIP
Wednesday	<b>St Lucy, V, M</b>	9.30am	Ellen Dugdale & Mildred Coverley RIP
Thursday	<b>St John of the Cross, P, D</b> (Mass in St Christopher's Primary School) <b>Requiem Mass</b>	9.30am <b>12.30pm</b>	Anne Kelly RIP Valerie Maguire RIP
Friday	Ferial	8.15am 12.00pm	In Harrytown Catholic High School In Thanksgiving
Saturday	Ferial Evening Mass of following Sunday	9.30am <b>6.00pm</b>	Tom Ward RIP People of the Parish
Sunday	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Debbie Sainsbury RIP John & Josie Brennan & Family

**THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:** Christine Beswick, Kieran O'Brien, Lionel & Jenny Rawlings, Jadar Jones, Michael Christie, Mandy Keane, Joyce Osbourne, Michael O'Sullivan, Bob Parker, Katelyn Reilly, Margaret Smith, Amy Harris, Elizabeth Brown, Bridget Robertson, Valerie, Gahan, Marina Hernandez, Eamon Curran, Ruth Grace Crosby, Howard Moore, Pat Stewart, Sheila Murphy, Michael Sainsbury, Moira McNeill, John Bardsley, Isaac Saed Iqbal, Simon Wright, Margaret Wooliscroft, Rory Ireland, Helen Bridge, Patricia Godfrey, Karl Wood, Pat Owen, Kevin Bradley, Mary Sainsbury, Jeff Follows, Peter Stevens, Rita Stevens, Marian Burns, Margaret Maycock. We commend them to the prayers of Our Lady & St Christopher.

**ANNIVERSARIES** Please remember to pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Elsie Doherty, Frank Hughes, Felicia McDonnell, Clare Boyle, Ann Canning, Kathleen Holland, Bridget Cunningham, Patricia Frayne, Shiela Davies, Mary Brace, Michael Hearne, Rosemary Wood, James O'Donnell, Gabrielle Chapman, Glendora Martin, Mary Hayward, Eric Shashoura, Albert Worth, Elizabeth Harrison, Kathleen McNamee, John Harrison, Francis Brian Marshall, Margaret Gladwin, Elizabeth Pickford, Elizabeth Nolan.

**RECENTLY DECEASED** Please pray for Valerie Maguire and Jeff Follows who died recently. May they rest in peace. Please also pray for their families at this time.

**PARISH LIVE STREAM** Please go to [www.churchservices.tv/romiley](http://www.churchservices.tv/romiley)

**SUNDAY READINGS** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent B: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8. **Mass Preface** Advent 1, page 51, **Eucharistic Prayer 2**, page 24.

**CONTACTLESS TERMINAL** The terminal at the back of church can be used for credit and debit card donations to the parish. Thank you.

**PLEASE NOTE** that Mass on Thursday will be in St Christopher's Catholic Primary School at 9.30am.

**UPDATE – SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILIES** As many of you will remember 5 years ago our parish community decided to support a Refugee family who had been driven from their home by the scourge of war. Just over 12 months ago we did the same with a second family, in total supporting 9 people. I just wanted to give a brief update on the families' progress.

I am delighted to report that both families are well and are settled in their respective neighbourhoods. They are all very happy and extremely grateful for the support and kindness the parish has shown them. All the children are enjoying and doing well in school and in some cases better than their peers which is a testament to them given English is their second language. Two of the children attend Harrytown school and are taking full advantage of the opportunities they are being given. They have made friends with local children and enjoy spending time with each other. The mum and dad from the first family have both now passed their driving test and dad has a successful gardening business. The second family are working hard to improve their English and getting help from a small, dedicated team from the parish who are supplementing their formal English teaching. I am confident that the second family will also continue to thrive and prosper.

I attended a short meeting with representatives from the Home Office last week. They were highly complementary about our work with the families and believed our parish was a shining example of what Community Sponsorship and engagement is.

