

Parish of St Mary, Middlewich & St Margaret Ward, Holmes Chapel

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Shrewsbury Diocese is a Registered Charity St Mary's School 01606 832164 E mail admin@2ndfebruary.com

Third Sunday of Easter, 26th April 2020

Sunday	26th Apr	10.30am	Lily Costello b'day
Monday	27th Apr	9.00am	Special Int. EJ
Tuesday	28th Apr	9.00am	Charlie Egan RIP
Wednesday	29th Apr	7.30pm	Phillipa Raper RIP <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>
Thursday	30th Apr	9.00pm	NHS Workers & Carers
Friday	1st May	9.00am	Anne Russell RIP
Sunday	3rd May	10.30am	Francis Holbrook b'day

Sacrament of Reconciliation : On request in extreme need
Sacrament of Baptism On hold until further notice.

Please Pray for

ALL who are sick at home and in hospital: Stephen Grey, Margaret McCallum, Sara O'Brien, Jamie Connor, John Bomford, Nathan Carter, Larry Porter, Gillian Robinson, Tim Bradbury, Roy Yearsley, Peter Hannon, Stan Rosiak, Sadie Everard, Alex Randall, Jenny Ogden, John Evans, Shirley Gaskell, Joan Upton, Karen Potts, Fr Pat Munroe, Mary Morris, Michael McCluskey, Jan D, Margaret Scarlett, Angela Kitchen, Fr Paul Hughes, Deacon Philip White, Martin Armit, Emily Wickham, Fr Jim McGrath, Ursula Finn, Elaine Trower, Glyn Maddock,



ALL who have died recently, especially James Lyons & Veronica Barrett

ALL whose anniversaries occur at this time: Alfred Ernest Horricks, Simon Dakin, Peter Prescott, Margaret Kowalski, Cyril Ward, Vera Fraser, Sydney Smith, Geoffrey Hadcroft, Eric Buddle, Albert Gallagher, James Lannon, Arthur Gilford, Irene Fogg, Patricia Brewer, Ida Irwin, Lucy Taylor, Peter Clarke, Rev Denis O'Sullivan, Rev Michael Barry

Food Bank Shortages: Long life milk, whole or semi skimmed, Long life juice, Jellies, Tinned spaghetti, spaghetti hoops, baked beans with sauces (not baked beans on their own, we have plenty of those!) Please use collection points at supermarkets whilst church is closed. Thank you for the wonderful response to the need for volunteers. There are sufficient now for present needs, but we will let you know if the situation changes.

Welcome Home to Fr Jim. Please keep him in your prayers, but please also respect his need for privacy and rest. We will keep you updated.

ONLINE MARRIAGE COURSES
Yet another night in? Make yourselves comfortable on the sofa after the children are in bed; a kind of a date-night. Sign up for FREE to explore the MARRIAGE COURSE by the team that created the Alpha Course. A 7-week programme designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage. htb.org/marriage. Also, Care for the Family offers 4 sessions .THE MARRIAGE SESSIONS www.careforthefamily.org.uk/themarriage sessions

Dear Parishioners,

For all of us, this must be the strangest Easter ever, but, remember that Jesus burst out of lockdown on Easter morning and, although we are physically confined, we must not allow ourselves to be spiritually restricted by our present situation. Remember that He overcame sin and death for us, and that is more powerful than any virus. Whilst we are all missing the support of our parish family, we are very aware of the power of prayer to unite us, as we pray for the physical safety and mental strength we all need at this time. As this Easter season continues, let us remain confident in our faith.

Fr Peter will be saying Mass privately in the church at the normal times so please join him in spiritual communion. Masses will be offered for the intentions requested on specific dates Any new requests for Masses should be put through the presbytery door. Fr Peter will put our daily Mass on St Mary's RC Parish Middlewich Facebook page. He will also put Exposition on there on Monday evening 7.00-7.30pm. You can also follow us on @stmarysparishmiddlewich. Thank you those who are tuning in and sending appreciative comments, it helps to make celebrating Mass alone a little less strange. There are various other ways to participate in Holy Mass. There will be live streams available from Shrewsbury Cathedral (details at <http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/live-masses>) Wythenshawe: <http://wythcc.co.uk/> and in our own deanery at St Alban's Macclesfield www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/stalbanslivestream.html, also from several other parishes in the diocese. Go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy> for a **virtual children's liturgy each week**. Cafod also provide weekly learning resources if you follow the schools/youth tab on the site. You can also read all the prayers and scriptures for daily Mass at: www.magnificat.com/free and the scriptures for Mass at:

www.universalis.com/mass. Other useful sites: The National Catholic Shrine to Our Lady at Walsingham has a full broadcast schedule – including Mass, Rosary, Vespers, Exposition, Mass in Latin and even some talks. Visit its [Livestream area](http://www.livestreamarea.com). The producers of the Magnificat have kindly provided [complimentary access to its online version](http://www.complimentaryaccess.com) to help people follow the Mass and pray from home. The website, www.ChurchPaper.co.uk, contains over 600 editions of the many newspapers.

