Diary Dates

Carols around the Christmas Tree

Sunday 21st December - 2.00pm

Our Parish 'Carols around the Christmas Tree' will take place on Sunday 21st in St Mary's Church. Please come as we joyfully celebrate the pending arrival of our Lord and King. Refreshments and tombola in the Parish Centre afterwards.

BOTTLE TOMBOLA (Please leave any donations at the back of church)

Christmas Raffle 🎄

Tickets £1 each are available to buy after each Holy Mass.

We have a large Christmas hamper made up of bottles and sweet treats plus a couple of smaller ones to win.

All proceeds will go to parish funds.

The raffle will be drawn after the Carol Concert on Sunday

January Community Lunch

The next community lunch will be on **Monday January 19th** after midday mass. Please sign the list at church by Sunday January 11th if you would like to join us. No charge for the meal but donations towards the costs are welcome.

Blessing of Home Cribs

Please bring your images of the baby Jesus from your home cribs to Holy Mass and Fr. Vijay will bless them at the Masses this weekend.

Caritas Christmas Appeal

There will be a basket at the back of church for the next two weeks in support of the Caritas at Christmas Appeal. Through your generosity, Caritas is able to accompany individuals and families across our Diocese who are facing hardship, offering crisis food vouchers, practical help, and the assurance that they are not alone.

Donations may also be made via the QR code (see poster at the back) and online at: www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

If you know someone in need of support, please contact **Trish Spencer**, **Deputy CEO**, **Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury**.

Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team Vacancy

Vacancies have arisen within the Shrewsbury YMT for a Programme Coordinator, Youth Mission Team Member and an Admin Assistant. Further details can be found on the Diocesan Website. https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/ Interested? send your CV to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org if interested. Closing date Friday 23 January 2026.

MASS READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, December 22nd, 2025

• First Reading: 1 Samual 1:24-28

Gospel: Luke 1:46-56

Tuesday, December 23rd 2025:

• First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4; 23-24

• Gospel: Luke 1: 57-66

Wednesday, December 24th

• First Reading: 2 Samual 7:1-5. 8-12.14.16

Gospel: Luke 1:67-79

Christmas Eve:

First-Isaiah 62:1-5, Second-Acts 13:16-17,22-25

• Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Midnight Mass

First-Isaiah 9:1-7, Second-Titus 2:11-14

• Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Thursday, December 25th 2025

First-Isaiah 52:7-10, Second-Heb 1:1-6

• Gospel: John 1:1-18 2:1-14

Friday, December 26th, 2025

• First Reading: Acts 6: 8-10. 7: 54-59

• Gospel: Matthew 10: 17-22

Saturday, December 27h, 2025

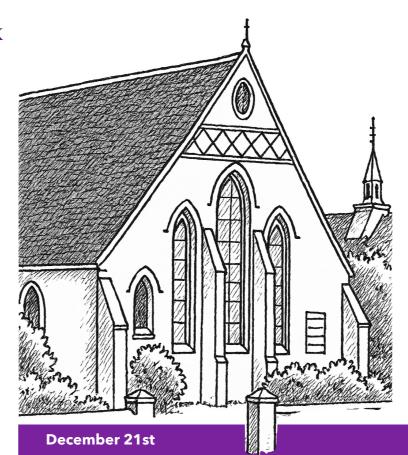
• First Reading: 1 John 1: 1-4

• Gospel: John 20: 2-8

A Big thank you to our Newsletter sponsors this month David and Helen Duffy From CheshireONE Radio



Tune in on your DAB radio or just ask your smart speaker to play CheshireONE radio



St Mary's
Roman Catholic Church
Middlewich.
&
St Margaret's
Holmes Chapel

NEWSLETTER

Parish Priest

Rev. Fr. Vijay Bhupathi

Tel:07836 614 833,

2 New King Street, Middlewich

Rev. Deacon Tony Ford:

Tel:07918 912 195

email: stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr. Vijay's reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent - Chriotmastide

As Advent draws to a close, today's Gospel turns our attention to Joseph, a man whose quiet trust allows God's plan to unfold. Faced with confusion and uncertainty, Joseph listens deeply and chooses compassion. His openness makes room for Emmanuel — God with us — to enter the world.

This final week invites us to follow Joseph's example: to pause, to listen, and to welcome God's presence in the ordinary moments of our lives. As Christmas approaches, may we create space in our hearts for Christ to be born anew.

Wishing all parishioners a peaceful and grace-filled week of preparation.

I I Fourth Week of Advent (Love): "Lord of love, we light these candles and remember Your promise of salvation. May their light remind us that You are Emmanuel, God with us. Prepare our hearts to welcome You with faith and love. Amen."

Blessing of the images of Jesus from home cribs during the weekend masses (6:30pm, 9am and 11am)

The Christmas Eve Mass at 6.30pm will be celebrated for the children. So all parents and families with young children are requested to be seated on the reserved seats at the front of the church.

Pastoral Team

St Mary's Primary School.

Head Teacher

J. McKinlev

Tel: 01606 516171

Parish Safeguarding Rep:

Jo Hopton

Tel: 07786 755168

www.stmarysparishmiddlewich.org.uk

HR / Administration

Peter de Vere

Tel; 07831893781

Community Focus

Altar Servers

On the feast day of St. Stephen (Boxing Day) altar servers are invited to come to the midday Holy Mass to receive a gift of thanks from the parish. Please sign up on the sheet.

