

Sunday
17th March 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Psalter Week I

Year B

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Psalms 50

Hebrews 5: 7-9

John 12: 20-33



Website: stclares.co.uk

Facebook: StClaresChester

St Clare's St Vincent de Paul Society:

stclaressvp.co.uk

St Clare of Assisi Catholic Church

Downsfield Road, Chester
CH4 8HH

Priest: Fr Bernard Forshaw

01244 671015

Email: contact@stclares.co.uk

Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025

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 16 th March	Exposition: 10.30am – 11.30am Rosary 5.40pm (volunteers needed to lead the Rosary) Vigil Mass 6.00pm	Edward Craggs
Sunday 17 th March	Fifth Sunday in Lent Mass 9.30am	Rose Linsley RIP
Mon 18 th March	No Mass	
Tues 19 th March	St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary St Anthony's Devotions and Eucharistic Service 7.00pm Stations of the Cross 11.00am Eucharistic Service 11.30am	
Wed 20 th March	No Mass	
Thurs 21 st March	No Mass	
Fri 22 nd March	No Mass	
Saturday 23 rd March	Exposition: 10.30am – 11.30am Rosary 5.40pm (volunteers needed to lead the Rosary) Vigil Mass 6.00pm	Edward Craggs & Craggs Family
Sunday 24 th March	Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord Mass 9.30am	St Clare's Parish

INTENTIONS

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.

ANNIVERSARIES OCCURRING ABOUT THIS TIME: Mona Kirby, Ann McGarry, Nora Donnelly, Martin McAllister-Turner, George Bird and Eve Crowther. May they rest in Peace.

THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE DIOCESE:

Statement from Canon Michael Gannon VG, Diocese of Shrewsbury, approved by Bishop Mark:

PARISH OF ST CLARE, LACHE, CHESTER

"Fr Bernard Forshaw, the Parochial Administrator of St Clare's, has been granted a period of sick leave from the parish. Arrangements have been put in place for the celebration of Mass and the sacraments thanks to the generosity of the local clergy. Please keep Fr Bernard and the parish in your prayers at this time."

THE PARISH COUNCIL met on the 12th March to discuss the coming weeks in the absence of Fr Bernard. The meeting was attended by Fr Paul Shaw. He confirmed that cover at St Clare's has been organised up to and including Easter. Masses on Saturdays and Sundays and during Holy Week will be covered. Lay led Eucharistic Services may replace Mass on weekdays - details and all of the latest news is sent by email to Parishioners. If you are not yet on the Parish email list, but wish to be included, please email: patriddell31@aol.com with your details. Volunteers to lead and/or assist with Eucharistic Services would be greatly appreciated. Contact Kate Hughes.

MASS INTENTIONS: As weekday Masses have unfortunately had to be cancelled, the Mass Intentions will be carried forward. This will inevitably cause a backlog of Mass Intentions, please bear this in mind when putting in a request for Mass.

THROUGH LENT WITH POPE FRANCIS: An Online Retreat: running until Easter. Visit www.onlineprayer.net to receive daily emails with quotes from Pope Francis for prayer/reflection, plus Scripture verse, music, picture and reflection question.

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 Practice** on Thursdays at 7.30pm. We **urgently** need more singers to celebrate well our Holy Week and Easter Services. So please come along on Thursday - from 7.30-8.15pm

LENT 2024: Each Wednesday there is a Lenten Lunch, soup and bread, for CAFOD in the Parish room following Stations of the Cross and the Eucharistic service. CAFOD Family Fast Day envelopes can be returned in the offertory bag or to the Presbytery any time up to Palm Sunday, 24th March.

ST CLARE'S EASTER CHICKS FOR CAFOD: Once again it is time to ask for donations of *cream eggs and/or caramel eggs*, to stuff the Rare Breed of St Clare's chickens. Each year our Parish is extremely charitable in donating the eggs - Thank you in advance for your generosity yet again. As the "Chicken Run" is a little late this year, please donate your eggs as soon as possible (leave in Church/welcomers/Cafod members). *Stella, Chief Chick Knitter*

St CLARE'S SVP CONFERENCE: Thank you for your support of the Holiday Home Music Night last Friday. The Holiday Home was opened on Saturday and the first family will holiday from 30th March. The SVP Youth Mass @ Chester CHS will be on Wednesday 20th at 10.30am. If you wish to attend, please advise one of the SVP members.

SVP LUNCH GATHERING: The next gathering will be held on Sunday 7th April at The Chester Fields, Sandfield Farm, CH2 4JR at 12.30 pm. Pre-orders for the meal and £10 deposit per person are required by the Management. Please contact Veronica or Catherine on 01244 678825 asap if you wish to attend. Menu at: <https://thechesterfields.co.uk>

FOODBANK DONATIONS: Please continue to bring donations as these will be taken to the warehouse when the trolley is full.

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 CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: A super week at school this week. Our Year Five pupils designed, made and tested pizzas – they enjoyed the testing process the most! Our Mini Vinnies are busy preparing for the SVP Youth Mass at Chester Catholic High School next week, with some of our pupils having key roles in the Mass. We celebrated Red Nose Day by wearing something red and having crazy hair to 'do something funny for money'.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: This year's pilgrimage dates: by air Fri 26 July to Thurs 1st Aug, by coach Thurs 25 July to Fri 2 Aug and young people Wed 24 July to Fri 2 Aug. Booking forms available @ www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk ring 07773 324264, if you are aged 16/22 email youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org to join the youth section of the pilgrimage.

RETIRING COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: There will be a retiring collection after both Masses this weekend for Altar Flowers for Easter.

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY 9:30 MASS: Tea and Coffee this Sunday will be given by Catherine and Elaine for the St Clare's SVP and next week by Mike and Veronica with proceeds to the Holiday Home.



As it is Lent, the Memorial of St Patrick (17th March) is superseded by the Sunday liturgy. Whichever day you choose to celebrate, Happy St Patrick's day to all of our Irish Parishioners

