



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 18th FEBRUARY 2024 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL: We have now begun our journey through Lent, a period of 40 days during which the Lord calls us to turn to him again and be renewed in our relationship with him and with others. The three traditional disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Our faithfulness to these will help prepare us for Holy Week and Easter.

Just a reminder that we have the Stations of the Cross in church on the Sunday afternoons of Lent at 3.00pm and the Stations are also livestreamed directly from the church on the Fridays of Lent at 7.00pm. We also have the Friday Lenten soup lunches in the parish centre following the 12.00pm Mass with the proceeds this year going to support the work of CAFOD.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 18th February 2024 – Sunday 25th February 2024

Sunday	Evening Mass of the following Sunday (Saturday) 1st Sunday of Lent	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Moira Smith RIP Nick Donovan RIP
	Stations of the Cross	3.00pm	
Monday	Ferial Requiem Mass	9.30am 11.00am	Colette Lunt RIP Robert Parker RIP
Tuesday	Ferial	7.30pm	Michael Campbell RIP
Wednesday	Ferial Requiem Mass	9.30am 11.30am	Barney Kelly RIP Colette Lunt RIP
Thursday	The Chair of St Peter, Ap	9.30am	Jean Grieves RIP
Friday	St Polycarp, B, M Family Fast Day Stations of the Cross via Live Stream	8.15am 12.00pm 7.00pm	In Harrytown Catholic HS Alberto Marucelli RIP
Saturday	Ferial Evening Mass of the following Sunday (Saturday)	9.30am 6.00pm	A. P. Thirkettle Norah McHugh RIP
Sunday	2nd Sunday of Lent	9.00am 11.00am	Samuel Minnis RIP People of the Parish
	Stations of the Cross	3.00pm	

THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: Christine Beswick, Kieran O'Brien, Lionel & Jenny Rawlings, Jadar Jones, Michael Christie, Mandy Keane, Joyce Osbourne, Michael O'Sullivan, 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, Graham Seymour, Carol Seymour, Peter Taylor. We commend them to the prayers of Our Lady & St Christopher.

ANNIVERSARIES Please remember to pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Eileen Kelly, William Roe, Lilian Worth, Vinnie Farrell, Little Joe Trought, George Bagshaw, Gerald Hearne, Walter Tompson, Victor Legierski, Kay Bruce.

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

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

SUNDAY READINGS for the 1st Sunday of Lent: Genesis 9: 8-15; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 12-15. **Mass Preface** Lent 1, page 56; **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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT in church today (Sunday) at 3.00pm and live streamed on Friday at 7.00pm. Please go to: www.churchservices.tv/romiley

LENTEN SOUP LUNCH in the St Christopher Centre following the 12.00pm Mass on Friday with the proceeds going to support the work of CAFOD. There will also be a cake stall.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION MEETING in the St Christopher Centre on Wednesday 21st February from 4.00pm – 5.30pm.

FIRST SACRAMENTS 2024 The first meeting for parents and guardians of the children eligible to receive First Sacraments this year will be held in the St Christopher Centre on Wednesday 21st February from 7.00pm – 8.15pm. Parents and guardians should make every effort to attend.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Service at Our Lady and St Christopher's on Friday 1st March at 2.30pm. All welcome.

EVERGREEN GROUP Wednesdays in the St Christopher Centre from 1.30pm – 3.30pm.

21st February	Film 'Aerial View over Greater Manchester'
28th February	Board Games
6th March	Talk by Brendan from 'The Wellspring'
13th March	Sit down exercises
20th March	'Spring' Anne from Pic a lily

UPHOLDING LIFE Support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks (see Harry & Harley born at 22 weeks and 5 days on the postcard at the back of church) are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Collect a postcard from the back of church and post it to your MP in support of this amendment. Our local MP is Mr Wiliam Wragg. Thank you.

THREE DAYS OF HEALING 4th – 6th March, at St Joseph's, Tatton St., Stockport, SK1 1EJ. Talks, Mass, Confession – please take a leaflet from the back of church for more information. Registration essential.

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 21st February from 4.00pm – 5.30pm. The Confirmation Mass will be celebrated by the Bishop on Tuesday 5th March at 7.00pm.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2024 Brochures and booking forms are now available on the pilgrimage website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk or by ringing 07773 324264, or if you are aged 16 – 22 please email youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org for an application form to join the youth section of our pilgrimage. This year our pilgrimage dates are: by air is from Friday 26 July to Thursday 1 August, by coach Thursday 25 July to Friday 2 August and for our young people Wednesday 24 July to Friday 2 August. If you are a first-time pilgrim or a returning pilgrim, we look forward to you joining us in Lourdes this year.

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.

PARISH FINANCE Last Sunday's collection £714,70; CAFOD £20.00. Thank you for your generosity.

FOOD BANK Many thanks for the continuing generous response to the request for foodbank donations: four green crates of general groceries and three full carrier bags of tinned foodstuffs were delivered to St Mark's last Tuesday plus cash donations amounting to £160 (£120, £30, £10). 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 fruit would be welcomed.**

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – LENT APPEAL This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at www.cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

ST PETER'S PARISH HAZEL GROVE there will be a day with **David Wells** on **Saturday 2 March in the parish centre from 9.30am to 4pm**. You are invited to come along and hear this brilliant speaker, who has decided to base the day on the theme of **Pilgrims of hope – How to live our faith in a perplexed and broken world**. He is a delightful, engaging and entertaining speaker of international acclaim. Find out more here: <https://davidwellslive.com> Do come and share the day – and bring a packed lunch.

HARRYTOWN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STAFF VACANCIES Please visit the school website (www.harrytownschool.org) to see the current job vacancies. We are currently advertising for a Deputy Head, a Learning Mentor and an Art & Design Technology Technician.

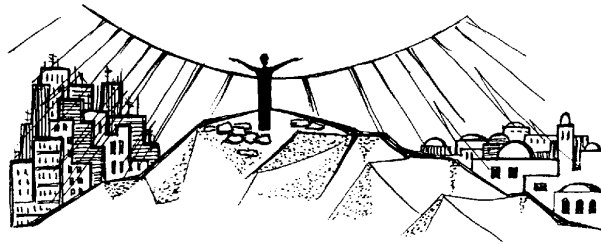
ST PHILIP'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL is looking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Headteacher from September 2024. More information can be found on the following websites:

Greater Jobs: <https://www.greater.jobs>

TES: <https://www.tes.com/jobs/>

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Secretary at the parish of St Vincent's, Altrincham, working as a Job Share with the current Parish Secretary. Flexible working hours: approximately 12 hours per week over 3 days (Monday-Friday) 9am-1pm (days and times may vary). Hourly rate: £14.50. Please see the Diocesan Website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Applications in the form of a CV and covering letter should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date:** Friday 1st March 2024.

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



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
Our Lady and St Christopher's Church is a parish of the RC Diocese of Shrewsbury, which is a registered charity - No 234025.