



## 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> March 2024 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – LAETARE SUNDAY

**MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL** The fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare Sunday. We are halfway through Lent and Easter is drawing near, and this Sunday is our foretaste of Easter joy. The emphasis today is more on the joy that is to come rather than austerity in Lent.

This Sunday Fr Humphrey celebrates Mass in Whaley Bridge while I will celebrate the Masses in Wilmslow and Fr John Paul will celebrate the parish Masses. On Wednesday he leaves us to take up a new appointment in Shropshire looking after the parishes of St Mary's, Shifnal and St Joseph's Albrighton. I wish to thank him for his support in the parish here over the last six months and I'm sure the prayers and good wishes of us all go with him as he takes up his new appointment.

#### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Sunday	Evening Mass of the following Sunday (Saturday) <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> <b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b> <b>3.00pm</b>	Liberato Raccio RIP People of the Parish Neville Schofield RIP
	Stations of the Cross		
Monday	Ferial <b>Requiem Mass</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Maria O'Brien RIP
Tuesday	Ferial	7.30pm	Edward Maycock RIP
Wednesday	Ferial	9.30am	Russell Lawrance RIP
Thursday	Ferial	9.30am	Elsie McHugh RIP
Friday	Ferial	8.15am 12.00pm <b>7.00pm</b>	In Harrytown Catholic HS Brian Rogers RIP
	Stations of the Cross via Live Stream		
Saturday	Ferial Evening Mass of the following Sunday (Saturday)	9.30am <b>6.00pm</b>	Tom Ward RIP Anne Dowling RIP
Sunday	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>9.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b> <b>3.00pm</b>	People of the Parish William Goldthorpe RIP
	Stations of the Cross		

**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, Margaret Maycock, Sr Margaret Mary Foley, Colette Lunt, Graham Seymour, Carol Seymour, Peter Taylor, James Smart. We commend them to the prayers of Our Lady & St Christopher.

**ANNIVERSARIES** Eileen Mitten, Edward Maycock, Robert McDowell, Kathleen Thompson, Tony Simms, Sarah Nolan, Elsie McHugh, Annie Holden, Catherine Hearne, Celia McGlone, Brian Rogers, Raymond Quinn, James Cahalan, Phyllis Burns, Lynne Maguire, Elsie Edwards, Delia Cooke, Maureen Mather.

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

**SUNDAY READINGS** for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent: 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2: 4-10; John 3: 14-21. **Mass Preface** 4 of Lent, page 57, **Eucharistic Prayer** 3, page 28.

**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](http://www.churchservices.tv/romiley)

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' ROTAS** for the 11.00am Sunday Mass are available to collect from the rack in the small sacristy. Thank you.

**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.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the 12 young parishioners who were confirmed by the Bishop at the Confirmation Mass in the parish last Tuesday. Let us keep them in our prayers that they may have the courage through the gifts of the Holy Spirit to witness to their faith.

**ATTENTION ALL GIFT AID DONORS** The tax year 2023/24 will be coming to an end on 5th April and the Parish will then undertake the process of claiming back the Gift Aid refunds on donations made in the tax year. If your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay income tax (or if for any other reason you do not wish to remain in the Gift Aid Scheme) please let Father Michael know or contact Dominic Berry (0161 494 1174) by 5th April, otherwise it will be assumed you have paid sufficient income tax for the Parish to reclaim Gift Aid on donations made in the tax year. Thank you.

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

13th March Sit down exercises  
20th March 'Spring' Anne from Pic a lily

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** Donations of wool will be much appreciated by our hat knitters. They can be placed in the wool box at the back of church. Thank you. Karin Moore

**FURTHER THREAT TO THE UNBORN OF ABORTION UP TO BIRTH** In the next couple of weeks an attempt is to be made to widely decriminalise abortion up to the birth. This is a further assault on the sanctity of human life in our society. This extreme amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill is being made by Diana Johnson MP and parliamentarians will be under pressure to support the amendment on grounds of compassion for mothers who seek to abort their unborn child beyond the legal limits. The effect would be to withdraw legal protection from the unborn. It is important to make our voice heard in support of the unborn child. Please contact your Member of Parliament to ask that they oppose the decriminalization of abortion up to birth - Mr William Wragg, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. The *Right to Life* website has details under 'Take Action' which enables you to find and contact your MP directly and the website of the *Society for the Protection of Unborn Children* has helpful information under 'Resources.' The *Right to Life* website also has details of an alternative amendment by Caroline Ansell MP to reduce the legal limit for abortion from 24 to 22 weeks on the basis of the increased survival rates for babies being born at 22 and 23 weeks. We cannot doubt the impact which your e-mail or letter will have in making known opposition to decriminalizing abortion up to birth and in support of the value of every human life.

<https://righttolife.org.uk/littlefighters>

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/>

**MISSION – TO ALL BOXHOLDERS** Promoters will shortly be delivering the Mission Today Spring Issue and inside is a new label for your Red Box, which gives the opportunity to scan and donate if you wish. Grateful thanks for all support. Kathleen Walker.

**THANK YOU** to parishioners who attended the Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March which was very successful. It was good to be united with the members of other local Christian churches in prayer for the suffering people of Palestine. The collection raised £324.89 for charity.

**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.

**PARISH FINANCE** Last Sunday's collection £809.50, CAFOD £61.90. Standing orders & faster payments for February £2,643.00, contactless payments for February £578.11. Thank you for your great generosity.

**FOOD BANK** Many thanks for the continuing generous response to the request for foodbank donations: 5 crates and 1 carrier bag of donations were delivered to St Mark's last Tuesday plus cash donations amounting to £180 (£120, £30, £20, £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. **Tins of sweetcorn and tomatoes and packets of biscuits would be welcomed.**

**FOOTSTEPS** Our programme of relaxed and inspiring talks continues with an event on **Thursday, 21 March at 7.30pm in the parish centre of St Peter's, Green Lane, Hazel Grove SK7 4EA.** Fr Chris Thomas from the Irenaeus Centre in Liverpool will look at the Book of Jonah and share his thoughts and his humour with us. Do come and join us in our café-style setting.

#### **JOB VACANCIES**

**ST CHAD'S, CHEADLE** A vacancy has arisen for a **Housekeeper/Cook for 8 hours per week @ £12.50 per hour** at St Chad's, Stockport. Letter of application and CV should be sent to Victoria Holmes [stchadsheadle@gmail.com](mailto:stchadsheadle@gmail.com) **Closing date 20 March 2024.** Further details can be found via the Diocesan Website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>

**DIOCESE OF LANCASTER** Castlerigg Manor (Diocese of Lancaster Retreat Centre) are looking for a Programme Leader to join their youth ministry team. The work involves working on retreats in the heart of the Lake District, and occasionally working on outreach visits around the area. The post is residential and comes with a salary package in the range of £26-28k, made up of paid salary, accommodation, food etc. Would suit somebody with youth ministry experience perhaps recently graduated. Interested? – [jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk)

**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)  
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