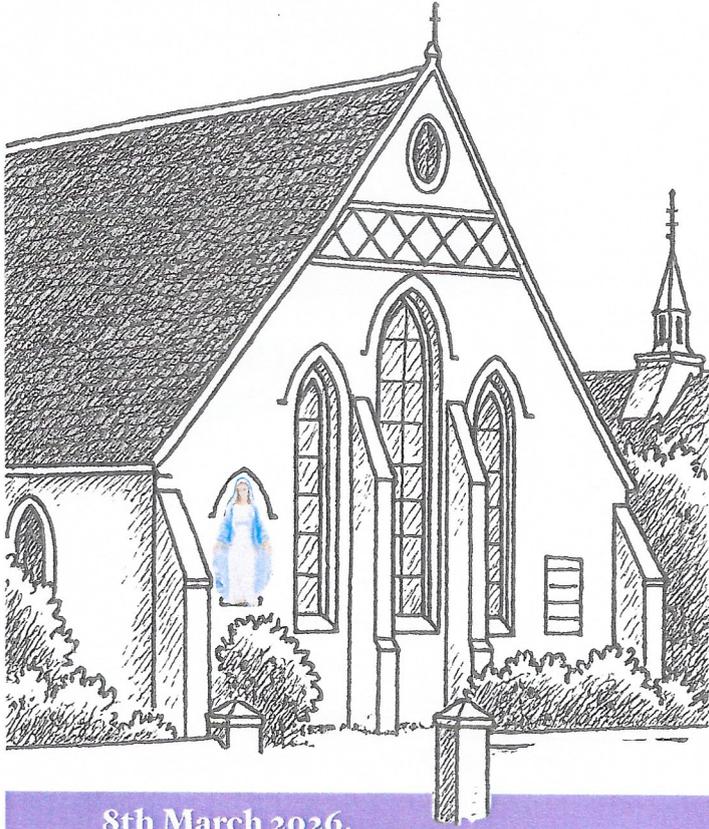


NEWSLETTER



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

Parish Priest

Rev. Fr. Vijay Bhupathi

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2 New King Street, Middlewich

Rev. Deacon Tony Ford:

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8th March 2026.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Fr. Vijay's reflection

The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman reminds us that God meets us in the ordinary places of our lives—often when we least expect it. Jesus begins not with judgement but with a simple request: “Give me a drink.” In that moment, a closed heart begins to open.

The woman arrives carrying her past, yet Jesus offers her **living water**—grace that restores dignity, heals what is wounded, and awakens hope. Her transformation is quiet but profound: she leaves her jar behind and becomes a messenger of good news.

This Lent, we are invited to recognise our own thirsts—our longing for peace, forgiveness, purpose—and to let Christ speak into them. His living water does not remove our history; it renews it. And like the woman at the well, we are sent to share what we have received.

Eucharistic Adoration 11.15 - 12.15pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 11.15am - 12.15pm

Key Contacts

St Mary's Primary School.	Parish Safeguarding Rep:	Administration.	Finance	PPPT Chair-person
Head Teacher	Jo Hopton	Mary Ford	Gemma Jakubik.	Dave Collins
J. McKinley	Tel: 07786 755168	01606 832359		
Tel: 01606 516171	www.stmarysparishmiddlewich.org.uk			

Community Focus

CAFOD Family Fast Day Collection

Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call

0303 303 3030. Text **CAFODLENT to 70085** to donate £10



Basket available at the back of church for collection.

Craft Stall

Sunday 8th March in the Parish Centre after 11.00am Holy Mass. Proceeds to Parish Funds (cash only please)

Please come and support our craft team and Parish while enjoying brew and natter.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage

Meeting in parish Centre 12.00pm Sunday 8th March after Holy Mass for all the pilgrims booked on the pilgrimage in May 2026. Tea and cake provided.

Cleaner Required

A cleaner needed for St Mary's Presbytery.

Approximately 2/3 hour per week. Minimum wage applies.

Please email the presbytery if you are interested.

Sacrament of Confirmation

We will soon be looking to help prepare young people 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 the parish by 31st March 2026

Mass for Healing at St Bedes .Weaverham

on Monday 16th March at 7pm. Celebrant and healing ministry / Fr Frankie Mulgrew. Praise and worship lead by OneHope Project.

All welcome.

A big thank you to our sponsors who are celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this month.
Rod & Anne Adderley



The Grace of forty days

Time to make the desert journey and renew our way to life.

Time for testing and for changing.
Time to trust the word of God.

Time to recognise holy presence and share Cyrene's work.

Time for forgiveness and for healing and to repent our broken lives.

Time to build God's dwelling with us and proclaim full life for all.

Time to watch and wait with Jesus and to prepare the upper room.

Time to turn our lives again to God and to transform our world with love.

Amen.

