

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

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Fifth Sunday in Lent, 21st March 2021

Sat	20th Mar	6.30pm	The Parishioners
Sun	21st Mar	9.00am	Priest's Int.
		11.00am	Mary & George Stevens
Mon	22nd Mar	9.00am	Special Int. GK
Tues	23rd Mar	9.00am	Mary & William Cannon
Wed	24th Mar	7.30pm	Medjugorge Group
Thurs	25th Mar	9.00am	Ethel Murray RIP Annunciation of the Lord
Fri	26th Mar	9.00am	Thanksgiving JB
Sat	27th Mar	6.30pm	Sick Friends
Sun	28th Mar	9.00am	The Parishioners
		11.00am	Priest's Int.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: **Saturday 11.00am—12.00pm**
Sacrament of Baptism: By appointment

Please Pray for

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



ALL who have died recently, especially Roy Yearsley & Peter Craig

ALL whose anniversaries occur at this time: Sr M de Sales, William Jennings, Michael
Haseler, Bernard cannon, Kathleen Wait, Christopher Williams, Bert Hough, Helmut Fuchs,
Elvin Hughes, Hannah Kerrigan, Carmel Elliott, Mary Cannon, Bridget McHale, Margaret
Groarke, Winifred Parkin, Theresa Gore, Margaret Ruane, Vera Kathleen Mercer, Tony
O'Reilly, Gerard Shirley, Ellen Horsfield, Rev George Barrett

The new sets of Offertory Envelopes have arrived. Although you do not need them until 11th April, they will be available to collect for this weekend. They will be given out at the end of all weekend Masses. Do not attempt to help yourself (danger of cross-contamination), they will be handed to you. If you do not currently attend Mass but have a family member who does, please ask them to collect yours Please remember to social distance if you have to queue. We will attempt to deliver any remaining boxes after Easter (We hope you have updated your address on our parish records, if not let Molly know asap)

Thank you for your generous response to Cafod Lent Fast Day. We have just sent off cheques totalling £629.20. This is, of course, in addition to the money donated to our Walk for Water appeal. Our original target for this was £500. Thanks to a few hardy parishioners and their generous families and friends, the total given so far is £1,392. Can we make it £1,500 by the end of Lentenough for three wells? Think of the difference it would make to the lives of the people in those communities. You can put money through the presbytery door, marked "Walk for Water" Or donate at <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-rc-parish-middlewich-walk-for-water>

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. This week we will continue to have a public Mass every weekday. Many thanks to the stewards who have made this possible. There is still 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. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the lockdown, coupled with vaccinations, is reducing infection rates. Bishop Mark is hoping to inform us of any relaxation in restrictions asap. Until we are able to return to a more normal pattern of worship, Fr Peter is available by appointment for any pastoral need. **Arrangements for Easter:** Unlike last year when Fr Peter had to celebrate the Triduum alone, we shall be able to have a congregation this year, but numbers at all services will be limited to 50, so demand will exceed supply! We have decided to have a booking system as we did at Christmas. It will be necessary to book for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday 9.00 and 11.00am. All services except Sunday 9.00am will also be streamed. Booking, for parishioners only, by email to the parish office, stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com stating clearly which service you wish to attend, how many places you need & giving your phone no. If you cannot email please ring the presbytery, but do not leave an answerphone message. There are still a few places available for all services. 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. 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" It's going well, keep up the steps and the giving!

HOLMES CHAPEL ECUMENICAL CHRISTIAN AID GROUP

Giving Thanks for our Vaccines



Here in Middlewich & Holmes Chapel, as more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their COVID vaccinations, we rejoice and are glad that our loved ones are protected. We give thanks for all the NHS staff and key workers who continue to save lives across the UK. For the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These people already face a lack of water, food, and healthcare. Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support – but with your gift of thanks we can do more.

Please give thanks with a donation to help protect our global neighbours while the vaccine is out of reach. We have set up an online giving page with Tap Simple on this link: <https://events.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/giving-thanks-for-our-vaccines-364b6>

Governments are currently deciding on whether to make permanent the temporary measure allowing 'DIY' home abortions in England, Wales and Scotland. To ensure that politicians are aware of the negative impact of 'DIY' home abortions, the All-Party Parliamentary Pro-Life Group will be hosting a parliamentary event on Tuesday 23 March where experts will cover the latest evidence on how 'DIY' home abortions are placing women at risk. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool that will enable members of the public to easily contact their MPs asking them to attend this event. You can do so by following the link below. It only takes 30 seconds! www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYabortionMeeting

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.dioceseshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice

What's On - week commencing March 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 9.00am.
10.30am 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 open for Mass 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 open for Mass at 7.30pm. It will also be streamed via Facebook.
- Thurs 25th: Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.
Church open for Mass at 9.00am.
Life Groups at 7.00pm
- Fri 26th: Church open for Mass at 9.00am. It will also be streamed on Facebook at 9.00am.
- Sat 27th: Sacrament of Reconciliation 11.00-12.00
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 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

Confirmation: Over the last year we have not been able to offer preparation for Confirmation. If restrictions ease as planned then we hope to start our programme in September and will shortly be providing more information. Please pray for our young people at this time.