

**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 1st MARCH 2026
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL On Tuesday we welcome Bishop Mark to the parish to celebrate the Confirmation Mass, during which 23 young people and 2 adults will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. I am happy to say that this is the largest number of candidates to receive the sacrament since I became parish priest over 13 years ago.

Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation through which we are strengthened in the faith that our parents and godparents professed on our behalf at our Baptism. Through receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation we are enabled to witness to Christ more fully in our daily lives.

Please keep the candidates in your prayers as they prepare for Tuesday.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 1st March 2026 – Sunday 8th March 2026

Sunday	Evening Mass of following Sunday (Saturday)	6.00pm	George Nagle RIP
	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00am	People of the Parish
		11.00am	Louise Hopkinson RIP
	Stations of the Cross	3.00pm	
Monday	Ferial		
	Adoration and Morning Prayer	8.30am 9.30am	Welfare of MJ
Tuesday	Ferial	9.30am	Special Intention
	Confirmation Mass	7.00pm	Confirmation candidates
Wednesday	Ferial		
	Adoration & Morning Prayer	8.30am 9.30am	Nicola Fallon Ints.
Thursday	Ferial	9.30am	Concetta La Bella RIP
Friday	Feria	8.15am 12.00pm	Mass in Harrytown Catholic HS Sheila Hayes RIP
	Stations of the Cross	7.00pm	
	Ferial	9.30am	SSCF
Saturday	Evening Mass of the following Sunday	6.00pm	Eddie & Philip Palmer RIP
Sunday	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00am	People of the parish
		11.00am	Kidist Tesfay & Friends
	Stations of the Cross	3.00pm	

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, Mary Sainsbury, Rita Stevens, Margaret Maycock, Sr Margaret Mary Foley, James Smart, Margaret Wooliscroft, Joan Marshall, Glenis Keenan, Michael Walsh, Kathleen Holland, Kath Bradley, Evleyn Richardson, Grace Watts, Beryl Edwards, Christine Fox. We commend them to the prayers of Our Lady & St Christopher.

RECENTLY DECEASED Please pray for Hazel Grimshaw and Michael Walsh (formerly of the parish) who died recently. May they rest in peace. Please also pray for their families at this time.

ANNIVERSARIES Reginald Potts, 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, Ann Mulhern.

DIGITAL COLLECTION PLATE (CONTACTLESS) This is situated at the back of the church for parishioners who wish to use this method for their regular Offertory donations.

SUNDAY READINGS 2nd Sunday of Lent A: Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9. **Preface:** The Transfiguration of the Lord, page 72. **Eucharistic Prayer:** 3, page 28.

PARISH IT SYSTEM UPDATE The internet has now been reconnected, and we have been given a new temporary parish phone number, which you may wish to note. The number is **0161 222 9518**. We expect the original parish phone number to be restored in a few weeks' time. The live stream and the Dona contactless card reader for donations are also up and running again.

PLEASE NOTE that due to the Confirmation Mass on Tuesday evening at 7.00pm, the parish Mass will be at 9.30am.

THE CAFOD FAMILY FAST retiring collection will be taken at all Masses this weekend. Further details are provided below for how to donate. Thank you.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT You are welcome to join us in church for this traditional Catholic devotion on Sundays at 3.00pm and Fridays at 7.00pm. The Stations last for approximately thirty minutes and invite us to unite ourselves spiritually with Our Lord's sorrowful journey to Calvary.

LADIES' GUILD meeting on Thursday March 5th at 7.30pm. Once again, we welcome David from Romiley Flower Club, and we look forward to his demonstration and tips on flower arranging. The arrangements will be raffled off at the end of the evening. All are welcome to join us

EVERGREEN GROUP – St Christopher Centre, Wednesdays 1.30pm – 3.30pm

4th March: Craft - Make daffodils with Anne Marie

ATTENTION ALL GIFT AID DONORS The tax year 2025/26 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.

CHURCH REFURBISHMENT UPDATE I met with the Diocesan Property Manager and a building surveyor recently and am happy to say that works to the church are currently going through the procurement process including new lighting, new partial carpet replacement and decorations. The works are planned to be undertaken during the summer and autumn. *Fr Michael*

FIRST SACRAMENTS 2026 The next meeting for children in Year 3 who do not attend Catholic schools but are eligible to receive First Sacraments later this year, is on Saturday 7th March from 10.30am - 11.30am.

THE LENTEN SOUP LUNCHESES run by the Ladies' Guild continue on Friday 6th March at 12:30 pm after the midday Mass and for the following three Fridays of Lent. So far £475.64 has been raised for MISSIO. Donations of cake are also required for the cake stall. Thank you.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY You can use a CAFOD envelope at the back of church to donate to the retiring collection today or go online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030 or text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

You can also use this QR code to go to CAFOD'S virtual envelope where you can make your donation.



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE If there are any outstanding parish volunteer registration forms, these should be completed and returned to Fr Michael as soon as possible. Those volunteers include: church-cleaners, flower arrangers, gardeners, tea and coffee servers, welcomers, piety stall helpers, organists, collectors, Eucharistic ministers, readers.

Those parishioners whose voluntary role requires them to have a DBS certificate are now also required to complete an on-line training course every three years. This course can be accessed via: www.safeguarding@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Thank you.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER on Friday 6th March at 2.00pm at St Mark's C/E Church, Bredbury, All welcome. Please see poster in the porch.

VOLUNTEER AS A SCOUT GROUP TRUSTEE Our local Scout Group (2nd Romiley) is looking for volunteers to join the Trustee Board. No Scouting experience needed – just enthusiasm and a desire to support young people in our Bredbury, Woodley and Romiley community. We are looking to appoint a chairperson, treasurer and trustees and the commitment is just a handful of meetings a year. If you are interested in hearing more about the roles (or volunteering as a leader with the scouts themselves) please contact Sarah – sarah.burns@stockportscouts.org.uk 07740 336303.

PARISH FINANCE Last Sunday's collection: £938.20; CAFOD: £91.00 including Family Fast envelopes. Thank you for your generosity and support.

FOODBANK DONATIONS Last week, five trays and one carrier bag of donations were delivered to St Mark's, plus cash donations amounting to £210 (£120, £30, £20, £10, £10, £10, £10). Thank you for your generosity. The church is open for donations on **Sundays and Mondays from 2.00pm - 4.00pm**. Cash donations marked "Food Bank" may be posted through the presbytery letterbox. **Donations of tinned tomatoes, sweetcorn and rice pudding would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.**

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

JOIN US AT FOOTSTEPS ON THURSDAY 19 MARCH AT 7.30pm

We welcome **Mary Hardiman** to share her thoughts on "**The Cross before the Crown**" - a presentation where she will be asking whether we are Good Friday people or Easter Sunday people. Mary is a counsellor, teacher, author and local lady, who is a speaker par excellence.

All are welcome to come to our informal, friendly event in a café-style setting in the parish centre of **St Peter's, Green Lane, Hazel Grove SK7 4EA**.

JOB VACANCIES Harrytown Catholic High School currently has vacancies for a Lay Chaplain, a Subject Leader for MFL, a Teacher of MFL, a Learning Mentor and Exam Invigilators. Please visit the school website for more details – www.harrytownschool.org

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 and St Christopher's is a parish of the RC Diocese of Shrewsbury, and a registered charity (No. 234025).