

**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 MARCH 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL

As we draw near to Holy Week and Easter, today's Gospel of the raising of Lazarus foreshadows Jesus' own death and the glory of his resurrection. It reminds us of the Christian hope that sustains us even in the face of the sorrow and reality of death.

In these final days of Lent, as we prepare to commemorate the events of Holy Week, let us give time to prayer and to contemplating these mysteries of our faith. May this sacred season draw us closer to the Lord who laid down his life for us and rose again so that we might share in his risen life.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 22nd March 2026 – Sunday 29th March 2026

Sunday	Evening Mass of following Sunday (Saturday) FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	Sheila Mee B'day Mass Kathleen Gilgoly RIP People of the Parish
	Stations of the Cross	3.00pm	
Monday	Ferial - Adoration and Morning Prayer	8.30am 9.30am	Welfare of Jacqueline
Tuesday	Ferial - Requiem Mass Adoration	11.15am 6.30pm 7.30pm	Hazel Grimshaw RIP Christine Fox RIP
Wednesday	The Annunciation of the Lord Adoration & Morning Prayer	8.30am 9.30am	Angela McLoughlin RIP
Thursday	Ferial	9.30am	Michael Walsh RIP
Friday	Ferial	8.15am 12.00pm	Mass in Harrytown Catholic HS Stella Walker RIP
	Stations of the Cross	7.00pm	
Saturday	Ferial Evening Mass of the following Sunday British Summer Time begins – clocks go forward one hour tonight	9.30am 6.00pm	Personal Intention Dympna Connolly RIP
Sunday	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD Stations of the Cross	9.00am 11.00am 3.00pm	Kathleen Lennon 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, 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 Joan Cooper, Eduard Assabay Sancraby, Winifred Thomas, Emma Gilleney, Jack Burke, Ernest Chappelow, Christina Storan, Mary Collinge, Francis Maher, Colin Sinclair, Jessie Norman, Gerald Hickey, Kathleen Tracey, Thomas Ball, Christina Kennelly.

RECENTLY DECEASED Please pray for Angela McLoughlin who died recently. May she rest in peace. Please also pray for Angela's family at this time.

WE WELCOME INTO THE FAMILY OF THE CHURCH Julie Henok Yemane 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 5th Sunday of Lent A: Ezekial 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45. **Preface:** Lazarus, 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 £1,424 has been 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.

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

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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS ROTA for the Saturday 6.00pm Mass. Please collect your rota from the rack in the small Sacristy . Thank-you

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 (5th 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 0' 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 4th April from 10.30am - 11.30am.

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY LOURDES PILGRIMAGE – YOUTH 2026

Date: 29th July – 7th August 2026

Cost: £740 (Bursary, match funding and support are available)

Age: 16 to 23. Closing Date for all applications – 31st March 2026.

Why go to Lourdes? For our young people Lourdes offers a unique opportunity to grow in faith, service, and community. The shrine, associated with the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to St Bernadette, welcomes pilgrims from around the world. Our young pilgrims volunteer to help the sick and elderly, taking part in a powerful tradition of compassion and care. Alongside this service, they experience prayer, reflection, and friendship with other young Catholics from across our Diocese, often returning home with a deeper sense of faith and a stronger commitment to serving others. Our Lady called each one of us – now we have to answer the call. For more information or to request an application form please email:

youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org no later than **31 March**.

THE LAST OF THE LENTEN SOUP LUNCHEs run by the Ladies' Guild is on Friday 27th March at 12:30 pm after the midday Mass. So far £1,171.64 has been raised for MISSIO. Donations of cake are also required for the cake stall. Thank you.

PARISH FINANCE Last Sunday's collection £821.60; CAFOD £35.00; 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.

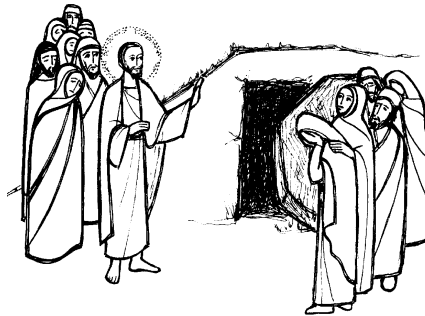
FOODBANK DONATIONS Last week, five trays and three carrier bags of food were delivered to St Mark's, plus cash donations amounting to £180 (£120, £30, £10, £10). Thank you for your generosity. The church is open for donations on **Sundays and Mondays from 2.00pm - 4.00pm**. Cash donations marked "Food Bank" may be posted through the presbytery letterbox. **Donations of tinned tomato soup, tinned peas and packets of microwaveable rice would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.**

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

INTERESTED IN TRAINING & VOLUNTEERING AS A RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLOR? Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support and we are currently looking for those who are **empathetic, understanding** and have an **enthusiasm for supporting adult relationships**, to train on our **Certificate in Relationship Counselling course (CRC)** and volunteer with us. This is a great opportunity to make a real difference to couples and families. To find out more please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

JOB VACANCY Due to retirement, a vacancy has arisen within the Diocese for a Health & Safety officer. **Salary** £32,000 - £38,000 dependant on experience. **Hours:** 25 per week, term time only. Please send CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date** 10 April. Further details can be found on the Diocesan Website **Latest Vacancies - Diocese**

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).