

THE PARISH FINANCE GROUP

The Parish Finance Group are trying to prioritise the works that need completing at St Mary's and St Margaret's as finances allow. The main focus at present is to replace the heating system at St Margaret's and restore the front of the Parish Centre at St Mary's to help make our Parish look appealing and welcoming. Please do your best to support any initiatives to fund these projects.

July income £7268.67
July Expenditure £5756.46

Thank you to all who have responded to help the Parish Finances. If you would like to make a regular donation, please set up a standing order, using the bank details below.

To make a one-off donation, please scan the QR Code.

There are also gift aid forms for anyone who is a UK Tax payer and eligible for the scheme. (Please see Ken Worthington if you are unsure).

**Parish Bank Account: St Mary's
Middlewich.
Sort Code 30-15-52 Acc No 54643068**



COMMUNITY MASS & LUNCH
Will begin again on
Monday 21st SEPTEMBER 2026
Please sign the list at both churches.

CAFOD DONATION

We have recently sent CAFOD a cheque for £146.10p. Thank you to those who have put donations in the CAFOD box at St Mary's church or donated to teas and coffees after mass.

CAFOD school volunteers needed!

Could you visit your local Catholic school to talk about the work of CAFOD? We are looking for volunteers to deliver school assemblies and workshops and inspire children and young people to make a difference and take action. For further information please contact Anna Letizia on 07710 094449 or email aletizia@cafod.org.uk

**Thank you to the parishioners who is
sponsoring our Newsletter during the month of
September.**

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM (PPT) Update

Our Mission: "To be renewed in the spirit of your minds." (Ephesians 4:23)

Our Vision: By 2028, our parish will be a Spirit filled community of disciples, continually renewed in mind and heart, living with the wisdom of Christ, growing together in faith, and witnessing to the Gospel through prayer, fellowship, and service. The Parish Pastoral Team has now been in place for a year. Here's an overview of what's been done.

Recent PPT initiatives:

- Setting up a team to work on a Marian shrine for the parish grounds, in conjunction with the gardening team and the Rosary group
- Christmas Carol concerts for the school and for parishioners/neighbours
- St Stephen's Day celebration for our Altar Servers
- Easter Vigil refreshments to welcome the newest members of our Catholic faith
- First Marian procession in over 25 years
- Reintroduction of the offertory procession at St Margaret's
- Parish summer BBQ
- Launch of the new parish Facebook page
- The 100 Club set up and launch

Coming soon:

- A bereavement support group where those who have been bereaved can share experience and support one another
- Altar Servers outing
- Parish social evening – more information soon
- Christmas Fayre

If you have suggestions to enrich parish life, please email the parish office and they will pass them on to the PPT.

VACANCIES IN THE DIOCESE

Exciting new vacancies have arisen within the Diocese. The Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team (SYMT) are recruiting for a Programme Coordinator and Team Member; both roles are full time based in Stockport. The Curial office is also looking to recruit an Accounts Assistant, full time, based in Birkenhead. CV's to be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date: Friday 18 September.** Further details for all vacancies can be found on the Diocesan website using this link <https://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers>

FOODBANK SHORTAGES

Tinned custard, rice pudding and tinned tomatoes, along with Noodles and toilet rolls. Please keep the Foodbank in your prayers at this time.



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 **CW10 9EB**

Rev. Deacon Tony Ford:

Tel: 07918 912 195

email: stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com

Newsletter

Email: SMRCCNEWSLETTER@icloud.com

30th August 2026. TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Fr. Vijay's Reflection for The Week Ahead

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples that following Him will involve sacrifice. Peter reacts instinctively—he wants to protect Jesus from suffering. But Jesus gently corrects him, reminding us that God's way is not always the easy way. The Christian path is shaped by love that gives, serves, and sometimes costs us something.

St Paul echoes this when he urges us to "offer your bodies as a living sacrifice"—not in dramatic gestures, but in the daily choices where we put kindness before convenience, forgiveness before pride, and compassion before comfort.