If anyone requires the Sacrament of the Sick, please ring the presbytery. It is not permitted to take communion to the sick, except in danger of death.

If you are aware of any elderly or self-isolating people who need help with shopping or picking up prescriptions please ring the presbytery as we have a list of volunteers who can help.

Thank you those who have put collection envelopes through the presbytery door. Easter Offerings amounted to £940, which is wonderful in these circumstances. It means Fr Peter can continue to pay himself for the next three months! If you have not received your envelopes you can put offerings in a plain envelope and write your number or name on it. If you wish to change to giving by standing order, either permanently or during the "no public Mass era," please see the information below. Thank you those who have already done this.

We would also ask that those of you who are able, continue to donate items for the Food Bank, as there will be more clients needing help as the crisis continues. Whilst church is not open, please use the collection points at supermarkets. Please pray for our Parish Community and for those affected by this pandemic and do not be downcast. Remember, "Jesus is risen, he is risen indeed, Alleluia"
Fr Peter, Deacon Tony, Deacon Chris

If you wish to set up a Standing Order either permanently or in order to continue to make your regular Offertory giving to the Parish during the period when Mass is not being celebrated in public, please contact Ken Worthington on 01606 737070

the only figure in the picture who knows exactly what is going on. His companions have just begun to grasp the magnitude of the moment; and the innkeeper, who perhaps represents those in the world who know nothing of the Christian story, is oblivious to it all.



Caravaggio's genius is not only in pinpointing, as he has, the height of the drama; it is also that he has included us in that drama. We, all of us, are the fourth person at the table; so stunningly has he painted not only the figures but also the food, that we feel we could almost reach into the painting and touch them. They are also life-sized, and both the man on the right and Christ himself, both with arms outstretched towards us, are welcoming us into the frame.

OPEN TO THE MESSAGE

Caravaggio, a man who lived a complicated and certainly not saintly life, is never closer to the message of the Gospels as in this work. It was painted at the precise juncture when he was being transformed from an unknown jobbing artist into one of the greatest painters the world has ever seen; on the cusp of fame, this was the painting he chose to create. We cannot all be perfect but we can all be open to the message of Christ. We can be present, and we can allow ourselves to be welcomed and to ponder on the enormous significance of the resurrection and all it means for us.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 2:14. 22-33

PSALM Psalm 15

RESPONSE Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Or **Alleluia!**

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: "You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize." **R.**
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

4. You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1:17-21

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 24:13-35

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Acts 2:14. 36-41
1 Peter 2:20-25
John 10:1-10



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CARAVAGGIO, SUPPER AT EMMAUS

More than anything else, Caravaggio was a painter who recognised drama; and that is nowhere better shown than in this painting, *Supper at Emmaus*. The work, which hangs in the National Gallery in London, shows four male figures around a table. It is cloth-covered, and on it rests a rather wonderful-looking feast; a delicious chicken ready to be carved, bread and a bowl of enticing fruit. Three of the men – the dinner guests – are seated; another, the innkeeper, is standing to one side, probably wanting to take good care of these three travellers who have chanced upon his hostelry for an evening meal; he is no doubt asking them whether everything is alright, before leaving them to get on with their feast.

But at the precise moment when the innkeeper has come to check on his guests, a stunning revelation has occurred at the table. Two of the men, the two ranged at either end, and so sideways on to us, had earlier chanced upon the third man on the road; they have walked together for hours, and presumably passed some pleasant conversation. These two men, disciples of the recently crucified Christ, have no reason to suspect that they have met their new acquaintance before – but he seems a good chap, and they are happy to be spending the evening with him.



The moment of revelation has come with the arrival of the food, and specifically the bread. Because the third man has just stretched out his hand to bless it; and in that instant, his two companions have recognised who he is. It is Jesus; the resurrected Jesus. They are stunned; they can hardly comprehend what they are seeing. One of them has furrowed his brow and is raising his eyebrows to the heavens; he is pushing his chair backwards in total surprise. The other man is stretching out both his arms in a gesture both of shock and of welcome; in the second he realises it is Christ, he also knows how delighted he is that it is Christ, and wants immediately to show his joy.

The central figure – Jesus Christ – appears serene, calm and in complete control. The light – always crucial to a Caravaggio creation – is slicing across the painting to illuminate the left side of his face. Christ, whom the artist has painted as beardless, probably to differentiate him from the pre-crucifixion Christ, is

Divine images



Joanna Moorhead continues this series looking at religious art.

26 APRIL 2020

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK III