



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

Serving Romiley, Bredbury, and Woodley

**52 Barrack Hill, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire. SK6 3BA
Tel: 0161-430 2704**

**www.ourladyandstchristophersromiley.org.uk
e-mail:stchris52@gmail.com**

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

**SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2025
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL Today we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day, when Jesus was presented in the Temple in Jerusalem by his parents. Because the feast falls on a Sunday this year, it replaces the normal Sunday Mass. The feast reminds us that Jesus was welcomed as the light and salvation of all peoples by Simeon and Anna. Candles are blessed on this feast day for this reason. Like Simeon and Anna, may we also welcome Jesus as the light of our lives and seek to follow him more wholeheartedly.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 2nd February 2025 - Sunday 9th February 2025

Sunday	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Saturday)	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Karl Wood RIP Dave Chorlton & Family
Monday	St Werburgh, V Adoration & Morning Prayer	8.30am 9.30am	Tess Smith RIP
Tuesday	Ferial Adoration	6.30pm 7.30pm	The Holy Souls
Wednesday	St Agatha, V, M Adoration & Morning Prayer	8.30am 9.30am	Desmond, Maureen & Laura Lambe RIP
Thursday	St Paul Miki & Companions, Mm	9.30am	Jean Grieves RIP
Friday	Ferial	8.15am 12.00pm	Mass in Harrytown Catholic HS Peter Mount RIP
Saturday	St Josephine Bakhita, V	9.30am	Birthday Mass for Geraldine Inman
	Evening Mass of following Sunday (Saturday)	6.00pm	Richard Mitchell RIP
Sunday	5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00am 11.00am	Ronald Swainbank RIP People of the Parish

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

THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: Kieran O'Brien, Lionel & Jenny Rawlings, Jaar Jones, Michael Christie, Mandy Keane, Joyce Osbourne, Michael O'Sullivan, Katelyn Reilly, Amy Harris, Elizabeth Brown, Bridget Robertson, Valerie, Gahan, Marina Hernandez, Eamon Curran, Howard Moore,, Sheila Murphy, Michael Sainsbury, Moira McNeill, John Bardsley, Isaac Saed Iqbal, Simon Wright, Margaret Colicroot, Rory Ireland, Helen Bridge, Patricia Godfrey, Kevin Bradley, Mary Sainsbury, Rita Stevens, Margaret Maycock, Sr Margaret Mary Foley, James Smart, Nathalie Whitehead, Florrie Robison, Margaret Wooliscroft, Joan Marshall, Glenis Keenan, Michael Walsh, Kathleen Holland, Carole Roe. We commend them to the prayers of Our Lady & St Christopher.

ANNIVERSARIES John O'Brien, Albert Edwards, Kathleen McSweeney, Florence Sherwood, Gertrude Pope, Doreen Moran, Ray Nelson, George Colley, Neil Elsworth, Veronica Rose, Anthony Monk, Bryan Pennington, Ellen Dugdale, Alfred Davies, Ronald Swainbank.

Sunday Readings for the Presentation of the Lord C: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40. **Mass Preface:** Presentation of the Lord, page 76 **Eucharistic Prayer:** 3, page 28.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND COLLECTION at all the Masses this weekend. The funds collected assist in providing accommodation and support for retired priests in our Shrewsbury Diocese. There are currently over 30 retired priests in our Diocese, many of whom continue to assist by celebrating Mass during times of sickness and holidays.

FIRST SACRAMENTS 2025 The parents of children in non-Catholic schools who are eligible to make their First Holy Communion later this year are asked to contact Fr Michael with names and contact details so they can be invited to a series of meetings to prepare them for these sacraments.

EVERGREEN GROUP – WEDNESDAYS 1.30pm - 3.30pm

5th February Film 'Manchester through the Ages'

12th February Virtual Tour Round Romiley

19th February Sit down exercises

200 CLUB WINNERS Congratulations to Christine Hodson, Angela McLoughlin, Margret Howarth & Owen McNeill. Please collect your envelopes from the small sacristy. Thank you.

A POLITE REQUEST We are without a sacristan at present, so it would be a tremendous help if, at the end of the Sunday Masses, parish Mass books could be returned and stacked neatly in the book racks at the front and back of the church, hymn books neatly arranged at the end of the benches, and newsletters either taken home with you or returned to the table at the back of the church. Thank you.

