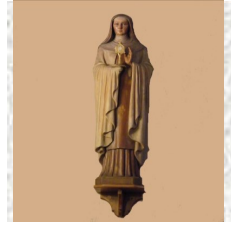


St Clare of Assisi Catholic Church

DIAMOND JUBILEE 1960 - 2020



Downsfield Road Chester CH48HH
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Parish email st.clareschester@sky.com Tel 01244 671015,
Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025.
Parish Website: www.stclareschester.org
Parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/StClaresChester/

Psalter Week I

**1st MARCH 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

Year of The Word

DEDICATION:

March is dedicated to St Joseph



GOSPEL FOR FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Matt 4:1-11

Every Lent begins with the story of Jesus being driven into the desert after his baptism. After John the Baptist's acclamation and the spectacular showing of God's favour, Jesus is sent into the desert for forty days. Hunger and thirst are constant, wild beasts roam about. He is strengthened along the way by angels, in the end though, when he is at his weakest point, he will face a terrible test

Basically, the devil offers Christ a series of shortcuts: He can sate his hunger by changing stones into bread He can win universal acclaim by jumping off the highest pinnacle of the Temple and landing without injury He can have the whole world if only he will give his soul to the devil

But, like all shortcuts, these temptations bypass something necessary: Struggle. Without struggle, without hardship, we cannot grow (cf. Rom. 5:3-5). Whatever we gain without legitimate struggle can become meaningless. As God, Christ did not *need* to struggle; but, as man, he showed us that the way to everlasting life cannot be without the struggle of faith

—Catholic Answers

BISHOP MARK'S INVITATION TO PRAY THE ANGELUS

In this week's Pastoral Letter from Bishop Mark he writes "This year, the Bishops invite us to renew that solemn act of entrustment to the Blessed Virgin Mary amidst the de-Christianisation of our society, re-echoing the call with which Lent begins, "Come back to me with all your heart (Joel 2:12). On the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we will make this act of entrustment together at the end of Mass".

He Continues "**In Shrewsbury Diocese, I want us to also make this entrustment throughout Lent using the simple and profound words of the Angelus**".

"This Sunday, prayer cards will be distributed across the Shrewsbury Diocese so we can have the words of this beautiful prayer to hand. **I wish to invite you to pray the Angelus with me each day and especially around midday on Wednesday 25th March**"

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 9.30am

Sunday 11.15 am (Latin)

Weekday Masses Please see back page

Confessions

Saturday 5.30 -5.45pm

or on request

Children's Liturgy

Takes place Sundays 9.30am

In Sacristy

For Baptisms, Confirmation,

Weddings & Funerals

Please call or email Fr Emeka above



OUR SICK LIST

Our sick, elderly, housebound and those in care homes are important members of our parish community. New names are in Bold Type. Please remember to pray for them each day as they carry their cross ,

Dot Bell, Veronica Creaney, W. Downes, Mike Edwards, Mary Frain, David Gardiner, Michelle Gentile, Katie Gray, Gwyn Harris, Lorna Jarvis, Judy Kearney, Ann Leach, Peter Lloyd, Rosemary McCabe, Kevin McCarthy, Alex Shone, Gwen Spurr, Krysia Wesalak, Eileen Wyatt.

ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME

Gerry McGrath, Merie Quirk, Winefred Morris, John Lynch, Terence Lavery, Mary Hughes, Laura Barlow, Zoe Campbell

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Every Friday during Lent at 7.30pm. If you would like to lead ,please see Fr Emeka

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

Preparation of children who are not in St. Clare's Primary School for First Communion is ongoing every Tuesday at 5.30pm. Venue is parish room.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

There will be a Penitential Service in St Clare's with opportunity for Confessions on Monday 30th March

DEANERY LENT PROGRAMME

Please take a copy of 'A Journey through Lent' on yellow paper at back of the church

