



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

SUNDAY 17th March 2024 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL On Tuesday we celebrate a rare solemn feast in Lent – it is the solemn feast of St Joseph. He was the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus and provided, love, protection and guidance for him in his earthly life. St Joseph is also honoured as patron saint of the Universal Church. No word of his is recorded in scripture yet he is a wonderful example of unwavering faith, humility and devotion. We ask his protection for the Church and families especially amid all the pressures on family life today.

It would be helpful and much appreciated if the sign-up sheets at the back of church for the Holy Week readings and the washing of the feet could be completed as soon as possible. Thank you.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 17th March 2024 – Sunday 24th March 2024

Sunday	Evening Mass of the following Sunday (Saturday) 5th Sunday of Lent	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	Anne Dowling RIP People of the Parish William Goldthorpe RIP
	Stations of the Cross	3.00pm	
Monday	Ferial	9.30am	James Cunningham RIP
Tuesday	St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary	7.30pm	David Roche RIP
Wednesday	Ferial	9.30am	Thomas Hetherington RIP
Thursday	Ferial	9.30am	Lynne Maguire RIP
Friday	Ferial	8.15am 12.00pm	In Harrytown Catholic HS Peter Stevens RIP
	Stations of the Cross via Live Stream	7.00pm	
Saturday	Ferial	9.30am	Personal Intention
	Evening Mass of the following Sunday (Saturday)	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord	9.00am 11.00am	Kathleen Lennon RIP In Thanksgiving
	Stations of the Cross	3.00pm	

THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: Christine Beswick, Kieran O'Brien, Lionel & Jenny Rawlings, Jaar 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 Colicroot, 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 Anne Burgess, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Kathleen McGrath, Ann Standing, Elsie Dean, Mary Littler, Mary Bradley, Alice Cavey, Joseph Bowers, Marjorie Webb, John Singleton, Francis Oakley, Barbara Bach.

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

SUNDAY READINGS for the 5th Sunday of Lent: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-30. **Mass Preface** 3 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

LADIES GUILD meeting on Thursday March 21st at 7.30pm. All are welcome

EASTER READERS & MAUNDY THURSDAY FEET WASHING VOLUNTEERS!

There are sheets at the back of church for volunteers to sign up for...

Easter Triduum Readers (covering Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Holy Saturday only).

For Easter Sunday (31st March), the 9am & 11am Mass readers - as per your usual reading rotas.

12 people representing the 12 apostles allowing Fr Michael to wash your feet in front of the altar.

Please try to complete the sheets as soon as possible. Thank you.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP The next meeting will be in the St Christopher Centre on Thursday 21 March from 10:00am until 11.30am. The group is for anyone who has experienced a bereavement and is an opportunity to share your feelings, however if you don't want to chat you are welcome to come along just for the tea and coffee! This is not a counselling service but is a space to get support from others who have experienced bereavement. For more information, please contact Susan Carr on 07543 408551.

LOOSE CHANGE BOXES As you will already know, the parish received a legacy which has cleared the parish debt therefore, we will no longer be collecting the Loose Change Boxes. However, there will be one last chance to return your boxes during the weekend of 6/7 April. Thank you for supporting the parish and helping to pay off the debt through this scheme over the last number of years.

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.

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.

20th March 'Spring' Anne from Pic a lily

PIETY STALL We now have packets of Easter cards for £3 and a selection of cards and gifts for First Holy Communion. Please come and have a browse. The piety stall will next be open the weekend of 23 and 24 March 2024.

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

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 £725.30, CAFOD £110.00. 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: four and a half crates of food donations were delivered to St Mark's last Tuesday plus cash donations amounting to £150 (£120, £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. **Donations of tinned rice pudding and sweetcorn as well as 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.

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
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