

**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 2nd MARCH 2025
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL

Ash Wednesday this week marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent as we look forward to celebrating the central mysteries of our faith during Holy Week and Easter. Ashes will be blessed and imposed at both Masses on Ash Wednesday. There will also be the Stations of the Cross in church on Sundays at 3.00pm and online on Fridays at 7.00pm. Please go to:

www.churchservices.tv/romiley May this Lenten season be a time of renewal and growth in the spiritual life for us as we journey together as a faith community towards Easter.

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

Sunday	8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Saturday)	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Frances Molesdale RIP Eileen Kelly RIP
Monday	Ferial Adoration & Morning Prayer	8.30am 9.30am	PJ Jackson - sick
Tuesday	Ferial Adoration	6.30pm 7.30pm	George Carr RIP
Wednesday	Ash Wednesday - Day of Fasting & Abstinence Adoration & Morning Prayer	8.30am 9.30am 7.00pm	Jean Grieves RIP The Holy Souls
Thursday	Ss Perpetua & Felicity, Mm Women's World Day of Prayer	9.30am	In Thanksgiving
Friday	Ferial Stations of the Cross (online)	8.15am 12.00pm 7.00pm	Mass in Harrytown Catholic HS Saunders' Family Ints.
Saturday	St John of God, R Evening Mass of following Sunday (Saturday)	9.30am 6.00pm	Louise Hopkinson RIP Russell Lawrence RIP
Sunday	1ST SUNDAY OF LENT Stations of the Cross	9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	Robet Mazzitelli 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, Helen Ibbotson. We commend them to the prayers of Our Lady & St Christopher.

ANNIVERSARIES John Kelly, Austin Cartwright, Louis Gaskell, Jerzy Zylko, Anita Savage, Ann Cody, Edward Hopkins, Richard Sutcliffe, Susan Valentine, Kevin Frayne, Charles Fleetwood, Charles Kearney, Lucy Eyles, Mary Swift, Bernice Newsam, Harriet Powell.

Sunday Readings for the Eighth Sunday C: Sirach 24:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; 6:39-45. **Mass Preface:** Sunday 5, page 69; **Eucharistic Prayer:** 3, page 28.

THE LADIES' GUILD meeting is on Thursday 6th March at 7.30pm. Our guest speaker is Kathryn Keenan (Participation Co-ordinator for CAFOD for Shrewsbury Diocese). All welcome.

FIRST SACRAMENTS 2025 PARENTS' MEETING in the St Christopher Centre on Wednesday 12th March from 7.00pm 8.15pm. The parents of the children at St Christopher's Catholic Primary School and at other schools are strongly encouraged to attend the meeting.

EVERGREEN GROUP – WEDNESDAYS 1.30pm - 3.30pm

- 5th March** A talk by Ben Alexander from Stockport Hydro
- 12th March** 'My Vocation Story' by Deacon Adam
- 19th March** Paper Gift Boxes with Anne Marie
- 26th March** Board games/bowls

ATTENTION ALL GIFT AID DONORS The tax year 2024/25 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 (07768 527735) 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.

MISSIO Would all MISSIO Red Box holders please collect their MISSIO magazine from the back of the church this weekend. *Thank you. J & B Edwards.*

BISHOP MARK'S VIDEO ON FAITH IN THE JUBILEE YEAR is available to view at:

<https://thecatholicerald.com/bishop-of-shrewsbury-makes-video-appeal-for-faith-in-jubilee-year/> The video was filmed in Shrewsbury Cathedral. It is also available to view on the parish website.

MANY THANKS to all who helped at or donated to the sale of the wooden animals after Mass last weekend. The sum of £500 was raised and this will be sent to St Ann's Hospice this coming week.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO SHREWSBURY CATHEDRAL FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR

Book the date in your diary: On **Saturday 5th April**, we are marking the Jubilee Year with a pilgrimage to the historic market town of Shrewsbury to visit our Cathedral, and for those who wish, to gain the plenary indulgence at Pope Francis' behest, according to the usual conditions. **All are invited**; those with families, young and old, bring a friend, tell your neighbours – all those under 18 **must** be accompanied by an adult. **The itinerary**: Mass at 12:15pm followed by lunch in the Orchard Café about 1pm. At 2pm there will be a 40 min tour of the Cathedral and at 3pm there will be a liturgy specifically dedicated for us pilgrims. Prior to Mass there will be the opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession from 11am in the Cathedral.

The transport will be of **two** kinds: by **train** or by your own **car**. For those coming **by train** from Stockport. Parking can be found at the NCP next to the station (Exchange Station, 11 Railway Road, **SK1 3SW**) We will convene at platform one at 9:30am and leave Stockport at 9:40am, arriving in Shrewsbury for 10:46am followed by a short 15 min walk to the Orchard Café for a pit stop before Mass. For those coming **by car**, the journey from the church is one hour and fifty minutes. Parking can be found at St Julian Friars (SY1 1XL) the ticket machine takes card payments. From the car park there is a short 5 min walk up Town Walls to the Cathedral Café to meet the group. **Think about car sharing too.**

Mass - Please let us know if you need a low gluten host. (The Mass does **not** fulfil the Sunday obligation. Mass will be as usual on Sunday morning at 9am, [10am Whaley Bridge], and 11am.)

Cost - The price of a train ticket is around £31.30 [without a railcard] and price of lunch (TBC).

**** If you are going, please make sure to put your name, telephone number, mode of transport and whether you will be having lunch in the cathedral café (£13 pp), on the list at the back of the church. Thank you.**

LOURDES DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE Bookings for the 2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage to Lourdes are now open: by air from Friday 25 July to Thursday 31 July 2025 and by coach from Thursday 24 July to Friday 01 August 2025 The brochure and booking forms are available to download from the Pilgrimage website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk Fr Michael & Deacon Adam will be going.

LENTEN SOUP LUNCH on Friday after the 12 o'clock Mass. There will also be an opportunity to purchase cakes and 'good as new' fancy goods. All proceeds in aid of CAFOD.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at Romiley Methodist Church, Stockport Road, on Friday 7th March at 2.00pm. All welcome. Please see poster in the porch.

MISSIO The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th – 18th March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. This is a novena (nine) of Masses and prayers to support the work of MISSIO and for the intentions of all those who support the work. The Masses are at 10.00am every day (11.00am on Sunday) and are available to follow on Zoom, via the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena

CHURCH CLEANING The next cleaning dates are on 12th March, and 16th April. Please volunteer to help if you can. Thank you.

PARISH FINANCE Last Sunday's collection £695.60, CAFOD £10.00. Thank you for your generous support of the parish.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS Three green crates of groceries and one heavy shopping bag of biscuit bars were delivered to St Mark's last week plus cash donations amounting to £220 (£120, £30, £20, £20, £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. **Donations of tinned carrots, sweetcorn and rice crispies would be welcomed. Thank you.**

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

JOB VACANCY - REFUGEE PROJECT COORDINATOR Do you want to:

- Oversee a creative programme of activities across Manchester hotels for people seeking asylum?
- Support people to campaign about asylum system injustices?
- Work within a committed team who will support you all the way?

Apply to be Caritas Shrewsbury's new Refugee Project Coordinator:

<https://caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/news/job-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



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.