

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

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Dutton, 2 New King Street, Middlewich ☎01606 832359 Deacons: Rev Tony Ford, 01270 759511
Rev Chris Wells 01606 738030 www.stmarysparishmiddlewich.org.uk . E mail: stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com
Shrewsbury Diocese is a Registered Charity St Mary's School 01606 832164 E mail admin@2ndfebruary

Fifth Sunday of Easter, 10th May 2020

Sunday	10th May	10.30am	Frank & Vilma Holbrook, Silver Wedd Anniv
Monday	11th May	9.00am	Special Int. AS
Tuesday	12th May	9.00am	John Vickers RIP
Wednesday	13th May	7.30pm	Mary Costello b'day
Thursday	14th May	9.00am	NHS Workers & Carers
Friday	15th May	1.00pm	Requiem Mass for Veronica Barrett
Sunday	17th May	10.30am	Stephen Barton 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, Mary Morris, Michael McCluskey, Jan D, Margaret Scarlett, Fr Paul Hughes, Deacon Philip White, Martin Armitt, Fr Jim McGrath, Ursula Finn, Elaine Trower, Glyn Maddock, Vincent Fanning



ALL who have died recently, especially Veronica Barrett, Helen Wickham & John Vickers

ALL whose anniversaries occur at this time: Thomas McNeela, Graham Faulkner, Monica Hulse, Veronica Kavanagh, Sandra Flynn, Terry Hopton, John Clegg, James King, Margaret Jordan, John Salisbury, Audrey Buddle, Mary Basford, Christopher Fear, Margaret Morris, John Hough, Emilia Anna Killinger, Ann Richards, Rev Thomas Morton, Rev Frederick Robinson, Rev John Murphy

CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal

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

This is Christian Aid week. Holmes Chapel Ecumenical C A Group have set up a just giving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/holmes-chapel-ecumenical-christian-aid-group

Dear Parishioners,

It is becoming increasingly obvious that it will be some considerable time before our parish life returns to "normal". 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.livestreamarea.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. This week's envelopes included several parishioners doing "catchup" and yielded £518, almost as much as a "normal" weekend! 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 have received your envelopes and wish to continue giving, but are not able to get the envelopes to us, please ring and let us know. 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 or search Middlewich Food Bank on line and tick the "donate" box.

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

Online giving to the Parish

For those Parishioners who normally give in the collection at Mass and wish to help the Parish at this time, an online donation page to allow you to donate to the Parish has been added to the Parish website. Please be aware that a minimum donation of £5 is requested if giving in this way. You can also Gift Aid your donation to help the Parish further. If you want to Gift Aid your donation, please tick the box shown on the screen even if you have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration form in favour of the Parish for regular giving made by Offertory Envelope or Standing Order. Thank you for your support.

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 painting has some similarities to the same scene executed by da Vinci and other Renaissance greats. But there is much that is female-centred, a different take on what has often been a very male story: for example, the tablecloth on Plautilla's table has been carefully ironed and is pristine. The food, too, is plentiful: some Renaissance depictions of the Last Supper feature virtually no food, but Plautilla has piled up the plates; there's lamb and beans and salad, as well as plenty of wine.

Over the last few years, Plautilla Nelli's *Last Supper* has been undergoing restoration: in autumn 2019 it was unveiled in Santa Maria Novella in Florence. The city has several other examples of Nelli's work, including perhaps her finest piece, a *Lamentation* painting, which is kept in the Museum of San Marco, the monastery that was across the square from her convent and the home of the Fra Angelico murals. Nelli's *Lamentation*, like her *Last Supper*, puts a woman's take on a moment of history where men's views have been more prominent; she shows the dead Christ being tended to by the Marys and other women, while the men watch sorrowfully from above.

At a time when the Church is looking anew at women's contribution, it's worth considering the extraordinary step taken by a young nun in 1560, when against enormous odds she decided to take on painting the Last Supper. Her work, like that of every devotional artist, was itself a prayer; and she is united in prayer to this day to all who see the image. The tradition in those times was for artists not to sign their work; but Nelli decided otherwise. And not only her name is on the work, but also an appeal to all of us: "Pray for the Paintress", she wrote. Perhaps she meant not only herself, but all those women who have defied difficult odds to do what they believe to be right and who have dared to break the mould.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 6:1-7

PSALM Psalm 32

RESPONSE **May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.**

Or **Alleluia!**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **R.**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:4-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me." Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 14:1-12

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Acts 8:5-8. 14-17
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21



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PLAUTILLA NELLI, *LAST SUPPER*

The year was 1560; the place, a convent in Florence. A piece of art was about to be created: a large-scale painting that would cover the entire refectory wall when it was finished. It was to be an image of the Last Supper, the scene already painted so successfully a few decades earlier by Leonardo da Vinci in Milan. Since then, other masters of the Renaissance had taken a leaf from his book, and a huge painting of that scene was considered the high point of the career of any artist who considered himself on the map as far as history was concerned.

And the artist in this case was definitely confident enough to take that view. The only thing was: she was a woman. A Dominican nun, in fact: Suor Plautilla Nelli, who was now in her mid-thirties but who had been a member of the community since she joined as a novice aged fourteen. Plautilla had been born and raised in Florence, and had lost her mother at a young age. She entered the convent a few years after her only sister Costanza did the same. Once there, she realised that it was the perfect place to be the artist she had always believed she was.

Divine images



Joanna Moorhead continues this series on religious art.



Becoming an artist in sixteenth-century Florence was a lot harder than it might sound. Only boys could be apprenticed to the workshops and so train as artists; also, only male artists could belong to the all-important city guilds, which licensed them to sell their work. Women weren't allowed to paint anything other than small devotional miniatures; they were not allowed, as men were, to paint from life, using others as models. Plautilla could get round some of these difficulties as a nun: although she wasn't permitted to sell her paintings, the convent could sell them on her behalf. But it was still an extraordinarily bold thing to do when she picked up a paintbrush and began to cover a vast canvas with an image of the last meal Christ had with his apostles on earth.

10 MAY 2020

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK I