

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 Samuel 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 Samuel 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

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

NEWSLETTER

Parish Priest

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

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.

 **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.

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