None of this would have been possible without the support and generosity of you, our parishioners. Although most of you will never have met the families, never doubt we could not have achieved this without your generosity. We are giving 9 people a new start in life, free from war and hatred and that is a great example of putting our faith into action. *Fr Michael*

**MEMORY TREE** We will 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 given to church funds.

**RETREAT DAY IN PARISH** The year 2025 is the next Jubilee Year in the Church. Pope Francis has asked the Church to prepare well. In order to help us do so, (beginning from Advent 2023), Pope Francis has called 2023/2024 "A Year of Prayer." In response, the Shrewsbury Diocese Team for Evangelisation and Mission will be running a **Retreat Day on Prayer** for our local parishes:

**Date: Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Time: 10.00am-3.00pm.**

**Place: Our Lady & St Christopher's, Parish Hall.** See the Flyers at the back of the Church.

All welcome. **Please bring a packed lunch.**

**STAMPS FOR THE RNIB** There is a box in the church porch for used stamps for the RNIB. Any used stamps you can donate to support the work of the RNIB (Royal National Institute of the Blind) will be gratefully received and appreciated. Thank you.

**2<sup>ND</sup> ROMILEY SCOUT GROUP OUR LADY & ST CHRISTOPHER'S** Our Scout Group urgently requires adults (18 plus) to join our volunteer Beaver Leadership Team. Our Beavers (aged 6 to 8) meet at our HQ, which is at the junction of Green Lane and Stockport Road, Romiley and the meetings are on a Monday starting at 18:30 and ending at 19:30. Having Scouting Leadership on a CV is a proven benefit on job and University applications. Expenses such as training, DBS, uniform are either covered by the Scout Group or by the Scout Association. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Tom Higgins (Group Scout Leader) on 07777664901 or by email on [tommy.higgins@btinternet.com](mailto:tommy.higgins@btinternet.com) Thank you, 2nd Romiley Scout Group.

**CONFIRMATION 2024** Young people in Years 9 & 10 who are eligible to be confirmed should let Fr Michael know of their interest as soon as possible. There will be a preparation programme starting in January for all who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The date of the Confirmation Mass has yet to be fixed.

**THE PIETY STALL** will be open the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December. Please come and have a browse – all welcome. Christmas & 2024 stock now in: diaries £3, church art calendars £1, boxed Christmas cards £4, packets of Christmas cards £1.50.

**EVERGREEN GROUP WEDNESDAYS 1.30pm – 3.30pm**

13th December      Christmas Party

**CAFOD – Please pray for peace and take action too.** We have all been shocked and saddened by the devastating conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. CAFOD and their local partners are actively responding and providing urgent humanitarian aid to those in need.

What can we do? We can email the Foreign Secretary to urge the UK to play its part in upholding international law, ensuring humanitarian aid can reach people in need, and work with other world leaders to secure a lasting peace for the region? <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/136932/action/1>

We can donate and help families who are losing their homes and loved ones and need urgent support. <https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help>

**We can pray:** <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayers-for-peace>

**CARITAS – CHILDREN'S BOXES** Many thanks to all who contributed to the Autumn Collection. £408 has just been sent to Caritas Shrewsbury. Next year there will be only one collection – probably around May or June. More details later. Thank you again.

**PARISH FINANCE** Last Sunday's collection £722.55; CAFOD £95.00; standing orders and faster payments for November £2,663, Contactless giving for November £460.16. Thank you for your generous support of the parish.

**FOOD BANK** Many thanks for the response to last week's request for foodbank donations: four crates and three carrier bags of donations plus cash amounting to £270 (£120, £100, £30, £10, £10) were delivered to St Mark's last Tuesday. The church is open on Sunday and Monday between 2.00pm - 4.00pm for donations. Cash donations marked "Food Bank" may be posted through the presbytery letterbox. **Christmas food gifts (but please none including alcohol) would be welcomed. Thank you for your continuing generous support for our local Food Bank.**

**HARRYTOWN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL** currently has vacancies for a Pastoral Manager and a Lay Chaplain. Please see the school website – [www.harrytownschool.org](http://www.harrytownschool.org) The closing date for both is Monday 11 December at 9am.

**MARRIAGE CARE** If you are going through difficulties in your relationship, Stockport Marriage Care can offer a confidential counselling service. You can contact them on 0800 3893801 or search [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk)



**THE ST CHRISTOPHER CENTRE** Booking enquiries please to Ruth Craven: Tel 07423 682266 or email [ruthcraven@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ruthcraven@hotmail.co.uk)

**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.