Prayer: Pat Pierce/CAFOD

What's on in the Parish Centre this week

Day	Activity	Time
SUNDAY	Craft Stall / Medjugorje	After Mass
MONDAY	PEP	6.00PM
TUESDAY		
WEDNESDAY	RCIA Programme	7.30PM
THURSDAY	Happy Little Signers Group	9.30AM
FRIDAY	Parents and Tots group	9.30AM
FRIDAY	Mothers Prayers	9.30AM

Day	Times	Mass Intentions
Sat. 7/3	10.30am	Mike Sproston RIP
Sat. 7/3	6.30pm	
Sun 8/3	9.00am	
Sun 8/3	11.00am	Ruth Stoneley RIP Anniv Celebration Mass (First Communion)
Mon 9/3	9.00am	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Tues 10/3	10,00am	Priest intentions
Wed 11/3	6.30pm	Clary France RIP
Thurs 12/3	9.00am	Holy Mass in School
Fri 13/3	9:00am	Bill Evans and Linda Chawner
Sat 14/3	10.30am	Don Jones RIP
Sat 14/3	6:30pm	Gordon Woodridge. RIP
Sun 15/3	9:00am	
Sun 16/3	11:00am	

Sunday
Mass
Readings

- **First Reading:**
Exodus 17:3-7
- **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps.
95(94):1-2,6-7b,7c-9
- O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts..
- **Second Reading:**
Romans 5:1-2,5-8
- **Gospel:**
John 4:5-42



8TH MARCH

International Women's Day is a celebration of the dignity, equality and resilience of women across the globe. In the Catholic tradition, we recognise and honour the unique gifts and talents that women bring to every aspect of life.

Anniversaries

James Ruane
Michael Jennings
Maurice Henry Jones
Harry Beaver
Fr. Paul Turner

Anniversaries

Julie Columbine
Annette Morris
Margaret Jean Barlow
John Crowley
Thomas Lee
Mary McAlee
Anne Lunt
Peggy Fikrle
Nora Devaney
Thomas Jennings

Anniversaries

Jean Quinn
Ken Littlemore
Joan Hartley
Ruth Margaret Stoneley
France's Milliken
Rev Henry E G Rope
Rev Bernard Lyons



Please pray for...

Who have died recently, specially:
Michael Regan. Josephine Lees. and Miles Hoghton

Who are sick at home and in hospital, especially.

Joan Lloyd, Sue McNeil, David Stephens, Andrew Pavlovski (Young). Catherine McIntosh

Community Focus

Holy Rosary

Holy Rosary takes place on the following days and times.

Monday on zoom at 10.30am

Wednesday before 6.30pm Holy Mass

Tuesday after 9am Holy Mass

Saturday 10am before Holy Mass

Marian Shrine

Father Vijay and the Parish Pastoral Team are planning to build a Marian Shrine on the grass area at the side of the car park. This will be a place of prayer and worship for parishioners now and in generations to come. We ask that any parishioners or friends of the parish who have **building skills**, brickwork / stonework etc to help build a shrine could let us know please.

We will start fundraising for the project very soon, watch this space! If you feel you can help in planning, fundraising or building the shrine, please speak to Fr. Vijay or Dave Collins (07359296730). Thank you.

An introduction to christian meditation

Are you ready to try something new to you, to inspire your prayer life?

17th March 2-3pm at St. Margaret's Church Homes Chapel

A warm invitation to EVERYONE to come and join me, Sue Noyce at St. Margaret's on Tuesday 17th of March at 2pm to explore and take part in Christian Meditation. It has been a very valued form of prayer since the 3rd Century and has been described as prayer where you create your own chapel in your mind and pray from your heart.

Try something different for your Lenten Journey.

Community Lunch

The next community lunch is after the midday mass on Monday March 23rd. If you would like to come to the lunch, please sign the list at the back of church. Due to the popularity of the lunches, we are having to limit the places on the list to 30. If the 30 places have been taken, then there will be a waiting list in case of any cancellations. Priority will also be given in April to those on the waiting list who did not get a place in March. Many thanks for your cooperation Anne and Sarah.

Reflection on St Joseph: Husband of the Blessed Virgin, Guardian of Jesus, Pillar of Families

See Poster at the back of Church for details:

When: Feast of St Joseph Husband of the Blessed Virgin 19th March 2026

Where: Shrewsbury Cathedral Parish Room 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Speaker: **Jane Deegan** Director of Marriage and Family Life Vocation, Lay Spirituality and Prayer

MASS READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, March 9th 2026

- First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-15
- Gospel: Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday, March 10th 2026

- First Reading Daniel 3:25, 34-43;
- Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday, March 11th 2026

- First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9
- Gospel: Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday, March 12th. 2026

- First Reading: Jeremiah 7:23-28
- Gospel Luke 11:14-23

Friday, March 13th 2026

- First Reading: Hosea 14:2-10
- Gospel Mark 12:28-34

Saturday, March 14th 2026

- First Reading: Hosea 5:15-6:6
- Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Stations of the Cross

St Mary's

Each Friday after 9am Holy Mass



St Margaret's

Each Thursday at 2pm