

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

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## First Sunday in Lent, 21st February 2021

Sat	20th Feb	6.30pm	<b>Priest's Int.</b>
Sun	21st Feb	9.00am 11.00am	<b>Ints of Pat &amp; Ray Dillon The Parishioners</b>
Mon	22nd Feb	9.00am	<b>Ints of Tony &amp; Ruth Ward &amp; Family</b> <i>Chair of St Peter</i>
Tues	23rd Feb	9.00am	<b>John Ford 20th Anniv</b> <i>St Polycarp</i>
Wed	24th Feb	7.30pm	<b>Don &amp; Angela Dutton Annivs.</b>
Thurs	25th Feb	9.00am	<b>Ints of Mike &amp; Rita O'Hare</b>
Fri	26th Feb	9.00am	<b>Tom &amp; John Stoneley</b> <i>Cafod Lent fast Day</i>
Sat	27th Feb	6.30pm	<b>Sr. Ann Ryan RIP</b>
Sun	28th Feb	9.00am 11.00am	<b>The Parishioners Priest's Int.</b>

Sacrament of Reconciliation: On request only .  
Sacrament of Baptism: By appointment

### Please Pray for

ALL who are sick at home and in hospital: Stephen Grey, Margaret McCallum, Sara O'Brien, Jamie Connor, John Bomford, Gillian Robinson, Tim Bradbury, Roy Yearsley, Peter Hannon, Stan Rosiak, Sadie Everard, Alex Randall, Jenny Ogden, John Evans, Shirley Gaskell, Joan Upton, Michael McCluskey, Jan D, Margaret Scarlett, Fr Paul Hughes, Deacon Philip White, Fr Jim McGrath, Ursula Finn, Simon Finn, Mike O'Hare



ALL who have died recently, especially John Dempsey

ALL whose anniversaries occur at this time: Eleanor Hind, Katherine Lawrence, Susan Penny, Arthur Battersby, Christopher Callaghan, Rose Raftery, James Challinor, Renee Lomas, Declan McIlroy, Myles Costello, John Buffini, Norah Gilligan, Seconda Washington, William Edwards, Trudie Duddy, Winifred Reid, Bernard McManus, Catherine Higgins, Roger Cregg, Tom Stoneley, Rev Breandan McDonald, Rev Stephen Dwyer, Canon Christopher Dwyer

As you are probably already aware, the UK Government has temporarily allowed home abortions. Since home abortions were temporarily allowed, as has been reported extensively in the media, a number of significant problems have put the lives and health of many women in danger. The UK Government has launched a consultation on whether to make permanent the current temporary arrangement allowing 'DIY' home abortions. The consequences of this measure would be devastating to the care and protection of both unborn babies and their mothers. It is vital that as many people as possible take part to ensure the voices of the most vulnerable are heard. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool on their website that makes it simple to complete your submission.. If you would like to take part and make a submission to this consultation before it closes at 11:59pm on 26 February 2021, you can do so by visiting the link below. It only takes 2 minutes!

<https://righttolife.org.uk/ukconsultation>

A suggested Prayer of Intercession: "As we begin this season of Lent, we offer up the merits of our daily sacrifices to the needs of the most vulnerable in society. We offer them especially for the poor, the lonely and the unborn. That the Lord will see their needs and pour out his love and blessing upon them. Lord hear us"

Thank you those of you who have continued to join us, in person or online. We hope that, with falling infection rates, more of you will feel confident enough to return to Mass. We have been told by the Bishop that the government does not intend to change the decision to allow public worship as it is good for the morale of the population and there is no evidence of it adding to the strain on the NHS. However, local authorities can close down individual churches which do not comply with the regulations so we need to show the government that we are deserving of staying open by being especially vigilant and thorough in our safeguarding. This week we are back to our usual pattern of Masses: public masses on Monday and Thursday and at the weekend. Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday streamed only and no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the time being. Please ensure when you leave that you do not group together at the back of church or outside. A few churches in the Diocese have voluntarily closed temporarily. We shall only do this if there is a big increase in local infections or if we do not have enough stewards to open safely. We are very grateful to those stewards who have continued to serve us faithfully, despite their own reservations Without them public Mass could not continue. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the lockdown, coupled with vaccinations, is reducing infection rates. Until we are able to return to a more normal pattern of worship, Fr Peter is available by appointment for any pastoral need.

