

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

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

Community Lunch

The next community lunch is on this Monday the 23rd.

The April Lunch is planned for April 20th after the midday mass. Priority will 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.

Vacancy

Due to retirement, a vacancy has arisen within the Diocese for a Health & Safety officer. **Salary** £32,000 - £38,000 dependant on experience.
Hours: 25 per week, term time only, Please send CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org
Closing date 10 April. Further details on the Diocese website

Diocese of Shrewsbury Lourdes Pilgrimage Youth 2026

Date: 29th June - 7th August 2026
Cost: £740 (Bursary, match funding and support are available)
Age: 16 to 23
Closing Date for all applications - 31st March 2026
Why go to Lourdes?

For our young people Lourdes offers a unique opportunity to grow in faith, service, and community. The shrine, associated with the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to St Bernadette, welcomes pilgrims from around the world. Our young pilgrims volunteer to help the sick and elderly, taking part in a powerful tradition of compassion and care. Alongside this service, they experience prayer, reflection, and friendship with other young Catholics from across our Diocese, often returning home with a deeper sense of faith and a stronger commitment to serving others. Our Lady called each one of us - now we have to answer the call.

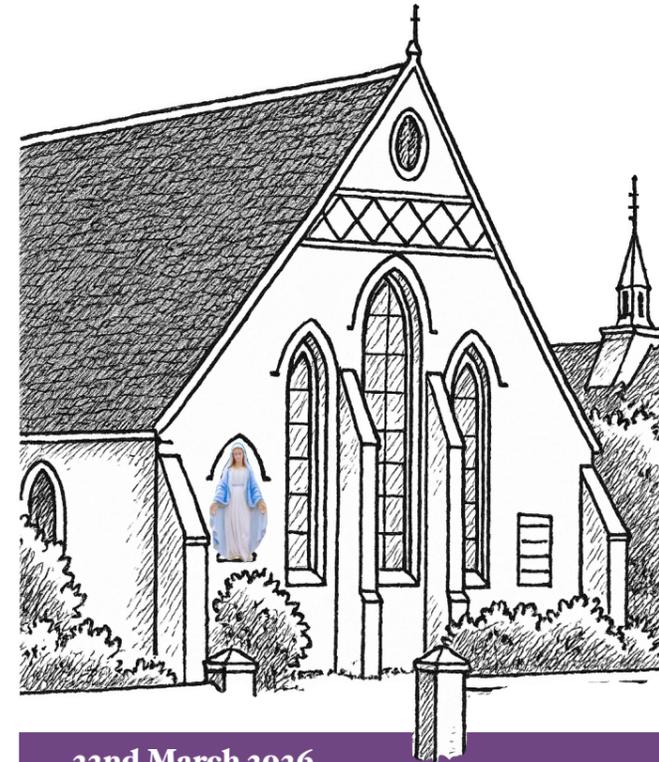
ADVANCE NOTICE HOLY WEEK AND EASTER MASS TIMES

St MARY'S

Maundy Thursday:	6.30pm
Walk of Witness:	10.30am
Good Friday	3.00pm
Easter Vigil	8.30pm
Easter Sunday	11.00am

ST MARGARET'S

Walk of Witness	12.30pm
Easter Sunday	9.00am



22nd March 2026.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Fr. Vijay's reflection

The raising of Lazarus reveals the tenderness and power of Christ. Jesus stands before the tomb, sharing the grief of Mary and Martha, and then speaks a word that brings life where everything seemed lost. As we move closer to Holy Week, this Gospel invites us to recognise the places in our own lives that feel closed off or weighed down—old hurts, disappointments, or hopes we have quietly buried. Jesus does not avoid these places; He comes to them and calls us by name. His voice invites us to step out of whatever binds us and to trust that God can bring new life even from what feels impossible. In these final days of Lent, may we allow Christ to roll away the stones we cannot move on our own, and walk with renewed hope toward the light of Easter.

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

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	Office: 01606 832359		
Tel: 01606 516171	www.stmarysparishmiddlewich.org.uk			

Please note new office hours: Monday 9.30 - 11.30 Tuesday 9.30 - 11.30 Friday 9.30 - 12.00

NEWSLETTER

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



Parish Priest

Rev. Fr. Vijay Bhupathi

Tel: 07836 614 833,

2 New King Street, Middlewich

Rev. Deacon Tony Ford:

Tel: 07918 912 195

email: stmaryscmiddlewich@gmail.com

Newsletter Email: SMRCCNEWSLETTER@icloud.com

- **First Reading:** Ezekiel 37:12-14
- **Responsorial** Psalm: Ps. 129
- With the Lord there is mercy in Him is plentiful redemption.
- **Second Reading:** Romans 8:8-11
- **Gospel:** St John: 11:1-45

Lord Jesus,
You stood before the tomb of Lazarus and called him forth from death into life. You revealed that no darkness is stronger than Your power, no despair deeper than Your mercy.
There are moments in my life that feel like sealed tombs. Situations that seem beyond repair. Prayers that appear unanswered. At times I struggle to believe that change is possible.
Yet You declare, "I am the resurrection and the life."
Strengthen my faith in those words. Help me trust that You can bring life where I see only loss. Resurrect hope in my heart.
Revive what has grown cold in my faith. Restore relationships that need healing. Renew dreams that have faded.
As Lent draws me closer to Your Passion, prepare me also for the joy of Your victory. Let me never forget that suffering does not have the final word. You do. Through Christ our Lord.