This Sunday invites us to look honestly at our discipleship. Where is Christ calling us to grow? What small "cross" might we carry for the sake of love? When we walk His way, even through challenge, we discover a deeper peace and a joy the world cannot give.

Please note that I am going for my home holidays and annual retreat for the month of September 2026. If you require any help during this time Please contact Deacon Tony. Thank you. Fr Vijay

Saturday 10.45am HOLY ROSARY
Eucharistic Adoration 11.15-12.15pm

Key Contacts & Information

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	Parish Mobile 07836 614 833		

Office Hours DURING SEPTEMBER: Tues 9.30 - 11.30. Thurs 9.30 - 11.30 Fri 9.30 - 12.00

Parish Bank Account: St Mary's Middlewich.

SortCode 30-15-52 Acc No 54643068

Donate here ➡

SVP CONTACT INFO: Mobile 0747 495 8103 Email: SS_MandMW_SVP@icloud.com

Roman Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury: Registered Charity 234025



- **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

Margaret Ward was born in Congleton, Cheshire, around 1550. Not much is known about Margaret's early life, except that she was of a good family and was described as a gentlewoman. Margaret was a victim of the renewed persecution in England during the reign of Elizabeth I.

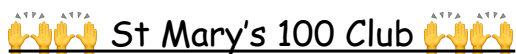
Margaret worked as a housekeeper or companion in the home "of a lady of distinction" named Whitall in London. She decided to help a priest who was imprisoned in the Bridewell prison by the name of Richard Watson.

Margaret befriended the gaoler's wife, took food to Watson, and smuggled a rope to help Watson escape. She arranged for two Catholic watermen to meet Watson on the Thames below the prison walls. He broke his arm and leg during his escape, but was still picked up by the watermen, who rowed him to a safe hiding place. However, Watson left the rope hanging from the prison wall and it was traced back to Margaret.

She was arrested, charged, and tried for "aiding a traitor to escape" and was tortured by being flogged and hung up by the wrists, the tips of her toes only touching the ground, for so long a time that she was crippled and paralyzed. John Roche, who was either her servant or one of the watermen who helped Watson escape on the river and exchanged clothes with him, was arrested and tried with Margaret. They were offered release if they asked for the queen's pardon and agreed to "conform to the established Church", but they refused and were hanged at Tyburn on 30 August 1588.



*Beatified on 15 December 1929 by Pope PiusXI.
Canonised on 25 October 1970 by Pope Paul VI.*



St Mary's 100 Club

We have now filled our 100 Club. Subscriptions are now closed and any new requests to join will be placed on a waiting list. Thank you all for your support and participation.

Due to a last minute flurry, we actually have 103 members! If anyone has any issue with the over-subscription please see the PPT

The Pope's prayer Intention for September
For the care of water
Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

URGENT!
Stop assisted suicide being legalised

Assisted suicide campaigners have sadly brought back the Leadbeater Bill. This can be stopped if MPs vote down the Bill on 11 September.

Right To Life UK has launched an *EasyAction* tool to help you email your MP to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide in the vote in the House of Commons on 11th September. Please take 30 seconds to email your MP today to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide: <https://righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote>



ALPHA - STARTING THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2026

Open to anyone (of faith or none) interested in discussing life, faith and meaning. The ALPHA is a 12 week programme which will run on Thursday evenings in the Parish Centre 7.00-8.45pm. Have you got questions about the Christian Faith? The meaning of Life? Come and See - No obligations, no judgement, no pressure. Meet new people and explore the Christian Faith in a safe environment. Each Session unpacks the big questions of life, faith and purpose. Please sign the list at the back of Church or email the Parish Office if you are interested or would like more information.