Parish Finance Advisory Group

The Finance Group will begin to provide an update each month from next year. This will include a summary of income and expenditure. We will also be providing you with an annual financial report.

Newsletter Update

Thank you to all those who have pledged to sponsor our newsletter. We have sponsorship From January to April, June & December.

If your family or business would be interested in sponsoring our newsletter for a month, please contact Peter in the Parish Office.

Sponsorship covers the cost of materials, which allows us to use Parish funds elsewhere for the good of our community. A typical months sponsorship is £60.

Charity Band Night for Barnabus

THE PHOENIX BOYS. Sunday 21st Dec 8.00pm. George & Dragon, Holmes Chapel

Free entertainment and Raffle for BARNABUS ~ Changing the lives of Manchester Homeless; supporting people off the streets and into a home for the past 30 years. (See poster)

Mary's Meals Donation

A cheque for £850 has been sent to Mary's Meals, being the total donated in memory of Clarry France. This will be doubled as part of the 'Double the Love' campaign. (See letter on notice board). Many thanks to all who contributed.

Gift Aid

If you currently pay tax, Gift Aiding your donation allows the parish to reclaim 25p from the government for every pound you give. You only need to have paid tax on the donation amount, and there is no additional cost to you.

To register for Gift Aid through the parish, you must be giving by envelope or standing order, and then fill in a simple form. Once registered, we will continue to claim Gift Aid for you unless you tell us otherwise, but if you registered a while ago, it may be as well to check the gift aid status of your donations. To check or register your gift aid status, request collection

To check or register your gift aid status, request collection envelopes or standing order details, etc., please contact Ken Worthington (07910487815, worthingtonkr@gmail.com).



I pray for focus today, dear God, because during Advent, my mind and attention tend to wander. There are so many distractions, many of them well-meaning. But nothing gives my heart rest like resting in You. I pray that I keep You at the focus of my day today, because I know the peace that only You offer.

Amen.



HolyRosary

Holy Rosary takes place on the following days and times.

Monday on zoom at 10.30am

Wednesday 6.00pm before Holy Mass
Tuesday / Friday after 9.00am Holy Mass
Saturday 10.00am before Holy Mass

If you would like to join the rosary group of St. Mary's Parish please put down your name, contact number and email address on the list at the back of Church. Thank you to Madelyn for leading the rosary group. Any parishioners wishing to have a special intention prayed for through the Rosary Group can request prayers through Fr Vijay or the Rosary Group by emailing the office or by sending a message to Madelyn or one of the Rosary members.

What's on in the Parish Centre this week

Day	Activity	Time
	No groups this week	

Food Bank Shortages Long life Milk, Coffee, noodles, Cuppa soup, tinned soup, rice pudding and snacks.

Day	Times	Mass Intentions	
			Sunday
Sat. 20/12	10.30am	Mary Hannon R.I.P.	Mass
Sat 20/12 (Vigil)	6.30pm	Deceased relatives of the Jakubik family	First Reading:
Sun 21/12	9.00am	Fourth Sunday of Advent - Priest's Intentions	Isaiah 7:10-14
Sun 21/12	11.00am	The Parishioners	Responsorial Psalm: Ps.24(23)
Mon 22/12	9.00am	Service of the Word & Eucharist	Second Reading:
Tues 23/12	9:00am	Carol Doherty R.I.P.	St.Paul to Romans: 1:1-7
Wed 24/12	9.00am	Priest's Intention	
Wed 24/12	6.00pm 6.30pm	CAROLS CHRISTMAS EVE Solemnity with Octave John McEnaney R	Gospel: Matthew: 1: 18-24
Wed 24/12	11.00pm	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Midnight Mass) Solemnity	
Thurs 25/12	9.00am	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Solemnity (St. Margaret's)	
Thurs 25/12	11:00am	The Parishioners	
Fri 26/12	12 Noon	St Stephen, M Peter Hannon (Anniversary of his death)	
Sat 27/12	10.30am	St John, Ap, Ev Michael Hannon RIP	
Sat 27/12	6:30pm	Priest's Intentions	
Sun 28/12	9:00am	THE HOLY FAMILY Feast - The Parishioners	
Sun 28/12	11:00am	Hugh Patrick Murray (Birthday- 26th Dec)	

Christmas Novena Will take place during all Holy Masses from 16th - 24th December

Anniversaries	Anniversaries	Anniversaries
Margaret Traynor	Patrick Egan	Peter Clarke
Dorothy Nussbaumer	Thomas Arthur Eckersall	Stephen Barton
David Andrews	Willam Glynn	David Gilligan
Mary O'Neil	Annie Costello	Frances Dolan
James Cannon	Francis Risker	Barbara Gadd
Christine Clapham	Arthur Geoffrey Broughton	Maise Hughes
Marie Therese Loughlin	Pat Wells	Peter Hannon
Ivy Dean	Crispin Clapham	Rev Kevin Molloy
Rev N Carew	Rev Lawrence Watson	Rev Paul Lomas

Parish Office

Office Hours:

Monday / Wednesday 9.30am -12.30

Friday 1pm - 5pm



Who have died recently, especially: Carol Doherty, Clare Fogg



Who are sick at home and in hospital, especially. Mike Hough, Margaret Strong, Joan Lloyd, Deacon Terry Simms and Sue McNeil