Day	Times	Mass Intentions
Sat. 21/3	10.30am	Priest Intentions
Sat. 21/3	6.30pm	Holy Mass
Sun 22/3	9.00am	Mary Clavin Anniversary
Sun 22/3	11.00am	Holy Mass. PEP CELEBRATION MASS
Mon 23/3	12 noon	Grace Phoenix (Healing)
Tues 24/3	9.00am	Kath & Sam Murray (Healing)
Wed 25/3	6.30pm	Scott Family Int.
Thurs 26/3	9.00am	SCHOOL Rod & Anne Adderley 60th wedding Anniversary
Fri 27/3	9:00am	Priest Intentions
Sat 28/3	10.30am	Priest Intentions
Sat 28/3	6:30pm	Rod & Anne Adderley Blessing
Sun 29/3	9:00am	Priest Intentions
Sun 29/3	11:00am	Ron Southern RIP Anniv

- Anniversaries**
- Sister M. de Sales
 - William Jennings
 - Michael Haysler
 - Bernard Cannon
 - Kathleen Wait
 - Christopher William
 - Bert Hough
 - Helmut Fuchs
 - Elvin Hughes
 - Hannah Kerrigan
 - Fr. W.Kinsella PP

- Anniversaries**
- Carmel Elliott
 - Eileen Wickham
 - Mary Cannon
 - Bridget McHale
 - Margaret Groarke
 - Winifred Parkin
 - Theresa Gore
 - Mary O'Keefe
 - Margaret Ruane
 - Vera Kathleen Mercer
 - Tony O'Reilly

- Anniversaries**
- Gerard Shirley
 - Ellen Horsfield
 - Marie Darin
 - Rev George Barrett
 - Rev Fred Beddow Deacon



Please pray for... **All who have died recently.**
Who are sick at home and in hospital, especially.
Joan Lloyd, Sue McNeil, David Stephens, Catherine McIntosh

Feast of the Divine Mercy – Sunday 12th April 2026

Jesus told St Faustina, 'My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. ... The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy.' **Feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated on Sunday 12th April at 11am Holy Mass.**
10.45am Sunday 12th April - Divine Mercy Chaplet
Confessions will be available on Saturday 11.15am-12.15 (this fulfils the requirement for the Feast)
The novena which can be prayed prior to the feast and begins on Good Friday. Leaflets will be available at the back of Church.
(More details regarding the Feast available at <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena>).



Children's Liturgy
The Children of
St Mary's will join us for 11.00am Mass at
St Mary's
This Sunday 22nd March
All children welcome.

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

🌻 **Spring Raffle** 🌻
Tickets available after every Mass
Main Prize 🚲 ****MOUNTAIN BIKE**** 🚲
Plus several smaller prizes.
All proceeds to the Parish
Tickets £2.00 each

What's on in the Parish Centre this week

Day	Activity	Time
MONDAY	PEP Session 6	6.00pm
WEDNESDAY	RCIA Programme	7.30PM
THURSDAY	Happy Little Signers Group	9.30AM
THURSDAY	PPT Meeting	7.00pm
FRIDAY	Mothers Prayers	9.30am
FRIDAY	Parents and Tots group	9.30AM

Community Focus

FOODBANK SHORTAGES

Coffee, Cordial, Tinned potatoes, Rice pudding
Easter Eggs
Thank you for your continued help.

New Envelopes

New boxes of named offertory envelopes will be available for collection at all masses this week.
For Gift-Aid we are required to confirm the address details of each donor, so please complete the card included in the box and place it in your next donation envelope.
If you currently give by standing order, please confirm your address details to worthingtonkr@gmail.com.

Easter Flowers

We will be collecting for Easter Flowers over the weekends of the 14th/15 and 21st/22nd of March.



Many thanks for your continued generosity.

Finance Committee

February Income: £5649.67
February Outgoings: £6136.91

The Finance Committee are continuing to review the parish finances. We have made some internal changes that have reduced costs and we continue to keep all aspects under review to make costs more manageable. Unfortunately, this in itself will not sustain the parish in the long term and we also need to look at ways of increasing our income. In the next few weeks we will be inviting the parish to come together and look at different ways in which we can try to accomplish this.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you all for the wonderful card, the generous gift, and especially for your prayers. Your kindness and thoughtfulness mean a great deal to me, and I am truly grateful for the support and friendship of our parish community.

As I spend time in Assisi, I will remember you all in my prayers and ask God to bless our parish and each of you in a special way.

*With sincere thanks and every good wish,
Peter de Vere*