

Christmastide/Ordinary Time Week 1, Sunday 12th January 2025



**Parish of St. Mary, Middlewich
serving St. Margaret Ward, Holmes Chapel**

Parish priest: Fr. Vijay Bhupathi 07852 894799, 2 New King Street, Middlewich
Rev. Deacon Tony Ford: 07918 912195; Rev. Deacon Chris Wells 07751 136957;
www.stmarysparishmiddlewich.org.uk; email: stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com

Dear friends,

The Christmas season comes to an end with the Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord. We still have a glimpse of the season when we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, on February 2nd forty days after His birth. Nonetheless, the Christmas decorations are coming down now, and on Monday, January 13th, we return to “Ordinary Time” in the Liturgical Calendar of the Church. The role that Jesus has on earth is rooted in His unique relationship to God. Jesus is the “Beloved Son” of the Father, anointed for the unique mission as Saviour of the world, who died and rose so we might be full partakers in God’s Kingdom, on earth and in Heaven. Let us be filled with gratitude for the never-failing love of God extended to us in Jesus Christ. Let us think back on the day of our own baptism recalling those who “stood in our place” (parents, godparents and grandparents), to bring us to the Fountain of Life, Jesus Himself, and to immortality! Let us tune the ears of our hearts to listen - “You are my beloved son/daughter. On you my favour rests.” May we commit ourselves to Jesus Christ totally and find our deepest joy and delight in the Lord!

Fr. Vijay Bhupathi

2025 Jubilee Year reflection on Pilgrims of Hope

Are you wondering what the 2025 Jubilee Year is all about? Join us as we explore the biblical background to the Jubilee Year and what the theme *Pilgrims of Hope* means for us today using material produced by CAFOD.

We’ll meet in St Mary’s Parish Centre **on Saturday February 8th 2025 for tea and toast at 9.45 am for a 10am start.** We aim to finish by 1pm at the latest. Please sign up at the back of church to help us with numbers but you can just turn up on the day. For more information, please contact Anne Sturman by email: annesturman17@gmail.com

God Speaks

A day led by Jordan Kelly, Music led by Joe Wells, (One Hope Project)

Saturday 18th Jan 10.30 - 3.30

St Edward’s Church Runcorn, WA7 5NZ

Lunch provided

Please register by email alphamkruncorn@gmail.com

All details on poster at the back of church

The Week of Prayer

“that they may all be one.” – jn 17:21

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025: Sat 18th - Sat 25th January.

There will be a joint service **on Sunday 19th January 2025, 6:30pm at St.**

Mary’s. Please do attend the service to pray for and promote Christian Unity.

Unity Week in Holmes Chapel

Wednesday 15th (2pm-3pm) at the Methodist Church - There will be prayer stations set up and a reflective space available to enable people to pray in whichever way they feel most comfortable. All are welcome to pop by during this hour and to stay for as little or as long as they would like to.

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Sun	12th Jan	9.00am	The Baptism of the Lord (Holmes Chapel) Priest's intentions
Sun	12th Jan	11.00am	Lucian and Mary Davies 50 th Birthday intentions
Mon	13 th Jan	12.00pm 6.30pm	Peter Hannon RIP Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Tues	14 th Jan	9.00am	Priest's intentions
Wed	15 th Jan	6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Rosary Joan Upton RIP
Thurs	16 th Jan	9.00am	(School) Priest's intentions
Fri	17 th Jan	9.00am	Robert McDaid RIP, <i>St Anthony</i>
Sat	18 th Jan	8.30am 9.00am 6.30pm	The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins today Holy Rosary The Bratt Family RIP The Parishioners
Sun	19th Jan	9.00am 11.00am	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holmes Chapel) John Hartley RIP Priest's intentions

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 11.30am to 12.15pm

Sacrament of Baptism: By arrangement

Please Pray for All

who are sick at home and in hospital: Stephen Grey, Margaret McCallum, Sara O'Brien, Jamie Connor, Gillian Robinson, Sadie Everard, Alex Randall, Jenny Ogden, Margaret Scarlett, Fr Jim McGrath, Mike O'Hare, Robert Harrington, Michael O'Keefe, Christine McHugh, Edward Evans, Mike Hough, Canon Phil Moor, Catherine McIntosh, Doreen Stevenson.

who have died recently: especially Peter Hannon

whose anniversaries occur at this time: Eileen Margaret Spenceley, Paul Verechia, Jim Bannaghan, David Maher, Margaret Clarke, Amy Sandbach, Charles Craven, Margaret Ruddy, Terence Mulhearn, Thelma Woolridge, Don Loran, Kathleen McNamara, Eileen Cooper, Pat Kerr, James Bailey, Mary Clarke, Rev. Fr. Canon Byrne, Rev David Morriss, Rev. Thomas Fee.

Dates for Community Lunches 2025

This Monday January 13th

Monday February 3rd

Monday March 3rd

Monday April 7th

Get-Together

"Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." 1Cor 10:31

All the ordained ministers, lay ministers and people involved in the Parish life and administration of St. Mary's Parish (St. Mary's Church, Middlewich and St. Margaret's Church, Holmes Chapel) are invited to come and participate in the Get- Together, to be held **on 31st January, 2025 at 7 pm, in our Parish Centre**. Anyone interested to – 'Come and See' is most welcome as well. It's the time to share our faith, pray together to be renewed and strengthened by the Spirit in the Lord's Call and Commission to serve Him and His faithful. Please save the date.

Future Newsletters

If you would like to promote an event or have something to share with your fellow Parishioners then please send the details by email to: stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com

Baptism by Father Vijay after Sunday 11.00am Mass

We welcome in to our Parish family Rex Christopher Rosiak

The book of Gospels for St. Margaret's, Holmes Chapel

We welcome if anyone is willing to sponsor the above. It would cost about 400 pounds. Please contact Fr. Vijay

This Week in the Parish Centre

Monday	Community Lunch	12.45pm	Parish Centre
Wednesday	RCIA	7.15pm	Room 1
Friday	Mothers' Prayers	9.45am	Room 4
Friday	Mums and Tots	10.00am	Room 2, 3