

Sunday
28th January 2024

Racial Justice Sunday

**4th Sunday in
Ordinary time**

**Psalter Week IV
Year B**

Deut 18:15-20

1 Cor 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28

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



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**St Clare of Assisi
Catholic Church**

Downsfield Road, Chester
CH4 8HH

Priest: Fr Bernard Forshaw

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January is dedicated to The Holy Name of Jesus

MASSES AND SERVICES

INTENTIONS

Saturday 27 th January	Exposition & Confessions: 10.30am – 11.30am Rosary 5.40pm Vigil Mass 6.00pm	Russell Family (KC)
Sunday 28 th January	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary time Racial Justice Sunday Mass 9.30am	Leach Family Intentions
Mon 29 th January	Rosary 9.10am Mass 9.30am	John Alvey (RIP)
Tues 30 th January	St Anthony's Devotions & Mass 7pm	Nigel Clayton (RIP)
Wed 31 st January	Exposition 8.45am – 9.30am Mass 9.30am	Chris and Helen Brown (KC)
Thurs 1 st February	Rosary 9.10am Mass 9.30am	Bernard Davies (RIP)
Fri 2 nd February	The Presentation of the Lord – Feast Rosary 9.10am Mass 9.30am (Blessing of Candles)	Sarah Russell
Saturday 3 rd February	Friday Abstinence Rosary 5.40pm Vigil Mass 6.00pm	Mrs Bates
Sunday 4 th February	5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass 9.30am	Sarah Russell

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

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, Geoffrey Prendergast.

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

ANNIVERSARIES OCCURRING ABOUT THIS TIME: Josie Blackburn, Mary O'Gorman, Elizabeth Walsh, John Wright, Wilf Bromley, Andrew Tooth, Mary Blackburn, Patrick O'Gorman and Evelyn Bennett.

Please pray for those members of our Parish community who have died recently: Edward Craggs, Ray Ratcliffe and Elizabeth Smith. **May they Rest in Peace.**

TEA & COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY 9.30am MASS (in the Parish Room) This week tea and coffee will be provided by Mike and Veronica on behalf of the Holiday Home. We hope you will join us.

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS - JANUARY: For the gift of diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - When at Mass we are encouraged to pray the prayer below for an end to suffering due to racism:

God of light & truth, you call all men and women to live lives of holiness & justice. Help us to see in one another: a heart which is tender, a mind which is humble, a care for our brothers & sisters, so that together we may build up the Body of Christ as a sign of hope & mercy for all. We make our prayer through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

RETREAT DAY OF PRAYER: Next Saturday 3rd 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 this Tuesday 30th January after 7pm Mass in the Parish Room. Please let Fr Bernard have any items for discussion by 5pm on Monday.

NEWSLETTER: Many thanks to the volunteers who agreed to join the "Newsletter Team" – full details will follow.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: We had hoped to restart at 9.30am Mass on Sundays in the next few weeks, but 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, resources, help and support will be available. See Fr Bernard or any Parish Council member.

NEW CTS PODCAST - "INTO THE TRUTH" There is a new free podcast from the Catholic Truth Society shining the light of truth on issues of faith and culture of our day by sharing the insights of the leading thinkers and writers of today's Church, this is the link: <https://youtu.be/dNtR0aclG4I?si=K3ty2a-TFG6MAV9f> Please also take a look at the recently restocked books in the CTS display rack. The books are individually priced.

SUNDAY LUNCH GATHERING: The next Sunday Lunch will be at the Upton Golf Club on Sunday 4th February, for information contact Catherine on 01244 678825 or 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 15th to Saturday 24th August. (Wirral Across Group dates are Thursday 30th May to Saturday 8th 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. Visit <http://www.across.org.uk/?s=AJ>.

HOSPITAL MASS: to be celebrated on Thursday 1st February at 12.15pm in the Countess of Chester Hospital Chapel. This month Fr Bernard is joining us. This Mass is for all the staff, patients, patients' families, volunteers and parishioners in our area. We would love to welcome you to Mass once a month in the hospital chapel.

ST CLARE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: We gathered as a school this week, to listen to the gospel and explore the word 'community'. The children reflected on how they are part of our school community, our parish community and the wider community of Christians across the world. Our children in Key Stage One have had such fun in our Forest School this week. We have linked our Forest School to our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum, the focus of our Forest School this term is 'Teamwork and Building resilience'. The activities they have participated in have enabled them to work as teams and problem solve different situations.

Next Sunday 9.30am Mass is the Mass of Enrolment for First Sacraments.

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