

Community Focus

Holy Rosary

Holy Rosary takes place on the following days and times.

Monday on zoom at 10.30am

Tuesday after 9.00am Holy Mass

Wednesday 6.00pm before 6.30pm Holy Mass

Friday after 9.00am Holy Mass

Saturday 10am before 10.30 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:

stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com

FOODBANK SHORTAGES

Coffee, Cordial, Tinned Potatoes, Rice Pudding, Tinned Corned Beef, Tinned Spaghetti. Thank you for your continued support.

Catholic Family Holidays in the Lake District

Castlerigg Manor in Keswick (heart of the Lake District) is offering budget-friendly holidays for Catholic families during May, August, and early September. Breakfast and evening meal are included and there will be Mass on site. Guests have full use of the site including the grounds, games room, chapel, and lounges, and Castlerigg is just a short walk from Keswick and Lake Derwentwater. Ideal for individuals, couples, families, or groups of friends. Head to www.castleriggmanor.com >> stay with us or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk / 017687 72711

RETREAT FOR SINGLES. 2 - 3 May 2026

A retreat for singles, dating and engaged young adults who want to think more deeply about relationships and the call to marriage. A relaxed weekend with input, prayer, discussion and social, as well as the opportunity to meet like-minded others! This year's retreat will have as its theme masculinity and femininity. Runs from Saturday 2nd to Sunday 3rd May, with the option of staying Friday night. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/called-to-love/>

We welcome into our Parish Family
Otilie Teddy Watson
who will be Baptised next Sunday
Please keep the family in your prayers.



Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd

There is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the
shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me
comfort.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

Alleluia



Marian Garden

There is a small group from St Marys and St Margarets working toward making a Marian Shrine in the grounds of St Marys in time for May (the Month of the Holy Rosary). Are you able to help in any way? They are meeting at St Marys next Saturday 9.30am 2nd May. Please bring your own tools. Tea\coffee & Biscuits provided.

Contact Clare Skinner on 07967 112037 or just turn up. Any help you can give will be most welcome.

HOUSE BLESSINGS

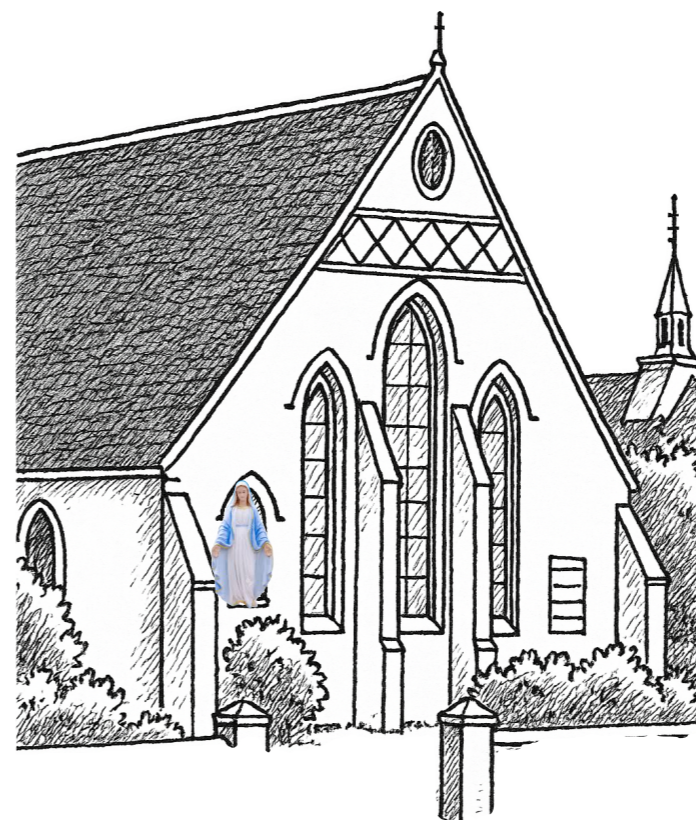
If you would like Fr Vijay to come and Bless your home please

email the Parish Office with your Name, address and telephone contact number.

stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com

Or Tel: 07836 614 833

01606 832359



26th April 2026.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Fr. Vijay's reflection for the Third Sunday of Easter

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus reminds us that He is the **gate** through which we enter life, safety, and peace. In a world full of competing voices and pressures, His voice is the one that calls us by name and leads us toward what truly gives life. The Good Shepherd does not drive us with fear; He **guides** us with love. He walks ahead of us, protects us, and invites us to trust that following Him will never diminish our freedom but deepen it.

As we continue our Easter journey, may we learn to recognise His voice more clearly—through prayer, through Scripture, and through the quiet movements of grace in our daily lives. And may we have the courage to follow where He leads, knowing that His desire is always to give us life, and life in abundance.

Saturday 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	PPT 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
Holmes Chapel

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

Newsletter

Email: SMRCCNEWSLETTER@icloud.com

Community Lunch

The next community lunch is after the midday mass Monday May 18th. 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 Mat to those on the waiting list who did not get a place in April. Many thanks for your cooperation Anne and Sarah.

