



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

Parish priest: Fr. Vijay Bhupathi **07836 614 833**, 2 New King Street, Middlewich
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Dear Friends,

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. Because of the importance of these two great saints, their celebration becomes more important than the celebration of the regular Sunday with its readings. Anyone who reads the New Testament cannot help but understand Peter. Peter is always presented as a fully human person who makes lots of mistakes, but who is so loyal to Jesus that it can take our breath away. With all of his human defects, Peter believes so strongly and is willing to give His life for Jesus—which eventually he does.

Saint Paul seems a much more complex character! He is so strong in his opposition to the early Christians! He is a religious zealot! When he is converted to Christianity, gradually he comes to understand Christ more and more and begins to preach to the non-Jewish peoples, where he has great success. He begins a series of what we now call “missionary” journeys. In this second letter to Timothy, which is the second reading today, we have Paul’ own testimony to God’s work within him.

As we think about these two great apostles in the early Church, we can wonder about our own energies to proclaim Jesus as our Lord and as the Christ. Each of us who follow Jesus has a responsibility to make Him known. Each of us can do that in our own way, whether that way is public and well-known or more private and quiet. Always this proclamation of Jesus must begin with our own faith: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Appeal for my native village

I am from a village called Nachugunta, a remote Dalit area situated in Arthamuru (post), Bantumilli (Mandal), Krishna (District), Andhra Pradesh (State), South India. Dalits are the people who are considered the outcaste by the upper caste people in India. They are not in the mainstream of even the living areas; they are away from the village of other castes. There are around 120 families in my village (Naachugunta Maalapalli). The main occupation of my villagers is cooly i.e. the daily wage work in the farms of the agricultural landlords, who are but upper caste people. Dalits own no land of their own. They need work every day to earn their daily bread. But they do not have the work once the plantation is done in rainy season. So they go away to other states like Tamil Nadu (Chennai which is Madras), and Telangana (in Hyderabad) in search of the work for their livelihood until it is time for harvesting. Some go away far from our village to find the work as servants who can be watchmen/women to look after the fish ponds of the landlords.

This struggle of the poor people traveling seasonally time and again for their daily bread doesn’t leave any chance for their children to have proper schooling. Most of my village children still struggle to complete the high school education, if saying - even primary school - wouldn’t surprise you. They take money on loan for interest, when they face unexpected ill health. These amounts on interest from the landlords turns out eventually to be amounts to be paid back on compound interest over the years. This, sadly sometimes leaves the children of theirs as paleru (a bonded labourer) for unlimited number of years in the house of the landlord.

So, this is an endeavor to support these parents of my village of Nachugunta to send their children to school as we encourage and help the children to go to school and not to drop-out. This will allow one of the parents/guardians to stay back home. We believe only the good education can change the fate of my people from this social stigma of being untouchables in our country and from the cycle of debts and bondage. Thank you all very much for reading the story of my village.

Fr. Vijay

Solemnity of Ss Peter & Paul Sunday 29th June 2025

Sat	28 th June	8.30am 9.00am 6.30pm	Holy Rosary Duncan Waiters RIP, <i>The Immaculate Heart of Mary</i> Priest's intentions
Sun	29 th June	9.00am 11.00am	(Holmes Chapel) The Parishioners, <i>Ss Peter & Paul</i> Duffy Family intentions Please join us in the Parish Centre after Mass
Mon	30 th June	9.00am 6.30pm	Peter Hannon RIP Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Tues	1 st July	9.00am	Priest's intentions
Wed	2 nd July	6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Rosary Mike O'Hare RIP
Thurs	3 rd July	9.00am 11.00am	(School) Priest's intentions, <i>St Thomas</i> Funeral Service for Doreen Stevenson
Fri	4 th July	9.00am	Leanne Collins birthday anniversary
Sat	5 th July	8.30am 9.00am 6.30pm	Holy Rosary Priest's intentions The Parishioners
Sun	6 th July	9.00am 11.00am	(Holmes Chapel) Priest's intentions Mary Walker & Nancy Croucher birthday 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: especially Mike Hough, Canon Phil Moor, Catherine McIntosh, Margaret Strong, Frank Holbrook, Sue Reddan.

Who have died recently: especially Dennis Hambley.

Whose anniversaries occur at this time: Charles F. Lawrence, George Johnson, John Jennings, Jessie Poziemski, Edward Bownes, Kathleen Bridgen, Gerry Martin, Russell Simpson, Bob Buckley, James Nugent, Joseph Costello, Mary Jump, Henry Garritty, Ted Reid, Cathy Boughen, Rev Russell Cooke.

Please Note the new number for Father Viay/Parish 07836 614 833

St Mary's Parish Reconciliation and Eucharistic programme September 2025 – May 2026

We would like to invite children in year 2 and above who would like to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (*Forgiveness*) and Eucharist (*First Holy Communion*) to join the parish preparation programme. Enrolment will take place on **Sundays 13th and 20th July** after the 11am Mass. There will also be an opportunity to meet some of the catechists on **Saturday 12th July** at 10am in the Parish Centre who will be able to give you more information about the Programme. If you would like more information please contact: Teresa Wells (07596 408581) or Clare Bloor (07901 816157)

Sacrament of Confirmation

We will soon be looking to help prepare young people from St Mary's and St Joseph's (Winsford) to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you are aged 13 or over (Year 8 and above) and looking to learn more about Confirmation and your faith or thinking about your relationship with God and what it means, then please contact Gemma (07796455509) or Mike (07368836053) or email stmarysmiddlewicherevents@gmail.com before **30th June 2025**.

Baptism this Sunday by Father Vijay at 12.30pm

We welcome in to our Parish Family Miss Ophelia Shaw.

Summer Barbecue on Sunday 13th July in aid of Father Vijay's village

Please come and support Father Vijay's native village of **Nachugunta**. Food and soft drinks will be provided and you can bring your own drinks (including alcoholic drinks) and snacks. Please sign the sheet at the back of church and advise on your preferred barbecue food and any special requirements such as Vegetarian/Vegan, Gluten free etc.

This Week in the Parish

Friday Parents and Tots 10.00am Room 2,3