



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 21st JANUARY 2024 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL: Today is a day of Special Prayer for openness to God's Word. We listen to God's Word at Mass in order to learn how to walk in his ways and do his will. The Word of God provides a framework for Christian living and the more we listen and put it into practice the more Christlike we become. Let us pray that our hearts and minds may be open to hearing what the Lord is saying to us and ask for the help to respond accordingly.

I will be away from Monday – Friday this week on a post-Christmas break to see my mother and family in Ireland. I am grateful to Fr John Paul who will look after the parish in my absence.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 21st January 2024 – Sunday 28th January 2024

Sunday	Evening Mass of the following Sunday	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	Brigit Brennan RIP People of the Parish Helen Killick RIP
Monday	Ferial	9.30am	Cyril Nield RIP
Tuesday	Ferial	7.30pm	Jeff Follows RIP
Wednesday	St Francis De Sales, B, D	9.30am	Winefride Ryan RIP
Thursday	The Conversion of St Paul, Ap	9.30am	Kevin Slim RIP
Friday	Ss Timothy & Titus, B	12.00pm	Adele & Tony McCluskey RIP
Saturday	St Angela Merici, V Evening Mass of the following Sunday	9.30am	Deceased members of the Ward Family
		6.00pm	Robert Standing RIP
Sunday		9.00am	Brian Herod RIP
		11.00am	People of the Parish

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, Peter Stevens, Rita Stevens, Marian Burns, Margaret Maycock, Sr Margaret Mary Foley, Colette Lunt. We commend them to the prayers of Our Lady & St Christopher.

ANNIVERSARIES Please remember to pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Fr Terence Hillhouse, Gerard Grady, Diana Aldred, John Kearney John McAuley, Dorothy Turner, John Welsby, Olivia Ruiz, Kathleen Monaghan, Agnes Tipping, Christina McCumaskey, Rita Lyons, Kevin Slim, William Skeer, Joan Loftus, Dominic Jennison, Douglas Flood, Dorothy Lyons, Winifred Connolly, Gordon Holt, Norah O'Neill, Irene Quirke.

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

SUNDAY READINGS for 3rd Sunday B Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20. **Mass Preface 2**, page 54; **Eucharistic Prayer 3**, page 28.

WE WELCOME INTO THE FAMILY OF THE CHURCH Callum John Evans, Mireia Sofia Etheridge and Diego Aron Etheridge who were baptised recently.

RECENTLY DECEASED Please pray for Ellen Williams who died recently. May she rest in peace. Please also pay for her family at this time.

PLEASE NOTE there is no Mass at Harrytown Catholic High School on Friday this week.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND There will be a retiring collection at all the Masses next weekend for this fund which supports our retired clergy. It enables the diocese to provide them with accommodation and a pension. The retirement age for priests is 75 although we do have a number of priests over this age still working in parishes by a mutual agreement between the Bishop and the individual priest.

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

EVERGREEN GROUP Wednesdays in the St Christopher Centre from 1.30pm – 3.30pm.
24th January Sit down exercises

LADIES GUILD Beetle Drive on Thursday 25th January at 7.30pm All are welcome.

DIOCESAN YEARBOOK 2024 These are now available to purchase at the back of church priced at £5.00 each. Please put money in the newspaper wall box at the back. The Yearbook is full of information about our Diocese including clergy, parishes, organisations, reports, obituaries, statistical information, etc.

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.

CONFIRMATION 2024 The second meeting for the young people in Year's 9 &10 will commence in the St Christopher Centre on Wednesday 17th January from 4.00pm – 5.30pm. The Confirmation Mass will be celebrated by the Bishop on Tuesday 5th March at 7.00pm.