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

Next Friday, 6 March is CAFOD's Lenten Fast Day so please do collect an envelope this weekend after Mass and return with your donation next week if you can. As part of one of the largest aid networks in the world, with a local presence in 165 countries, CAFOD's global family is full of people with local expertise and a long-term relationship with the communities they are serving: living and working amongst the people, they are known, they are trusted and they can help people quickly. Sister Consilia, from Zimbabwe who features on the Fast Day poster and envelope, is one such local expert. A trained pharmacist she works at a Mission hospital in rural N W Zimbabwe where there has been sharp rise in maternal mortality due not only to inadequate facilities or lack of appropriate care but also to extreme food shortages caused by drought and compounded by Cyclone Idai which left families homeless without essential supplies of food and medicine. Your Fast Day donation will help to support the continuing work of Sr Consilia and other experts. Please also keep them all your prayers.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Collection next will be the weekend 28/29th March

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

This week the duty falls on Team 3

SVP THEATRE NIGHT

Wednesday 3rd June . Gladstone Theatre Port Sunlight. 7.30pm 'The Vicar of Dibley'. Tickets available much nearer the time. Proceeds to the running and replacement of the Holiday Home.

SVP LUNCH

The next SVP Lunch will be take place **this Sunday** 1st March 2020 at The Golden Lion, Chester Road,, ROSSETT. The meeting time is 12-30n for 1p.m. Please contact Catherine on: 01244- 678825.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

That the church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the gospel and grow in unity

ST CLARE'S SVP CONFERENCE



As you know St Clare's SVP Members are part of a team of drivers that return a lady to her home in Wallasey Village after she visits her son who is in long term care at a special facility on the Countess of Chester Health Park. Her son was severely disabled in a fall 5 or 6 years ago but now able to walk unaided and last Sunday on his 40th Birthday was able to visit his beloved Liverpool Football Club at Anfield. His mother is recovering from a Breast Cancer operation. Both are cheerful and enormously grateful for the travel help given by SVP members.

St Clare's SVP members also helped support another disabled man distressed by a visit from a finance company and yet another is being helped with funding for a specialist wheelchair. All this occurs with your support. Thank you so much. God bless. Steve

REGULAR PARISH EVENTS

PRAYER GROUP. Meets after Wednesday 9.30 am Mass, in the Parish Room . All welcome.

CHOIR Thursdays after the 7.30 pm Mass, in the Parish Room . New members needed.

CAFOD. Meets in the Parish Room on the first Tuesday of the month, after the evening Mass.

SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul)) St Clare's SVP Conference meets every fortnight in the Parish Room on Mondays usually at 7pm. Contact Steve on 01244 671817 or stevebonsall@outlook.com

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB (St Clare's SVP Conference Sunday Lunch Club. First Sunday of each month. Venue varies and is advised monthly.

CHESTER SPUC GROUP 3rd Wednesday every other month next meeting contact Kevin 01244 681816

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS every Friday at 7.30pm during Lent

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB This Sunday 1st March . . See over page for details

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday 10th March

TABLE TOP SALE Sat 28th March . Our Lady's Star of the Sea. E. Port. Ps towards their Lourdes Fund.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE Monday 30th March St Clare's

SVP THEATRE NIGHT Wed 3rd June. 'The Vicar of Dibley' -see p2 for details

THE RE-DEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY

This Re-dedication on March 29th 2020 is a both a personal promise of the people of our country, and a renewal of the entrustment vows made by King Richard II in 1381. On Sunday 29th March at 12noon, The Re-dedication will take place throughout the country.

More information on: <https://www.behold2020.com/>

HOSPICE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Friday, 20 March, the Hospice is hosting an Auction of Promises evening at Vicars Cross Golf Club CH3 7HN 7pm for 7.30 start. Tickets £5 per person. There will be many great prizes to bid For as well as nibbles and a complementary glass of wine when you arrive. See the Parish Notice Board for information.

DIOCESAN SPRING TALKS TO MARK THE 'YEAR OF THE WORD':

Following on from the talk by Fr Nick Kearn onemore will be delivered; Miss Barbara Davies: The Language we use to speak of God: Wednesday 4th March, Our Lady's Ellesmere Port, 19:00-20:30

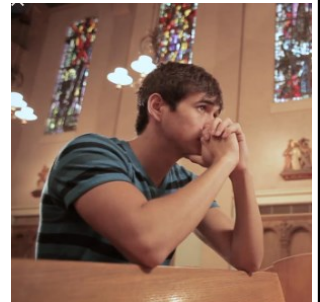
YOUTH ZONE

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

When did you last truly pray? If it was a time when you really needed God's help, no doubt you were truly praying. But there's much more to prayer than that. Our relationship with those who we love would be hollow if we only spoke to them when we needed something. In the same way our relationship with God would be empty if we only spoke to him when we were really desperate.

