

**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 22nd FEBRUARY 2026
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday – it is a short season in the Church's year in which we hear the call to repentance – to turn again to the Lord who is rich in mercy and ready to forgive and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the Paschal Mystery when Christ suffered and died on the Cross to take our sins away and rose again to bring us new life and fill us with Easter joy. Today's Gospel about Christ's temptation in the desert should encourage and strengthen us in our own daily struggle to follow him faithfully. It was wonderful to see such good attendances in church at both Masses on Ash Wednesday.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 22nd February 2026 – Sunday 1st March 2026

Sunday	Evening Mass of following Sunday (Saturday) FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	Michelle O'Brien RIP Gladys & Alfred Murphy RIP People of the Parish
	Stations of the Cross	3.00pm	
Monday	St Polycarp, B, M Adoration and Morning Prayer	8.30am 9.30am	Stella & Frank Frampton Ints.
Tuesday	Ferial - Adoration	6.30pm 7.30pm	Special Intention
Wednesday	Ferial Adoration & Morning Prayer	8.30am 9.30am	Sheila Hayes RIP
Thursday	Ferial	9.30am	Graham Walker RIP
Friday	Feria FAMILY FAST DAY Stations of the Cross	8.15am 12.00pm 7.00pm	Mass in Harrytown Catholic HS Sue & Rod Wearden Ints.
Saturday	Ferial Evening Mass of the following Sunday	9.30am 6.00pm	Hazel Grimshaw RIP George Nagle RIP
Sunday	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Louise Hopkinson RIP
	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.

ANNIVERSARIES George Bagshaw, Gerald Hearne, Walter Tompson, Victor Legierski, Kay Bruce, Baby Rose, Winifred Flynn, Charles Marsland, Ellen Greener, Olive Skeer, Maureen Jenkins, Arthur Catlow, Dorothy Cornelly, Sheila Davies, Carl Dunn.

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 1st Sunday of Lent A: : Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11. **Preface:** The Temptation of the Lord, page 71. **Eucharistic Prayer:** 2, page 25.

PARISH IT SYSTEM UPDATE The internet, phone line, contactless payments and livestream service should be operational again from Thursday 26th February. The parish landline telephone number, however, will not be restored until a month or so after this date and in the meantime, we will be given a random number which will be advised in due course. Once again, I apologise for this interruption to the service which occurred during a Broadband upgrade at the St Christopher Centre. *Fr Michael*

PRAYER CARDS The Bishop's Pastoral Letter for the First Sunday of Lent is about the growing number of men and women, many of them young adults, who are seeking faith and baptism in the Catholic Church. There are special prayer cards at the back of church for you to take and pray for those who are making that journey.

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.

THE CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY is on Friday. Please make sure to collect an envelope from the back of church and return it with your donation for the retiring collection next weekend. Other ways to donate are outlined below. Thank you.

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

25th February: Round Britain Travel log - bring photo/souvenir and say a few words about your favourite place to visit

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 28th February from 10.30am-11.30am in the St Christopher Centre.

CONFIRMATION 2026 There will be a practice for the Confirmation Mass on Wednesday 25th February in church at 7.00pm. Candidates and their sponsors should make sure to attend the practice. The Confirmation Mass is on Tuesday 3rd March at 7.00pm.

THE LENTEN SOUP LUNCHESES run by the Ladies' Guild continue on Friday 27th February at 12:30 pm after the midday Mass and for the following four Fridays. Donations of cake are also required for the cake stall. All proceeds will go to Missio.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – Friday 27th February This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbor. By fasting and giving what you save to, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Please collect a CAFOD envelope from the church, donate 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.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE 2026 This is always a very happy occasion for couples celebrating significant anniversaries and for their families. The Bishop will celebrate the Mass on Saturday 13th June at 12 noon at Saint Columba's, Chester, followed by a buffet lunch in the Parish Hall. Parishioners celebrating a significant anniversary this year should let Fr Michael have their names, contact details and the significant anniversary they are celebrating as soon as possible, so they can receive a personal invitation from the Bishop.

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.

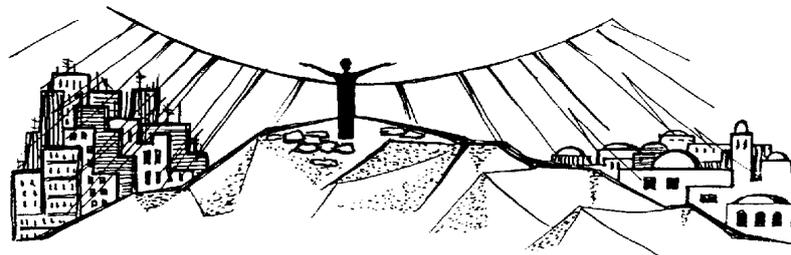
PARISH FINANCE Last Sunday's collection: £705.33; CAFOD: £30.00; standing orders and faster payments for January: £2,519.00; contactless card donations for January £898.00. Thank you for your generosity and support.

FOODBANK DONATIONS Last week, four trays of food donations were delivered to St Mark's, plus cash donations amounting to £280, (£120, £100, £30, £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 peas, carrots and sweetcorn would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.**

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

JOB VACANCIES Harrytown Catholic High School have a vacancy for an Office Administrator (part-time). Please visit the school website for more information: 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).