



## OUR LADY AND ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Serving Romiley, Bredbury, and Woodley*

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PARISH PRIEST: Canon Michael Gannon VG  
ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr Humphrey Agbim

### SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

#### MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL

Palm (Passion) Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and the celebration of the central mysteries of our faith, namely the death and resurrection of Christ. I encourage parishioners to participate in the various Holy Week ceremonies and to be united spiritually with the suffering, death and Resurrection of Our Lord. There is the opportunity to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday evening between 7.00pm – 8.00pm as a good means to prepare ourselves by seeking the mercy and forgiveness of the Lord in this wonderful sacrament that he has given to his Church.

#### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Sunday	Evening Mass of the following Sunday (Saturday)	<b>6.00pm</b>	People of the Parish
	<b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Kathleen Lennon RIP
	<i>(Palms will be blessed at all Masses)</i>	<b>11.00am</b>	In Thanksgiving
	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	
Monday	of Holy Week Sacrament of Reconciliation	9.30am <b>7.00-8.00pm</b>	David Marsland RIP
Tuesday	of Holy Week Passion Play performed by the children of St Christopher's Catholic Primary School	9.30pm <b>7.00pm</b>	David Roche RIP
Wednesday	of Holy Week	9.30am	Molly Carney RIP
Thursday	<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Watching at the Altar of Repose until 10.00pm	<b>7.00pm</b>	Brian Herod RIP
Friday	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Morning Prayer/Outdoor Stations
	THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION	<b>3.00pm</b>	Liturgy of the Passion
Saturday	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Office of Readings
	EASTER VIGIL & FIRST MASS OF EASTER	<b>8.00pm</b>	Jim McLoughlin RIP
Sunday	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	People of the Parish
		<b>11.00am</b>	Norah & Denis O'Neill

**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, Graham Seymour, Carol Seymour, Peter Taylor, James Smart. We commend them to the prayers of Our Lady & St Christopher.

**ANNIVERSARIES** Joan Cooper, Eduarda Assabay Sancrabay, Winifred Thomas, Emma Gilleney, Jack Burke, Ernest Chappelow, Christina Storan, Mary Collinge, Francis Maher, Colin Sinclair, Jessie Norman, Gerard Hickey, Kathleen Tracey, Thomas Ball, Christina Kennelly, Dr Anne Clarke, Alice Bradshaw, Jean Hattie, Nora Taylor, Elizabeth Campbell, Kathleen Lennon, James McLoughlin.

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

**SUNDAY READINGS** for the Palm Sunday: Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2: 6-7; Mark 14: 1-15: 47. **Mass Preface:** page 59; **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.

**PLEASE NOTE** that Mass on Tuesday is at 9.30am as the children from St Christophers RC Primary School will be performing the Passion Play in church at 7.00pm.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT** in church today (Sunday) at 3.00pm.

**THE CHRISM MASS** at which the oils used in the celebration of the sacraments throughout the year are blessed, and priests renew their priestly promises, will be celebrated at St Michael & All Angels Church, Woodchurch, Birkenhead, CH49 5LE, on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm. The Mass will be live streamed at <https://www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch>

## HOLY WEEK

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** You are welcome to join us in church for the Stations of the Cross this Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm. There will be outdoor Stations of the Cross as an act of Christian witness around the Harrytown and Bredbury Green area on Good Friday following Morning Prayer in church at 9.30am.

**RECONCILIATION IN HOLY WEEK** There will be the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 7.00pm – 8.00pm. Quiet music will be played during this time to aid reflection and prayer.

**THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY** There will be the option to either simply touch the figure of Jesus with your hand or genuflect before it. Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence – please see below. The retiring collection at the Good Friday service will be for the support of Christians and the Christian shrines in the Holy Land.

## 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 (31<sup>st</sup> 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.

**GOOD FRIDAY FASTING & ABSTINENCE** Those over the age of eighteen are bound by the law of fasting (reducing the amount of food) until the beginning of their sixtieth year, while all over the age of fourteen are bound by the law of abstinence (refraining from meat). The obligation arises in imitation of Christ himself and in response to his call. During his life on earth Our Lord undertook voluntary penance. He invited his followers to do the same. The penance he invited would be a participation in his own suffering, an expression of inner conversion and a form of reparation for sin. It would be a personal sacrifice made out of love for God and our neighbour. There are two days of fasting and abstinence in the Church's year: Ash Wednesday & Good Friday.

**ROTAS FOR SATURDAY 6.00PM MASS** The new rotas for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers are available from the rack in the small Sacristy. Thank you.

**HOLY WEEK/EASTER POSTERS** Please take a poster from the back of church and display it in a window at home to remind passers-by of the significance of the season. Thank you.

**DIOCESAN MASS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE** Parishioners who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year and would like to attend the annual Marriage Mass on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> at Saint Columba's Church, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, CH2 1SA at 12 noon, should let Fr Michael have their names and contact details as soon as possible so they can receive a personal invitation from the Bishop. Thank you.

**200 CLUB** The new year for the 200 Club starts in April and the first draw will take place the weekend of 27th April. If you'd like to renew your number(s) or join for the first time, please could you fill in a form from the back of church and return it in an envelope to the presbytery with a cheque or cash for £12 per number for 12 months. Please mark the envelope 200 Club. The more numbers we sell, the bigger the prize pot!!

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

**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.

**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 be open this weekend after all the Masses.

**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 £711.49, CAFOD £55.00. Thank you for your generosity.

**FOOD BANK** Many thanks for the continuing generous response to the request for foodbank donations: 4 crates, mainly tinned foods, groceries, 2 large carrier bags of tins of groceries and 1 large carrier bag of biscuits packets were delivered to St Mark's last Tuesday plus cash donations amounting to £170 (£100, £30, £20 £20). 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 biscuits and tinned fruit and puddings would be welcomed.**

**JOB VACANCIES** St Philip's Catholic Primary School is looking to appoint a highly motivated and inspirational Deputy Headteacher from September 2024. More information can be found at: <https://www.stphilipsstockport.co.uk/page/vacancies/144123>

A vacancy has arisen for a **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 27 March 2024**. Further details can be found via the Diocesan Website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>

**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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