

Sunday 3rd March 2024

3rd Sunday in Lent

Psalter Week III

Year B

Ex 20: 1-17

1 Cor 1: 22-25

John 2: 13-25



Website: 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

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

March is dedicated to St Joseph - His Feast Day is 19th March

MASSES AND SERVICES

Saturday 2nd March	Exposition & Confessions: 10.30am – 11.30am Rosary 5.40pm Vigil Mass 6.00pm
Sunday 3rd March	Third Sunday in Lent Mass 9.30am
Mon 4th March	Rosary 9.10am Mass 9.30am
Tues 5th March	St Anthony's Devotions & Mass 7pm
Wed 6th March	Stations of the Cross 11.00 Mass 11.30am
Thurs 7th March	Rosary 9.10am Mass 9.30am
Fri 8th March	Rosary 9.10 Mass 9.30am Friday Abstinence
Saturday 9th March	Exposition & Confessions: 10.30am – 11.30am Rosary 5.40pm Vigil Mass 6.00pm
Sunday 10th March	Fourth Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday Mass 9.30am

INTENTIONS

Meryl Fisher
Roger Jones
Mary Barber (90th Birthday))
Ann Leach
Edward Craggs
Sarah Russell
Private Intention
Edwards Craggs (SB)
Peter Charles Byrne

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

ANNIVERSARIES OCCURRING ABOUT THIS TIME: Patricia Cleaver, Kevin McCarthy, James McMahon, Mary Dugan, James Randles, Arnold Crowther, Albert Waters, Antony Arcari, Patric Casey, Gerard Huxley, John Williams, Mary Pink and Mary Bride. **May they Rest in Peace.**

TEA & COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY 9.30am MASS (Parish Room) by Sue and Elaine on behalf of the Parkinsons UK

LENT 2024: Mass on Wednesdays during Lent is at 11.30 am followed by a Lenten Lunch for CAFOD in the Parish room. Stations of the Cross are prayed on Wednesdays at 11 am in the Church. CAFOD Family Fast Day envelopes can be returned in the offertory bag or to the Presbytery any time up until the weekend of 23rd - 24th March. Monthly Mass at the Countess of Chester Hospital Chapel - **this Thursday 7th March at 12.15pm**. Fr. Bernard will be celebrating this Mass for all the staff, patients, patients' families, volunteers and parishioners from our Chester Catholic parishes. All most welcome.

HOLY WEEK REQUESTS 1. **Washing of feet** will take place during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday at 7.00pm. If you would like to take part in this important ceremony please sign the list at the back of Church. 2. **Watching at the Altar of Repose** in Church on Holy Thursday will be from 8.00 - 10.00pm. If you can watch and pray with Our Lord please sign the list at the back of Church as soon as you can as it is important that we have at least 3 people for each half-hour for safety and security reasons. 3. **Singing Practices:** on Thursdays at 7.30pm. We urgently need more singers if we are going to be able to celebrate well our Holy Week and Easter Services. So please come along on Thursday - from 7.30 - 8.15pm

THROUGH LENT WITH POPE FRANCIS – An Online Retreat: Running up to Easter. Visit www.onlineprayer.net to receive daily emails with quotes from Pope Francis for prayer/reflection

ATTENTION ALL GIFT AID DONORS The tax year 2023/24 ends on 5th April. The process will begin of claiming back the Gift Aid on donations made: T in the tax year. If your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay tax (or if for any other reason you do not wish to remain in the Scheme) please contact Mike Russell on 07883 199628 by 5th April, otherwise it will be assumed you have paid sufficient tax for the Parish to reclaim Gift Aid on your donations

REGULAR GIVING TO THE PARISH; For those parishioners who have used planned giving envelopes during 2023/24, new boxes of envelopes to be used from Sunday 7th April are now available. If you would like to set up a Standing Order in favour of the Parish to make your regular giving, or have not used planned giving envelopes before and would like to do so, please contact Mike Russell (07883 199628)

St CLARE'S SVP CONFERENCE: Music Night, Friday 15th March 7.15pm at the CHS, tickets £10 from SVP members.

FURTHER THREAT TO THE UNBORN OF ABORTION UP TO BIRTH

In the next couple of weeks an attempt is to be made to widely decriminalise abortion up to the birth. This is a further assault on the sanctity of human life in our society. This extreme amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill is being made by Diana Johnson MP and parliamentarians will be under pressure to support the amendment on grounds of compassion for mothers who seek to abort their unborn child beyond the legal limits. The effect would be to withdraw legal protection from the unborn. It is important to make our voice heard in support of the unborn child. Please contact your Member of Parliament to ask that they oppose the decriminalisation of abortion up to birth (*Samantha Dixon* <https://samantha-dixon.co.uk/contact/>). The *Right to Life* website has details under 'Take Action' which enables you to find and contact your MP directly and the website of the *Society for the Protection of Unborn Children* has helpful information under 'Resources.' The *Right to Life* website also has details of an alternative amendment by Caroline Ansell MP to reduce the legal limit for abortion from 24 to 22 weeks on the basis of the increased survival rates for babies being born at 22 and 23 weeks. We cannot doubt the impact which your e-mail or letter will have in making known opposition to decriminalising abortion up to birth and in support of the value of every human life. <https://righttolife.org.uk/littlefighters>
<https://www.spuc.org.uk/>

HIGHLIGHT FROM THE HIGH: The CHS is hosting an **SVP Youth Mass** for all Catholic schools in the Chester and Ellesmere Port area on Wednesday 20th March at 10.30am. As this is a school day all guests will need to register their wish to attend in advance. Please contact GaspariniA@christofidelis.org.uk **The students at the CHS are rehearsing for the 'Living Stations of the Cross' performance which will take place in the school hall on Tuesday 26th March at 10am.** To book your seat, please email shawk@christofidelis.org.uk

ST CLARE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL Our Key Stage Two classes have all walked the Stations of the Cross in church with Father Bernard this week. The children showed great compassion as they reflected on each station and how it impacts their own lives. Our School was School of the Week on Dee Radio this week, you can listen to the podcast on the Dee Radio website, the children sing our school song, which they wrote themselves, 'Our Second Home'. This week, all pupils from Years One to Six have had access to sport from professional coaches. The children in Years Five and Six played Tag Rugby with coaches from Sale Sharks Rugby Club, whilst the rest of the school had cricket coaching from Cheshire Cricket Board. All the sessions were enjoyed thoroughly by all and as always our pupils showed our school values excellently.