QUIET RETREATS FOR ADULTS THIS OCTOBER

During October half term, Castlerigg Manor is running a quiet retreat for individual adults who want to spend a few days of peace, relaxation and prayer in the Lake District. Each day there will be a talk, Mass, and evening prayer, and then a lot of time to explore the area, pray, or just simply relax. Book at castleriggmanor.com/events or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

What's on in the Parish Centre this week

Day	Activity	Time
Thurs	Confirmation Social	7.00pm
Thurs	Alpha	7.00pm

Sat 29/8	10.30am	Holy Mass	Felicity Coen & Patrick Galloway (<i>For a long & Blessed Marriage</i>)
Sat 29/8	6.30pm	Twenty Second Sunday Ordinary Time	Blessing of Kath & Phil Shaw Diamond Wedding Anniv
Sun 30/8	9.00am	Twenty Second Sunday Ordinary Time	St Margarets.
Sun 30/8	11:00am	Twenty Second Sunday Ordinary Time	Gavin McAleer RIP (<i>Anniv</i>)
Mon 31/8	9.00am	NO MASS OR SERVICE	
Tues 1/9	9.00am	Service of The Word & Holy Communion	World Day of prayer for the Care of Creation
Wed 2/9	6.30pm	Holy Mass	Nigel Johnson RIP
Thurs 3/9	9.00am	Service of The Word & Holy Communion	
Fri 4/9	9:00am	Service of The Word & Holy Communion	
Sat 5/9	10.45am	Holy Rosary followed by Eucharistic Adoration	(NO MASS OR SERVICE THIS MORNING)
Sat 5/9	6:30pm	Twenty Third Sunday Ordinary Time	Mike Blake RIP (<i>2nd Anniv</i>)
Sun 6/9	9.00am	Twenty Third Sunday Ordinary Time	St Margarets.
Sun 6/9	11:00am	Twenty Third Sunday Ordinary Time	PEP Celebration Mass & Presentation of Bible & Medal

Almighty God, We thank you for your gift of peace.

Your peace is 'unarmed and disarming' not victory or defeat, but fraternity and dialogue, the fruit of justice and forgiveness. Open our eyes to see the world - not from the viewpoint of the mighty but from that of the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the wounded child, the exile and the fugitive.

We pray for change to come - a new era, the dawn of your kingdom of justice and peace.

Disarm our hearts, Lord, that we may have peace in ourselves and bring that gift to others. Amen. **Pax Christi**

Prayer for Peace - The Chaplet of St Michael The Archangel

Every Thursday Evening - 6.00pm on Zoom. Please join us to pray for peace.

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/9458449456?pwd=Ym15NEI2UXNrelhncFpGc3JFNTlwdz09>

Meeting ID 9458449456 **Passcode: MICHAEL**

Holy Michael the Archangel defend us in the day of battle, be our safeguard against the wickedness & snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast down to hell satan and all wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.



Anniversaries	Anniversaries	Anniversaries	Anniversaries
Margaret Anne McGovern	John Stoneley	Margaret Bennion	Rev Terence Thompson
Sidney Ankers	Catherine Cheetham	Richard K. Hind	Rev Denis Gaul
Marjorie Joan O'Brien	Bridget McCory	George Egerton	Rev David McNamara
Bernard Egan	Gavin McAleer	Joan McGrory	Canon Francis John O'Reilly
Mary O'Hare	Michael Bailey	James Bannaghan	Rev John Nolan
Walter Williams	Francis Haslem	Mary Kelly	Canon Cormac McGonagle
John Duffy	Sheila Hughes	Peggy Callaghan	Rev Kevin Byrne
Diana Princess of Wales	Annie Harrop	Rev John Miller (Former PP)	Canon Martin Kehoe
			Canon Timothy Harrington



Please pray for those who have died recently especially Mary Clark & Claire Lancaster (sisters)

Also for those who are sick at home and in hospital, especially: Joan Lloyd, Sue McNeil, David Stephens, Margaret Scarlett, Molly Hamblett, John Brazier, Deacon Peter Mascarenhas & Sr Kay Harte.