

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

*Serving Romiley, Bredbury, and Woodley*

52 Barrack Hill, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire. SK6 3BA

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PARISH PRIEST: Canon Michael Gannon VG

ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr Humphrey Agbim



**SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - LAETARE (REJOICE) SUNDAY**

**MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL**

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare Sunday. We are now halfway through Lent, and Easter is drawing near. This Sunday offers us a taste of Easter joy, with an emphasis on the joy to come rather than the austerity of Lent.

This Sunday is also traditionally called Mothering Sunday. It was once associated with people returning to their "mother church" - the church where they were baptised and began their faith journey. Over time, this custom evolved into what we now celebrate as Mother's Day. I wish a very Happy Mother's Day to the mothers of our parish.

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

|           |                                             |                |                               |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Evening Mass of following Sunday (Saturday) | <b>6.00pm</b>  | Elsie McHugh RIP              |
|           | <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>                | <b>9.00am</b>  | Brian Rogers RIP              |
|           |                                             | <b>11.00am</b> | People of the Parish          |
|           | Stations of the Cross                       | <b>3.00pm</b>  |                               |
| Monday    | Ferial - Adoration and Morning Prayer       | 8.30am         |                               |
|           |                                             | 9.30am         | Stella Walker RIP             |
| Tuesday   | Ferial<br>Adoration                         | 6.30pm         |                               |
|           |                                             | 7.30pm         | Welfare of Jacqueline         |
| Wednesday | Ferial<br>Adoration & Morning Prayer        | 8.30am         |                               |
|           |                                             | 9.30am         | Lynne Maguire RIP             |
| Thursday  | Ferial                                      | 9.30am         | Christine Fox RIP             |
| Friday    | Feria                                       | 8.15am         | Mass in Harrytown Catholic HS |
|           |                                             | 12.00pm        | Kevin Murphy B'day Mass       |
|           | Stations of the Cross                       | <b>7.00pm</b>  |                               |
| Saturday  | Ferial                                      | 9.30am         | Michael Walsh RIP             |
|           | Evening Mass of the following Sunday        | <b>6.00pm</b>  | Sheila Mee B'day Mass         |
| Sunday    | <b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>                 | <b>9.00am</b>  | Kathleen Gilogly RIP          |
|           |                                             | <b>11.00am</b> | People of the Parish          |
|           | Stations of the Cross                       | <b>3.00pm</b>  |                               |

PARISH LIVE STREAM Please go to [www.churchservices.tv/romiley](http://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, Mary Sainsbury, Rita Stevens, Margaret Maycock, Sr Margaret Mary Foley, James Smart, Margaret Wooliscroft, Joan Marshall, Glenis Keenan, Kathleen Holland, Kath Bradley, Evleyn Richardson, Grace Watts, Beryl Edwards, David Robison. We commend them to the prayers of Our Lady & St Christopher.

**ANNIVERSARIES** Annie Holden, Catherine Hearne, Celia McGlone, Brian Rogers, Raymond Quinn, James Cahalan, Phyllis Burns, Lynne Maguire, Elsie Edwards, Delia Cooke, Maureen Mather, Anne Burgess, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Kathleen McGrath, Ann Standing, Elsie Dean, Mary Littler, Mary Bradley, Alice Cavey, Joseph Bowers, Marjorie Welsh, John Singleton, Francis Oakley, Barbara Bach.

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the soul of Christine Fox who died recently. Mays she rest in peace. Please also pray for her family at this time.

**REQUIEM MASSES** The Mass for Hazel Grimshaw is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 11.15am and the Mass for Stella Walker is on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 1.00pm. May they rest in peace.

**WE WELCOME INTI THE FAMILY OF THE CHURCH** Luca John Whitney who was baptised recently.

**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** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent A: 1samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9;1-41.  
**Preface:** The Man Born Blind, page 72. **Eucharistic Prayer:** 3, page 28.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** New boxes of envelopes are now available for collection at the back of the church. They are arranged in alphabetical order. If you cannot locate your box with your name on it, please take one of the spare boxes instead. Thank you.

**200 CLUB FOR MARY'S MEALS** The March 200 Club draw will be the last for 2025-6. A cheque for just over £1400 will shortly be sent off. This will fund Mary's Meals for a whole school year for 75 schoolchildren, a truly amazing feat. Many thanks for your support. The same amount has been paid out in prize money. In the next few weeks, forms will be available for the 2026-7 draw.  
Many thanks for all your support this year, Kathy and Shaun.

**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** It is 'Movie Night' at the Ladies' Guild on Thursday March 19th. Please note the film 'Miss Potter' will start at 7pm prompt. All are welcome to join us.

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

18th March Board Games  
25th March Film 'Waking Ned'  
Easter Break Return 15th April

**MISSIO** Those who have a Missio Box are kindly asked to collect their copy of the Mission Today – Spring edition, which is available at the back of the church. Thank you.

**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.

### **HOLY WEEK 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 (5<sup>th</sup> April), 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.

### **SUNDAY 9 O' CLOCK MASS READERS NEW ROTA (APRIL - SEPTEMBER)**

(Please note this begins on Palm Sunday, which is still in March.

The rota is now available on the website and displayed on the notice boards by the sacristy & at the back of church.

For those who provided email addresses you should have received a copy, if you have not, please let me know ASAP. Requested paper copies are now available for pickup in the sacristy.

New readers are very welcome at any time and if you have not read before, training is available.

Please contact Anne Granby 0161 494 2711.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> March from 10.30am - 11.30am.

**THE LENTEN SOUP LUNCHESES** run by the Ladies' Guild continue on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30 pm after the midday Mass and for the following two Fridays of Lent. So far £718.64 has been raised for MISSIO. Donations of cake are also required for the cake stall. Thank you.

**PARISH FINANCE** Last Sunday's collection £693.80; standing orders and faster payments for February £3,631.00; contactless card donations for February £281.00. Thank you for your continuing generosity and support.

**FOODBANK DONATIONS** Last week, four trays and three carrier bags of food were delivered to St Mark's, plus cash donations amounting to £220 (£120, £30, £30, £20, £10 £10). Thank you for your generosity. The church is open for donations on **Sundays and Mondays from 2.00pm - 4.00pm**.

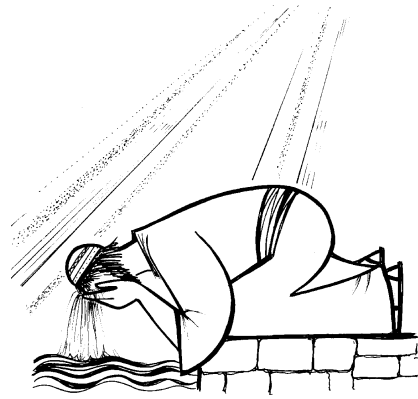
Cash donations marked "Food Bank" may be posted through the presbytery letterbox. **Donations of multipack crisps, packets of instant noodles and tinned carrots would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.**

**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**.

**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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