God calls us to much more than that. Prayer is most powerful when we discover that it is about a living relationship with God who is always calling us to himself. This can be the beginning of real and powerful prayer, for prayer is nothing more, nothing less than becoming friends with God. He wants us to share our entire life with him, and if we let him, he wants to share his life with us too

If we want someone in our lives who is completely dependable, trustworthy, loving, and compassionate, then God offers us himself. He will always listen to us when we pray. He will never leave us. That is why prayer is so powerful - it's not about getting what we want from God when we want it, but living in a constant relationship with him, trusting all things to him. That is the true reality and the power of prayer. *Diocesan Youth web site*



ROSARY CORNER

When the Holy Rosary is said well, it gives Jesus and Mary more glory and is more meritorious than any other prayer

~ Saint Louis de Montfort

Date/Time	Feast/Colour	Readings	Offered For
Sat 29/02 Rosary 5.40pm Vigil MASS 6pm	First Sunday	Gn 2: 7-9. 3:1-7 Ps 50;	Paul Adams RIP (KC)
Sun 01/03 Exposition 8.45 am Rosary and Benediction 9 am MASS 9.30 and 11.15 am	Of Lent Purple	Rm 5: 12-19; Mt 4: 1-11	Florio Family Intentions Roger Jones
Tue 03/03 Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet 3-4pm Devotions followed by St Anthony MASS 7pm	Ferial Purple	Is 55; 10-11; Ps 33; Mt 6: 7-15	James and Glenda Whelan
Wed 04/03 Exposition 8.30am Rosary and Benediction 9 am MASS 9.30 am	Ferial Purple	Jon 3: 1-10; Ps 50; Lk 11: 29-32	Mary and Peter Cummins
Thu 05/03 Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet 3-4pm MASS 7.30pm	Ferial Purple	Est 4: 17; Ps 137; Mt 7: 7-12	Joe Poole Prendergast
Fri 06/03 Rosary 9.10 am MASS 9.30am Stations of the Cross 7.30pm Woman's World day of Prayer	Ferial Purple	Ezk 18: 21-28; Ps 129; Mt 5: 20-26	Jude Prendergast CAFOD family Fast day
Sat 07/03 Rosary 5.40pm Vigil MASS 6pm	Second Sunday	Gn 12: 1-4; Ps 32;	Silvio Cicuttin
Sun 08/03 Exposition 8.45 am Rosary and Benediction 9 am MASS 9.30am Sung Latin MASS 11.15am	Of Lent Purple	2 Tm 1: 8-10; Mt 17: 3-9	Francis Thomas

St Clare's Catholic Primary School



Pupils enjoyed pancakes in school on Shrove Tuesday, they had a lovely time cooking and decorating them before eating them!

For the start of Lent all children wrote a Lenten commitment which was offered up in the Mass on Ash Wednesday. It was lovely that school and Parish joined for Mass at 9:30am and we were delighted when our very talented Ryan played his cornet for the final hymn!

Each week during Lent Key Stage Two classes will take it in turns to pray the Stations of the Cross in Church. On Friday afternoon children in Africa (Year Four and Five) reflected on each station.

During the week all pupils had a piece of their artwork displayed in the school hall in a wonderful, colourful Art Exhibition. Parents were able to purchase the artwork which I am sure will be displayed proudly in homes. We also had parents' evenings this week on Wednesday and Thursday so that teachers could share pupils' attainment and progress information. There was a lovely atmosphere around school and it was a lovely opportunity to celebrate our wonderful pupils!



Pupils in Year Three visited Beeston Castle on Friday - they had a wonderful day investigating a model Bronze Age Roundhouse and exploring evidence of what life was like.

In Friday's celebration assembly we presented Miley with a medal for coming second in the Cheshire West and Chester Cross Country League for Year Five and Six girls. Since

September Miley had run in a series of Cross Country races and her average scores meant that she was second in the league. Huge congratulations on this wonderful achievement.

