



**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 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**

**MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL:** Today is Racial Justice Sunday and the theme is "Seeing one another in the life of the Church. We are all children of God regardless of our race and background. We are asked to pray the prayer in the newsletter below and also to do all we can to promote racial justice in our lives.

On Friday we celebrate the Feast of Candlemas or the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. It reminds us that Jesus was presented in the temple in Jerusalem forty days after his birth and that he is the light of the world. Let us pray for the strength to walk in the light of Christ throughout this year.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Sunday	Evening Mass of the following Sunday	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Robert Standing RIP Brian Herod RIP People of the Parish
Monday	Ferial	9.30am	For Successful Operation & Good Health
Tuesday	Ferial	7.30pm	Michael Wilson RIP
Wednesday	<b>St John Bosco, P, R</b>	9.30am	Elizabeth Kavanagh -Birthday Wishes
Thursday	Ferial	9.30am	Cyril Nield RIP
Friday	<b>The Presentation of the Lord</b>	8.15am 12.00pm	Mass In Harrytown Catholic HS Bill Yates RIP
Saturday	<b>St Werburgh, V</b> Evening Mass of the following Sunday	9.30am <b>6.00pm</b>	Patrick & Evelyn Ward RIP Catherine Ruth Frost RIP
Sunday		<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	People of the Parish Pat Owen 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, Kevin Bradley, Mary Sainsbury, 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: Derek Saxelby, Teresa Oldham, Wilfred Duddy, David Latham, Maureen Bettoni, Bernard Shallow, Eileen Jordan, Edward Russell, Michael Wilson, Jeanette Taylorson, Frances Molesdale, Wendy Cullenaine, David McCluskey, John O'Brien, Albert Edwards.

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

**SUNDAY READINGS** for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday B Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28. **Mass Preface** 3, page 55; **Eucharistic Prayer** 2, page 24.

**WE WELCOME INTO THE FAMILY OF THE CHURCH** Hannah Lorraine Barrett who was baptised recently.

**RECENTLY DECEASED** Please pray for Peter Stevens who died recently. May he rest in peace. Please also pray for his family at this time.

#### **PRAYER FOR RACAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**

God of light and truth,  
you call all men and women to live lives of holiness and justice.  
Help us to see in one another: a heart which is tender, a mind which is humble  
and a care for our brothers and sisters;  
so that together we may build up the Body of Christ as a sign of hope and mercy for all.  
We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord.  
*Amen.*

**PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND** There will be a retiring collection at all the Masses today 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.

31st January      Father John Paul will give us a 'Reflection on his Life'  
7th February      Quiz afternoon  
14th February    'Valentines' with Anne Marie

**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 next meeting for the young people in Year's 9 &10 will be in the St Christopher Centre on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January from 4.00pm – 5.30pm. The Confirmation Mass will be celebrated by the Bishop on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm.

**PARISH MEMORIAL BOOK** From 1994 -1999 Fr John MacLeish was our Parish Priest. In his time here his Mother visited him and asked, "Why have you no way of remembering deceased members of the Parish?" Members of the Parish had been asking the same question, and so the idea was born. As a result, the books you now see at the back of church were created and a cabinet was made to hold them..... and we had our Book of Remembrance. From the beginning it was welcomed and needed. And continues to be so. It means a great deal to many parishioners and is kept up to date by parishioners.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)

**PARISH FINANCE** Last Sunday's collection £693.60; CAFOD £40.00. Thank you for your generosity.

**FOOD BANK** Many thanks for the continuing generous response to the request for foodbank donations: four crates of groceries and toilet rolls were delivered to St Mark's last Tuesday. The cash donations received will be published in the following week's newsletter. 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 packets of crisps and bars of soap would be welcomed.** Thank you.

**WALK 200KM IN 40 DAYS TO HELP FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY** Challenge yourself and take on **CAFOD's Big Lent Walk!** Walk when and where you choose over 40 days – Lent starts on February 14<sup>th</sup> - alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. Your sponsorship can and will change lives. Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

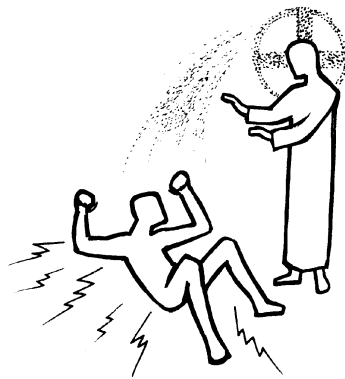
This year CAFOD's Lent Appeal is helping fishing communities feed their families in Liberia and CAFOD and SCIAF have a shared project in Ethiopia, working together to respond to the devastating food crisis there after years of drought caused by climate change.

Find out more - sign up today! Go to <https://walk.cafod.org.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](http://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](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)  
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