Fr Peter, Deacon Tony, Deacon Chris.

### Are you ready to change your life and transform someone else's this Lent?

We have formed a small parish team who are taking on Cafod's Walk for Water challenge this Lent to help give the boot to water poverty across the world. We would love to have a few more people or families join our challenge. We are walking 10,000 steps every day for the 40 days of Lent. If you don't think you could do 10,000 steps as an individual, why not do it as a household total instead? It doesn't matter how you do it, just as long as you put your heart and soul into it. Please let us know if you plan to join us or if you have any queries by emailing: [annesturman17@gmail.com](mailto:annesturman17@gmail.com). We have set us a whole parish just giving page: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-rc-parish-middlewich-walk-for-water> so all you need to do is encourage friends and family to sponsor you and start walking. You can also donate by putting money through the presbytery door in an envelope marked "Walk for Water" **More Volunteers needed! It's good for you!**

Newsletter: Don't forget to let us know if you wish to receive the extended newsletter online. Send an email to [stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com).

**This Friday, 26th Feb, is CAFOD Lent Fast Day.** Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Donate online at [cafod.org.uk/lent](http://cafod.org.uk/lent) or by using a CAFOD envelope available at the end of mass. You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10\*. \*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information, please see CAFOD's Privacy Policy: [cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice](http://cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice)  
Many thanks for your support

The tax year 2020/21 will be coming to an end on 5<sup>th</sup> 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 contact Ken Worthington ([01606 737070](tel:01606737070) , [worthingtonkr@gmail.com](mailto:worthingtonkr@gmail.com)) by 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

The parish of St Mary Middlewich sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the parish/diocese for the benefit of the parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at [www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice)

## What's On - week commencing Feb 21st 2021

- Sun 21st : Church open for Mass at 9.00 and 11.00am. The 11.00am Mass will also be streamed on our Facebook page.
- Mon 22nd: Church open for Mass at 9.00.  
10.30 Rosary via Zoom. Please contact Madelyn Devaney if you would like to participate (01606 833497).  
6.30pm Stations of the Cross via Zoom (see below if you would like to join us)
- Tues 23rd: Church closed, Mass will be streamed on Facebook at 9.00am  
7.00pm Scripture Group via Zoom. Please contact Deacon Chris if you would like to join us (07751 136957).
- Weds 24th: Church closed, Mass will be streamed via Facebook at 7.30pm
- Thurs 25th: Church open for Mass at 9.00am.  
7.00pm Life Groups meeting via Zoom
- Fri 26th: Church closed, Mass will be streamed on Facebook at 9.00am. Family Fast Day.
- Sat 27th: Stations of the Cross will be streamed on Facebook every Saturday through Lent at 11.00 am. Church open for the Vigil Mass at 6.30pm

**Stations of the Cross:** Various members of the Parish will be leading Stations of the Cross on Monday evenings through Lent via Zoom. These will all have a slightly different "flavour" from the traditional Stations and will offer the opportunity for different reflections. If you would like to join us please email [stmarysmiddlewichevents@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysmiddlewichevents@gmail.com) so that we can send you a link.

**Life Groups:** The successful Alpha courses that have been run over the last couple of years have generated great feedback. It was apparent that there was still a hunger for people to have an opportunity to continue to meet and openly discuss their faith and relationship with Jesus. The Parish has started a number of small "Life Groups" which meet every two weeks on Thursday evenings around 7.30-9.00pm via Zoom. The format is: General introduction/chat/social time, watch a short video, then an open discussion as to what people made of the video. If anyone is interested in joining a Life Group please contact Gemma McGrory at [gemma.maria@btinternet.com](mailto:gemma.maria@btinternet.com)