



**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 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2023  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES**

**MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL** Today is the First Sunday of Advent and marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. It is a time of joyful expectation as we prepare to celebrate Christ's First Coming at Christmas and look forward to his Second Coming again at the end of time. Today is also a day of special prayer for migrants and refugees. It is an opportunity for Catholics throughout the world to remember and pray for those who are displaced through war, poverty and persecution. We also remember today our two refugee families from Syria who feel very much at home in our community and who continue to be supported by a dedicated team of parish helpers.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Sunday	Evening Mass of following Sunday <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Margaret Hughes Ints. Eileen Murphy RIP James Quinn RIP
Monday	Ferial	9.30am	William Goldthorpe RIP
Tuesday	Ferial	7.30pm	Donor's Ints.
Wednesday	Ferial	9.30am	Louisa Dixon RIP
Thursday	<b>St Ambrose, B, D</b> <b>Mass in St Christopher's Primary School</b>	9.30am	Barney Kelly RIP
Friday	<b>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	8.15am 12.00pm	In Harrytown Catholic High School Winnie & Nev Partington RIP
Saturday	<b>Blessed Virgin Mary Saturday Memorial</b> Evening Mass of following Sunday	9.30am <b>6.00pm</b>	PJ Martin Brian & Barbara Marshall RIP
Sunday	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish Adele McCluskey RIP

**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: Ethel Bouch, John Tebb, Denis Meynell, Frederick Walker, Peter Oats, Francis Snutch, Winifred Scanlon, Debbie Sainsbury, John McMurdo, Mary Furness, Frank Hughes, Margaret O'Brien.

**RECENTLY DECEASED** Please pray for Valerie Maguire who died recently. May she rest in peace. Please also pray for Colin and all the family at this time.

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

**SUNDAY READINGS** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent B: Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 1, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13: 33-37. **Mass Preface** Advent 1, page 51, **Eucharistic Prayer 3**, page 28.

**CONTACTLESS TERMINAL** The terminal has now been relocated back to its original position at the back of church and is fully functioning for credit and debit card donations. Thank you.

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

**FR JOHN PAUL** has been asked by the Bishop to celebrate the Sunday morning Mass at St Winefride's, Lymm, until early in the New Year.

**THE LADIES GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be on Thursday December 7th at 7.30pm. The evening will start with a Hot Pot supper followed by Carols.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR** - Thank you. Our biggest Parish event, the Christmas Fair took place last weekend, and it was a fantastic social and fundraising occasion. It was extremely pleasing to see so many people attending, especially such a high number of children and families. Our specific stalls for children were very popular with the chocolate tombola and Father Christmas constantly busy!

A number of thank-you's to pass on ... To everyone who donated items and purchased/sold raffle tickets ... to those who helped in the planning and running of the fair, including all stall holders ... to those who gave up their time to help set up the centre beforehand and to clear up afterwards ... to the local businesses that donated prizes towards our raffle, and finally to each and every person that attended. A great time was had by all.

The final amount of money raised on the day was a staggering £5,202.92. Thank you again.

**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.

**A PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS** Tickets for the Marple Band and Varivocals Choir concert in church on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December are on sale after the Masses this weekend priced at £10 to include a glass of wine & a mince pie. Doors open at 6.45pm for 7.00pm start. Tickets will also be available on the night. Come and enjoy!

**MISSIO** The Mission Today Calendar 2024. Will the Promotors kindly collect these from the table at the back of church. Boxes to be emptied, if possible, for the Year End total. Grateful thanks to Parishioners for continued support, which enables communities to become more self-sufficient. Kathleen Walker 317 7785.

**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 weekends of 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 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**

6th December Clare Clayton - Let go and grow

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>

**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS** Catalogues are available to collect at the back and side of the church. Choosing gifts from the catalogue supports those living in poverty and injustice in different parts of our world.

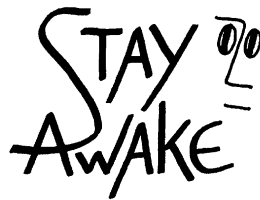
**CARITAS – CHILDREN'S BOXES** Many thanks to all who contributed to the Autumn Collection. £408 has just been sent to Caritas Shrewsbury. Next year there will be only one collection – probably around May or June. More details later. Thank you again.

**PARISH FINANCE** Last Sunday's collection £750.55, CAFOD £78.00. Thank you for your generous support of the parish.

**FOOD BANK** Many thanks for the response to last week's request for foodbank donations: there were three crates and four carrier bags of donations plus cash amounting to £230 (£120, £50, £30, £20, £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. **Donations of crisps, tinned carrots, sweetcorn & toilet rolls would be welcomed.** Thank you.

**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.