DIOCESAN CHOIR FESTIVAL – ‘Sing a New Song’ You are invited to come along and sing as part of a diocesan choir. Learn music throughout the day and lead the singing for Mass at 5pm. We will learn Schutz: Praise to you Lord Jesus, Schubert: Mass in G and more, on Saturday 24 February, 10.30am-4.30pm with Mass beginning at 5pm. At St Anthony’s, Dunkery Road, Woodhouse Park, Wythenshawe, M22 0WR. Refreshments and registration from 10.30am, rehearsals begin at 11am. Tea and coffee will be provided, please bring a packed lunch. The cost is £5 per person, payable on the day. Book by completing the form at [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/DIOCESANCHOIRFESTIVAL](http://tinyurl.com/diocesanchoirfestival) The deadline for bookings is Friday 16 February. For more information contact reception@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Please see the poster available on the parish website.

VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR WOMEN (20s & 30s) Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life. Dates: 16-18 February 2024. Location: Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

PARISH FINANCE Last Sunday’s collection £646.99; CAFOD £40.00; Mission appeal £1,116.27.

You may be interested to know the amount of offertory and other donations to the parish during 2023 through the Digital Collection Plate (Contactless) at the back of church came to £7,189.00. Other information:

Number of Donations: 639

Percentage Gift Aided: 65%

Increase from 2022: £1,906.00.

I am very grateful for the generous support through this and all the other ways parishioners support parish finances such as the planned giving scheme, faster payments, standing orders, loose plate collections and various fundraising initiatives. Thank you. *Fr Michael*

FOOD BANK Many thanks for the continuing generous response to the request for foodbank donations: 5 crates of general groceries, 2x6-packs of milk and 2 carrier bags plus cash donations amounting to £190 (£120, £30, £20, £10, £10) were delivered to St Mark’s last Tuesday. The church is open on Sunday & Monday from 2.00pm – 4.00pm for donations. Cash donations marked “Food Bank” may be posted through the presbytery letterbox. **Donations of tinned tomatoes and toilet paper would be welcomed.** Thank you.

LOURDES BY JUMBULANCE There are two pilgrimages to Lourdes by Jumbulance in 2024 from Shrewsbury departing from Wirral and Chester. A Jumbulance is literally a Jumbo-Ambulance. It has seven beds on board, spacious seating, an accessible toilet and kitchen. We can take very sick or disabled pilgrims including those needing palliative care including cancer, MND, MS, stroke, etc. We stay in a four-star hotel with excellent facilities to care for them and recruit a team of nurses and helpers to do so. The experience for younger helpers is good for the CV, especially those considering a career in health or social care. We all do a DBS. Everyone must be COVID vaccinated.

The dates are Thu 30th May to Sat 8th June and Thu 15th to Sat 24th August.

The cost is £1,095 and, as a charity, we are all asked to pay. However, nurses and young helpers under 25 in FTE, pay half. We do fund raising to help support those who cannot afford the full amount. Visit our website and read Bev's story. www.across.org.uk/?s=AJ

For further information contact Tony Murphy on 07881-656-974 or tonymurphy2002@yahoo.co.uk

FOOTSTEPS BEGINS ON Thursday 8 February The 2024 programme of informal talks starts in the **parish centre of St Peter's, Green Lane, Hazel Grove SK7 4EA on Thursday, 8 February at 7.30pm** and we're delighted to welcome again **James Gallogly**, the Managing Chaplain at HM Prison Manchester. His topic will be: **Looking for light and faith inside prison**. Do come and hear him share some insight into the nature of his work and how he walks alongside the men in prison.

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

JOB VACANCY Loreto Sixth Form Catholic College is seeking to appoint a full-time teacher of Core Religious Education. Core RE has centrally planned resources and is not an examined subject. Therefore, there are no formal assessments and no significant marking commitments. As a Core RE teacher, your unique role will be to develop students spiritually, ethically and theologically. Please go to the Loreto Website vacancies page <https://www.loreto.ac.uk/vacancies/>



THE ST CHRISTOPHER CENTRE Booking enquiries please to Ruth Craven: Tel 07423 682266 or email 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
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