



**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 15th DECEMBER 2024
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL

Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ. This third Sunday of Advent is also known as **Gaudete Sunday** which means "rejoice" in Latin. It is a time to reflect on the Lord's grace, favour, and redemption.

As part of our preparation for Christmas there will be the opportunity to make a good confession on Tuesday during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.30pm – 7.15pm. You are welcome to avail of this opportunity which reminds us that the Lord's mercy and forgiveness is always available to us in this wonderful sacrament he has given to his Church.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS: Sunday 15th December 2024 - Sunday 22nd December 2024

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| Sunday | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Saturday) | 6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am | Liberato Raccio RIP People of the Parish Pat Owen RIP |
| Monday | Ferial Funeral Service | 9.30am 10.30am | Bernard Doyle RIP John Philip Nagle RIP |
| Tuesday | Ferial | 7.30pm | Peter Taylor RIP |
| Wednesday | Ferial Requiem Mass | 10.00am | John Alan Thomas RIP |
| Thursday | | 9.30am | Edward McHugh RIP |
| Friday | Ferial | 8.15am 12.00pm | In Harrytown Catholic HS Doris Karras RIP |
| Saturday | Ferial Evening Mass of following Sunday (Saturday) | 9.30am 6.00pm | Ints. of Donor People of the Parish |
| Sunday | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 9.00am 11.00am | Eileen Murphy RIP Peter Mount RIP |

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, Karl Wood, 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, Carole Roe. We commend them to the prayers of Our Lady & St Christopher.

ANNIVERSARIES Elizabeth Harrison, Kathlen McNamee, John Harrison, Francis Marshall, Margaret Gladwin, Elizabeth Pickford, Elizabeth Nolan, Bernard McDowell, Edward McHugh, Peter Gladwin, Catherine Olive Booth, Mary Parker, Veronica Mannion, Margaret Bennett, May McKeown, Elsie Laidlaw, Harry Leigh, Edith Grieves, Annie Russon, Harry Wood.

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 for Third Sunday of Advent C Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18. **Mass Preface:** Advent 1, page 65; **Eucharistic Prayer:** 3, page 28.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN ADVENT There will be an opportunity to celebrate this sacrament on Tuesday evening from 6.30pm – 7.15pm. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for quiet prayer. Please use this opportunity to make a good Confession for Christmas.

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| CHRISTMAS MASSES | Christmas Eve 6.00pm (preceded by carols at 5.30pm |
| | 9.00pm (preceded by carols at 8.30pm) |
| | Christmas Day |
| | 9.00am |
| | 11.00am |

READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS rotas for Saturday 6.00pm Mass are now available from the rack in the small Sacristy .

SUNDAY COUNTERS rotas are now available from the rack in the small Sacristy

NEW SUNDAY MISSAL We now have the new Sunday missal in stock at the Piety stall priced at £20. The missal contains the three-yearly cycle of readings for Sunday Mass. There are also leaflets at the back of church which explain what the Lectionary is about and how it differs from the previous one. Please take a leaflet home with you.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP The next meeting will take place on Thursday 19 December from 10:00am until 11.30am in the St Christopher Centre. The group is for anyone who has experienced a bereavement and is an opportunity to share your feelings, however if you don't want to chat you are welcome to come along just for the tea and coffee! This is not a counselling service but is a space to get support from others who have experienced bereavement. For more information, please contact Susan Carr on 07543 408551.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS Twenty-five substantial Christmas food hampers have been distributed to several families in the parish as well as some in Brinnington. Surplus money left over from the Christmas Day lunches we had in previous years which amounted to £270.00 was supplemented to provide the hampers. Thanks to Jane Wright who shopped for the hampers and wrapped them so beautifully, as well as to the staff at St Christopher's RC Primary School & Harrytown Catholic High School for distributing them to the families.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD On behalf of the 124 needy children in Eastern Europe and Africa, many thanks to you for having been so generous. They will be delighted to have received much-needed hats, scarves, mittens, soap, a toothbrush, as well as toys, pens, paper and a little soft animal friend. These children are very poor and quite a number are homeless. They will never forget that you reached out to them in warmth and friendship.

Throughout the year 162 bars of soap were donated while our intrepid knitters indulged in their passion and produced 169 warm hats, 34 scarves and 11 pairs of mittens. A very warm thank you to all of you for creating so much happiness. You have been wonderful!" *Karin Moore*

THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY OF PATRICIA (PAT) & MALCOLM STEWART A cheque for £5,500.00 to support the work of the parish has been received from Pat and Malcolm's family "as a thank you for being such a valuable Christian community to our parents, Pat & Malcolm, and also for being a support to our family over the past five years." This really is a tribute to parishioners and a reminder that we are called to be a welcoming and supportive community of faith. The money will be added to our Central Fund Legacy account held with the Diocese on behalf of the parish.

VARIVOCALS Christmas Coffee morning on Tuesday 17th December at 10.45am in the St Christopher Centre. Free admission - donation appreciated. Mince pies, raffle, etc. Everyone welcome.

PIETY STALL We have our Christmas stock in. Packets of Christmas cards £2 each, Diaries £3.50 each, Calendars £1 each, Boxed Christmas cards £4 each.

THE MEMORY TREE is now on display at the back of the sanctuary. We fill this tree with messages for our loved ones gone but never forgotten and the tree will be Blessed on Christmas Eve. All donations will go to church.

CHRISTMAS FUN RUN Friday 27th December in Bollington

Join CAFOD for the annual Christmas Fun Run in Bollington! Wear your festive fancy dress and take on this joyful run to support communities around the world to lift themselves out of poverty. Adult, child and family entrance fees are available. Whether you walk, run or jog, every step makes a difference. We are also in need of volunteers to help out on the day. If you can spare a few hours, please contact events@cafod.org.uk or kkeenan@cafod.org.uk for more information.

Use the QR code to register or find out more info on our website: www.cafod.org.uk/Bollington



ADVENT SERIES OF TALKS You are invited to the last of the talks in Advent to coincide with the launch of the New Lectionary at the Parish Hall, Holy Angels, Hale Barns, Altrincham, WA15 0HG.

Wednesday 18th December Fr David Irwin priest of the Diocese of Shrewsbury and Natalie Orefice, Director of Evangelisation and Catechesis for the Diocese of Shrewsbury will present Dei Verbum on Divine Revelation from the Second Vatican Council. After each talk we will go into the parish church for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and Compline. All are welcome to attend.

MARPLE BAND & VARIVOCALS CONCERT Thank you to Dave & Margaret McPherson who organised the concert, and to those who supported it, donated raffle prizes, sold tickets and helped with refreshments on the night. The concert raised £883.36 for parish funds.

PARISH FINANCE Last Sunday's collection £732.10; CAFOD £35.00; standing orders & faster payments for November £2,514.00; contactless card payments for November £590.00. Thank you for your generous support of the parish.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS 4 green crates of various groceries, 3 carrier bags of groceries and advent calendars were delivered to St Mark's last week plus cash donations for 2 weeks amounting to £390 (£120, £120, £30, £30, £30, £20, £20, £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 rice pudding, carrots, peas and sweetcorn would be welcomed. Thank you.**

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

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 Church is a parish of the RC Diocese of Shrewsbury, which is a registered charity - No 234025.