

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 16th February 2025



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

Parish priest: Fr. Vijay Bhupathi 07852 894799, 2 New King Street, Middlewich
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Dear friends,

What is usually called the “Sermon on the Mount” in Saint Matthew’s Gospel, is generally referred to as the “Sermon on the Plain” in Saint Luke’s Gospel. Both Gospel texts include what are known to us as “the Beatitudes,” words from Jesus for the good of all. We might ask, listening to the Gospel for this Sunday: is a happy, joy-filled life really possible here and now? Jesus seems to be saying clearly that in fact even sorrow can be changed into happiness now for those who keep things in proper perspective and truly desire to live as citizens of God’s kingdom. The word beatitude literally means happiness. The way of happiness that Jesus outlines calls for a transformation from within.

That means dying to self, though, and living for God and neighbour without counting the cost. This is unlike what the world describes as happiness, often considered to be found in health, wealth and beauty, which in fact are very fleeting things. We might also ask: how can one possibly find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning and persecution as Jesus seems to be saying in the Gospel today? These are things we are taught in our culture to avoid at all costs. If we want to be filled with joy and true peace, and the happiness of heaven, Jesus is telling us we must empty ourselves of all that would shut

God out of our hearts. May our hunger and thirst not be for material things but for the kingdom of peace and righteousness which God is offering us all. May we find perfect joy in doing the will of God.

Fr. Vijay Bhupathi

Face to Face Scripture Group

Deacon Chris is looking at starting a face to face scripture group on Tuesday or Friday evening please can you let him know your preference.

Middlewich Community Church 34-36 Brooks Lane - Men’s Breakfast

Sat 22nd Feb 9.30-10.30am

"We are going to be joined by 3 members of the Cheshire branch of GOOD NEWS for Everyone! (formally known as Gideons UK). They seek to introduce others to the Lord Jesus Christ by the placing, presenting and/or distributing Scriptures (The Bible) in many different areas of life. They are going to share some amazing life stories of people of all ages and in all circumstances that have picked up the Bible and found that it is just as relevant and powerful for living life today as it was on the day it was written. We would love you to join us for a warm welcome, hearty Breakfast and good company." **Please Book by Midday Thursday 20th February**

Free IT Sessions at St Mary’s School Middlewich

For those struggling with modern technology such as phone, laptop etc.
10am -11.30am Saturday 18th February and Saturday 15th March
Contact: Lucie 07929 717909
See poster at the back of church for more information.

First Holy Communion Programme and Celebration Masses (February)

Sunday 23rd February Celebration Mass at 11.00m (Children's Liturgy)
Monday 24th February at 6pm in the Parish Centre - Parents & Children

Food Bank Shortages

Long life fruit juice, male and female deodorant, Crackers

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Sun	16 th Feb	9.00am	(Holmes Chapel) The Parishioners
Sun	16 th Feb	11.00am	Jude Gerard RIP (young boy)
Mon	17 th Feb	9.00am 6.30pm	Molly Quirk RIP Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Tues	18 th Feb	9.00am	Priest's intentions
Wed	19 th Feb	6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Rosary Clare Bloor and family intentions
Thurs	20 th Feb	9.00am	Michael Quirk RIP (1 st anniversary)
Fri	21 st Feb	9.00am	Mary Glavin anniversary
Sat	22 nd Feb	8.30am 9.00am 6.30pm	Holy Rosary The Parishioners, <i>Chair of St Peter</i> Peter Joseph Martin Hannon RIP
Sun	23 rd Feb	9.00am 11.00am	(Holmes Chapel) Priest's intentions The Parishioners

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, Margaret Strong, Caroline De Vere.

who have died recently:

whose anniversaries occur at this time: Kathleen Yoxall, Michael Igoe, Margret Wilson, Michael Ruane, David Ellison, Peter Donnellan, Mr. Moore, Myles Friery, Peter Freer, Alan Davies, Peter Labedz, mary Ruane, Margaret McCarthy, James Millington, Doug Crebbin, Jack Costello, Josef Pozienski, Leonard Batty, Winefride Lannon, Peter rogers, Veronica Craig, Michael Quirk, Eleanor Hind, Katherine Lawrence, Susan Penny, Authur Battersby, Christopher Callaghan, Rose Raftery, Rev Patrick Egan, Rev Breandan McDonald, Rev Stephen Dwyer.

Community Lunches 2025

Monday March 3rd and Monday April 7th

Gift Aid Scheme - Message from Ken Worthington

'As the tax year 2024/25 will be coming to an end on 5th April, the Parish will then undertake the process of claiming back the tax on Gift Aided donations. 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 (07910487815, worthingtonkr@gmail.com) by 5th April, otherwise it will be assumed you have paid sufficient income tax for the Parish to reclaim Gift Aid on these donations.'

Foodbank Asda Collections - Message from Mike Worden

The next ASDA collections for the Foodbank are on Friday/Saturday 21st/22nd Feb. We need more volunteers to cover the 2 days. (Many hands make light weight!). If you can spare an hour or two at all to help, please get in touch. There are 2 roles,
a) Hand out shortage cards to customers and simply say something along the lines. We are from the Foodbank, if you are able to donate something off the list, it would be greatly appreciated.
b) Date donations handed in, someone will show you how to do this. :-)
Times are hourly slots between 9am to 5pm, ideally as part of a team of 3 across the two roles, although if we are short of volunteers, there could be just 2 of you. If you can please let me (Mike 07368836053) know if you have a preferred slot(s) and I'll see if free, if flexible I'll check slots and let you know.

Baptism this Sunday by Father Vijay

We welcome in to our Parish Family Cillian and Cora Bird.

This Week in the Parish Centre

Wednesday RCIA

7.15pm

Room 1