

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2nd March 2025



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

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Dear friends,

One of the images used in the Gospel today is that of a tree, which needs time to produce good fruit. We all have a lifetime, however long or short, to be like trees planted near running waters, that hopefully grow over time, learn from mistakes, strengthened by pruning and setbacks. Amidst it all, we are encouraged to never give up, but persevering and responsible in our call, whatever it may be.

Perseverance and responsibility are hallmarks of any follower of Jesus Christ. Coupled with perseverance and responsibility are compassion and love. With these virtues, we can more easily walk in the ways of the Lord and encourage others along the same path as well. The Gospel challenges us to have a clear vision and to bear good fruit, for the deepening of our adherence to Christ. Jesus indicated that good people produce goodness, which flows from the heart. We speak from what is in our deepest self. In another place in the Gospels, Jesus says that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also (Matthew 6:21). Let us examine our hearts and set them on Christ and His Kingdom as we begin the holy season of Lent..

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.

Free IT Sessions at St Mary's School Middlewich

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

St Mary's School - Craft Fairs

St Mary's School is holding 3 Craft Fairs throughout this year and have invited the Parish to have a table in aid of Parish Funds. Anyone who is willing to make and donate items for sale, please make yourself known to either Norah McEnaney or Helen Armsden. Thank you.

Dates of the Craft Fairs are:

Saturday 12th April
Saturday 4th October
Saturday 29th November

World Day of Prayer Service

Please join us in a worldwide wave of prayer at Goostrey Methodist Church at 7pm on Friday March 7th for the World Day of Prayer Service. This year our sisters in the Cook Islands welcome us and help us to reflect on the theme " I made you wonderful". Although this a women led global ecumenical movement we welcome **everybody** to our service.

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Sun	2 nd March	9.00am	(Holmes Chapel) Priest's intentions
Sun	2 nd March	11.00am	Carole Browne and Family, thanksgiving Mass
Mon	3 rd March	12.00pm 6.30pm	Priest's intentions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Tues	4 th March	9.00am	Priest's intentions
Wed	5 th march	9.15am 1.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Ash Wednesday (School) (Holmes Chapel) Holy Rosary Priest's intentions
Thurs	6 th March	9.00am	Thursday after Ash Wednesday (School) Priest's intentions
Fri	7 th March	9.00am	Bernard Mulhall RIP
Sat	8 th March	8.30am 9.00am 6.30pm	Holy Rosary The Parishioners Priest's intentions
Sun	9 th March	9.00am 11.00am	(Holmes Chapel) The Parishioners Gordon Woolridge anniversary

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, Mike Sproston Snr.

whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael Jennings, Maurice Henry Jones, Harry Beaver, Fr. Paul Turner, Catherine Clarke, Carola Murhpy, Sheila Higginson, Christine Flynn, Amy Murphy, Julie Columbine, Annette Morris, John Crowley, Thomas Lee, Mary McAleer, Anne Lunt, Peggy Fikrle, Nora Devaney, Thomas Jennings, Frances Milliken, Jean Quinn, Ken Littlemore, Joan Hartley.

Stations of the Cross

After Friday Mass from 7th March until 11th April.

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.'

CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day Friday March 14th



Members of the Parish CAFOD Group will be doing a short talk and handing out Fast Day envelopes at all the masses at the weekend of March 8/9. Please donate to our Lent Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call CAFOD on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

This QR code will take you straight to CAFOD's virtual envelope where your donation will be included in the total donated from our parish. Many thanks for your continuous generosity.

Baptism this Sunday by Father Peter

We welcome in to our Parish Family Rory Johnson.

This Week in the Parish Centre

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