MISSIO ANNUAL RETURN 2024 I am delighted to say that the sum of £3,154.08 was raised in the parish last year to support the work of MISSIO. A copy of the annual return is posted at the back of church. I wish to thank Kathleen Walker for all her work as Promoter over the last number of years which has involved emptying the Red Boxes, banking the money, doing the annual return and also distributing the quarterly magazine.

I am grateful to John & Barbara Edwards for generously agreeing to take over this role from Kathleen and to wish them well in it. Missio is the Pope's charity for World Mission and supports many charitable projects with the poorest people throughout the world. Last year £4.1m was raised for this work in England & Wales. My thanks also to the parishioners who support the worthwhile work of MISSIO through their regular donations. *Fr Michael*

ALL MISSION RED BOX HOLDERS Could you please bring your boxes to the church for the weekend Masses of Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th February. Please leave them on the table at the back of church. They will be emptied and ready to collect again the following weekend 15th & 16th February. Thank you. *John & Barbara Edwards.*

LADIES' GUILD meeting on Thursday February 6th. It is 'Movie Night.' Ladies, please note the doors are open from 6.45pm and the film will start at 7pm prompt.

THE LADIES' GUILD is an integral part of the parish community and has been for many years. **President:** Susan Latham, **Secretary:** Tonia Williams, **Treasurer:** Barbara Edwards. There are 26 members at present We meet fortnightly on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm in the St Christopher Centre. We have a cup of tea or coffee with cake or biscuits. We provide friendship especially to anyone living alone. During the year we have a number of guest speakers on various topics, films, games, discussions, and demonstrations. We also have meals and trips out.

Some of the ladies are involved with the cleaning of the church and all the ladies play an important part in the Xmas Fair and the Lenten Soup Fridays.

The group has been part of the parish for many years and to preserve it for the future it is important that we encourage new members to join, in order that the good work the existing members have achieved over the years can continue. There is no age limit to become a member.

Anyone interested in finding out more please contact Mrs Tonia Williams (secretary) on 07768 921136. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING The upcoming cleaning dates are as follows: 12th February, 12th March, and 16th April. A small, dedicated team of cleaners does a great job; however, additional assistance is always appreciated. Please consider joining the team. And it's only once a month!

LOURDES ROADSHOW In this Jubilee Year of 2025, Bishop Mark has asked that our diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes be our Jubilee Pilgrimage. To help raise the profile of the pilgrimage and to answer any questions you might have, we have organised a roadshow for those who are interested in joining our annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes on 15th February, 2pm-4pm at St Anthony's, Wythenshawe. Information and register of interest cards will be available, and members of the Lourdes Management Team will be present to answer any questions.

JOIN RADIO MARIA ON THURSDAY 6TH FEBRUARY AT 10.00AM for a special radio broadcast. Guest speaker Simon John will share insights into the inspiring life of St. Josephine Bakhita and the realities of slavery during her time. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about her journey of faith and perseverance. You can listen live via DAB+, online at www.RadioMariaEngland.uk, or through the Radio Maria England app.

PARISH FINANCE Last Sunday's collection £642.90, CAFOD £15.00. Thank you for your generous support of the parish.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS Four crates of groceries were delivered to St Mark's last week plus cash donations for two weeks amounting to £300 (£120, £30, £30, £30, £20, £20, £10, £10, £10, £10, £10). Your generosity is much appreciated. 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.

STAMPS FOR THE RNIB There is a box in the church porch for used stamps for the RNIB.

FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING...!

The first event in the Footsteps programme of inspiring talks this year will be on **Thursday 13 February at 7.30pm** in the **parish centre of St Peter's, Green Lane, Hazel Grove SK7 4EA** when **Will Wilson** will be coming to share with us **"Life lessons from the Book of Ruth."** Will is a Methodist lay preacher and a retired teacher in special needs education. He will be asking - and answering! - what encouragement for our walk through life can be derived from the characters in the Book of Ruth? And how does our own life story reflect the biblical truths referred to there? We'd love to welcome you again to our informal, café-style setting; there's a large free car park, good disabled access, loop system, drinks and nibbles and no charge.

JOB VACANCY An exciting opportunity has arisen within the Diocese with the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team. Further details can be found on the Diocesan website [Latest Vacancies - Diocese](#) Completed applications to be sent to Pauline McCulloch at recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org. Closing date 21 February 2025.

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 & St Christopher's is a parish of the RC Diocese of Shrewsbury, which is a registered charity – No. 234025.