If we are to continue this very important event then Urgent help is needed from SEPTEMBER. This is such a blessing for all our parish but especially for those who find it difficult to find opportunities to socialise during the week.

Sarah is happy to continue making the main course but we need someone to take over from Anne Sturman, who has served us very well for so long in organising this monthly event. Please contact the parish if you are able to help.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY

The catechists for the children’s Liturgy group would love to have some additional help please. They meet on alternate Sundays for 11.00 Mass. Volunteers will be required to have a DBS certificate which can be obtained through our safeguarding Rep here in the parish. If you haven’t done anything like this in the past why not come along and speak to the team or email the parish for more information.

YOUTH MINISTRY GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY

Do you know anyone aged 18-25 who is looking for a new challenge? The Diocese of Lancaster has a Youth Ministry team based in Keswick in the Lake District. They run retreats at Castlerigg Manor and also work in Churches and schools around the area. The ‘Youth Ministry Internship’ scheme comes with high quality training, experience, and recognised qualifications and gives young people the chance to join a welcoming community and a vibrant team doing some amazing work. **Interested?** Contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk or www.castleriggmanor.com >> **join the team**

Thanks to your generosity we have just sent off another cheque to CAFOD, this time for £185.20.

A big thank you to the O’Hare family for sponsoring our Newsletter this month.

CAFOD: Stand with Sudan. Give monthly.

On the third anniversary of the war in Sudan, Kayode Akintola, CAFOD’s Head of Region for Africa, asks for your help:

“So many of our sisters and brothers in Sudan are facing increasing violence, hunger, and disease. That is why today, I’m asking you to consider setting up a monthly gift to support families who are fleeing the violence - with food, safe water and other vital support. Monthly gifts are an act of steady love for our neighbours, a way of saying: we will not abandon you, we will stand with you until peace is restored.”

Donate at cafod.org.uk/StandWithSudan

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10th-16th MAY 2026

Christian Aid is focusing on supporting families facing the daily stress of food insecurity in Nairobi. In crowded and noisy settlements, parents wake up knowing they must earn money, otherwise their children won’t eat that evening. With tools, seeds and training from Christian Aid’s partner, Beacon of Hope, families can grow nutritious vegetables in small city spaces and grow hope for the future. Every pound we raise can help supporting community-led projects that strengthen food security and incomes. On Sunday May 10th there will be a United Service for Christian Aid at St Lukes Church, Holmes Chapel at 10.30am. A representative from Christian Aid North West will be speaking about its work during the service, all are welcome!

Envelopes will be available in St Margaret’s Sunday 10th May for your donations. Alternatively please use the On-Line Platform specifically for Christian Aid Week found by using this link online:

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2026/holmes-chapel-group>

What’s on in the Parish Centre this week

Day	Activity	Time
Sunday	SVP	10.00am
Sunday	Children’s Liturgy	11.00am
Monday	PEP	6.00pm
Wednesday	Parish Finance meeting	7.15pm
Thursday	Happy Little Signers	9.30am
Friday	Mums & Tots	9.30am

Sat 25/4	10.30am	Holy Mass Ruth Stoneley (<i>Birthday Anniv</i>)
Sat 25/4	6.30pm	Fourth Sunday of Easter Holy Mass
Sun 26/4	9.00am	(St Margarets) Fourth Sunday of Easter Holy Mass John Cullen RIP
Sun 26/4	11:00am	Fourth Sunday of Easter Holy Mass <i>Commissioning of Parish Pastoral Team</i> PEP Celebration Mass
Mon 27/4	9.00am	Service of The Word & Holy Communion
Tues 28/4	9.00am	Holy Mass
Wed 29/4	6.30pm	Holy Mass.
Thurs 30/4	9.00am	Holy Mass School
Thurs 30/4	11.00am	Requiem Mass for Mary Oakes
Fri 1/5	9:00am	Holy Mass.
Sat 2/5	10.30am	Holy Mass Collins Family Intentions
Sat 2/5	6:30pm	Holy Mass
Sun 3/5	9.00am	Fifth Sunday of Easter Holy Mass Julie (<i>thanksgiving</i>)
Sun 3/5	11:00am	Fifth Sunday of Easter Holy Mass

Anniversaries

- John Gregory
- Julia Brennan
- Alfred Ernest Horrick
- Simon Dakin
- Peter Prescott
- Margaret Kowalsk
- Cyril Ward
- Vera Fraser
- Geraldine Williams
- Philip O’Sullivan

Anniversaries

- Helen Wickham
- Sydney Smith
- Geoffrey Hadcroft
- Eric Buddle
- Albert Gallagher
- James Lannon
- Arthur Gilford
- Irene Fogg
- Michael Sinclair

Anniversaries

- Patricia Brewer
- Ida Irwin
- Lucy Taylor
- Peter Clarke
- Patrick Devine
- Amy Graham
- Margaret O’Leary
- Louis Bernard Battersby
- Rev Denis O’Sullivan



*Please pray for those who have died recently:
Especially Joseph Griffin, Mary Oakes, John Wells & Barry Eddleston*

*And those who are sick at home and in hospital especially:
Joan Lloyd, Sue McNeil, David Stephens, Catherine McIntosh*