

# Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in  
Ordinary time

**Sunday of the Word of God  
Year B**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Ps 24:4-9 r. 4  
1 Cor 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20



Website: [stclares.co.uk](http://stclares.co.uk)  
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## St Clare of Assisi Catholic Church

Downsfield Road, Chester  
CH4 8HH

Priest: Fr Bernard Forshaw

Tel: 01244 671015

Mobile: 07885 772887

Email: [contact@stclares.co.uk](mailto:contact@stclares.co.uk)

*If you wish to make a donation to St Clare's church - Bank Sort Code: 30-15-52 Acct number: 54579560*

### MASSES AND SERVICES

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Exposition & Confessions: 10.30am – 11.30am Rosary 5.40pm <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b>
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Sunday of the Word of God</b> <b>Mass 9.30am</b>
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	St Vincent, Deacon, Martyr <b>No Mass</b>
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	<b>No Mass</b>
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> January	St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Dr of the Church - Memorial <b>No Mass</b>
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> January	The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle - Feast <b>No Mass</b>
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops - Memorial <b>No Mass</b>
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	St Angela Merici, Virgin Exposition & Confessions: 10.30am – 11.30am Rosary 5.40pm <b>Vigil Mass 6.00pm</b>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time <b>Mass 9.30am</b>

### INTENTIONS

Sarah Russell RIP (KC)

Ann & Billy Hanwright

Russell Family (KC)

Leach Family intentions

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**– Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am and on request

*Fr Bernard is on retreat this week – Monday to Friday*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Edward Craggs who sadly died during the week. May he Rest in Peace.

**THE SICK, ELDERLY AND HOUSE BOUND** and those in care homes are important members of our parish community. Trisha Cannon, Veronica Creaney, Mike Darby. W. Downes, Jenny Guest, Lorna Jarvis, Mary, Judy Kearney, Peter Lloyd, Rosemary McCabe, Rosemary Roberts, Eileen Wyatt

*If anyone is in need of a visit / Holy Communion, please let Fr Bernard know 01244 671015*

**ANNIVERSARIES OCCURRING ABOUT THIS TIME:** Esther Shaw, Michael Ashcroft, Kathleen Saunders, Joseph Ash, Tom Penlington, Jane Flynn, Charles Carson, Teresa Davies, Peter Welsh, Gladys Shanley, William Britlin, Edna Williams, Lesley Jones, William McDonagh, Colette Fitzgerald and Fr. Terry Moore OFM Cap.

May they rest in peace.

**Retired Priests' Fund:** After each Mass this weekend there will be a basket for your offerings at the back of Church.

**TEA & COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY 9.30am MASS** (in the Parish Room) This week tea and coffee will be provided by Catherine and Elaine with proceeds to St Clare's SVP and the following week by Mike and Veronica on behalf of the Holiday Home. We hope you will join us.

**SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD:** On 30 Sept 2019, Pope Francis declared the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time to be the Sunday of the Word of God. It is devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God.  
*"Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world"* Pope Francis.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** began 18<sup>th</sup> January and concludes on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

**RETREAT DAY OF PRAYER:** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 10.00-3.00 pm in St Columba's Church Hall, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. The year 2025 is the next Jubilee Year in the Church. Pope Francis has asked the Church to prepare well and in order to help us do so, Pope Francis has called 2024 "A Year of Prayer." In response the Shrewsbury Diocesan Team for Evangelisation and Mission will be organising retreat days on prayer throughout the year for Parishes in the Chester area. Come and understand what the Church teaches about prayer and experience different types of prayer throughout the day. All are welcome - Please bring a packed lunch.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** Next meeting Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January after 7pm Mass in the Parish Room.

**NEWSLETTER - NEARLY THERE:** We need just a few more volunteers! The aim is to have a rota and then each volunteer will only be called upon once a month, for a couple of hours, in their own home, to compile the newsletter. So, if you have 'Microsoft Word' on your computer/laptop/tablet and can help, please contact Kevin on 07881 204432, or Fr Bernard.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** We had hoped to restart at 9.30am Mass on Sundays in the next few weeks, but so far the response to the request for volunteers has been disappointing. Please consider helping. Several people are needed to work in teams of a minimum of 2. Training, guidance and resources will be available. See Fr Bernard or any Parish Council member.

**SVP CONFERENCE:** Our meeting on Monday evening last noted that many visits are taking place including to the homeless in Chester City Centre. It's a difficult time for them in this icy weather. We are getting donations of money for food and energy costs for those in need and as that need arises we will be able to help. Preparations for a Music Night at the Chester CHS on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> move forward this week with a positive meeting with the Head teacher. Choral singing and lighter music will be the theme. More details closer to the date. Keep safe and as well as possible this week. God bless Steve. <https://stclaressvp.co.uk>

**SUNDAY LUNCH GATHERING:** The next Sunday Lunch will be at the Upton Golf Club on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February, for information contact Catherine on 01244 678825 or [catherine117hg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catherine117hg@hotmail.co.uk)

**FOODBANK DONATIONS:** Thank you for your donations. Please continue to bring these in and as the trolley fills up donations will be taken to the Warehouse.

**LOURDES BY JUMBULANCE:** Chester Across Group are off to Lourdes by Jumbulance again in 2024. The dates are Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August. (Wirral Across Group dates are Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June if better for you.) The Jumbulance travels overland and has seven beds on it and we are able to take very sick or disabled pilgrims. We have a Doctor, but there are vacancies for another nurse and several helpers. The cost for all pilgrims is £1,095. However, nurses and young people under 25 in full time education pay half. Financial help may be available for those who cannot afford the full amount. Most sick pilgrims take advantage of Across Travel insurance at just £70. Helpers have to undertake a DBS. For more information, please contact Tony Murphy on 07881-656-974 or [tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk). Visit <http://www.across.org.uk/?s=AJ>.

**ST CLARE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** We have had an interesting week 'deep diving' into our curriculum for History, Geography, Reading and Maths, with the support of an external advisor. It has been wonderful to celebrate the hard work of the staff and the fantastic knowledge of our wonderful pupils. In our Celebration of the Word this week we thought about how each day gives us a Fresh Start and a chance to live by the values Jesus taught us.

***When you have read this newsletter please pass it on to someone in your neighbourhood/local area***