



The Parish of Saint Hugh & Saint John

314 Manchester Road, West Timperley, Altrincham WA14 5NB
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Parish Priest: Canon Christopher Matthews



Second Sunday of Ordinary Time: Week commencing Sunday 18 January 2026

Sat 17th	Saint Anthony	11.00am 12noon	Adoration & Confessions Morris Cipriano Carrasco RIP
	First Mass of Sunday	6.30pm	Parishioners
Sun 18th	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Day of special prayer for world peace</i>	8.30am 10.30am	Peace & an end to the war Peace in families
Mon 19th	Ferial	9.30am 2.00pm	Celebration of the Word of God <i>Living Waters Prayers</i>
Tues 20th	Ferial	7.00pm	Celebration of the Word of God
Wed 21st	Saint Agnes	9.30am	Celebration of the Word of God
Thurs 22nd	Ferial	9.30am 7.00pm	NO MASS Holy Hour and Adoration
Friday 23rd	Ferial	9.30am	Celebration of the Word of God
Sat 24th	Saint Francis de Sales	12 noon	Thresiamma Thomas
	First Mass of Sunday	6.30pm	Margaret McLoughlin B'day RIP
Sun 25th	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	8.30am 10.30am	Ted Bennett Parishioners

Canon Christopher writes:

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

We returned to Ordinary Time last Monday following the end of the Christmas season. Ordinary not as in dull or uninteresting, but rather the usual ebb and flow of normal life, which is where God wants to be, sharing in the ups and downs of our daily lives. Through prayer we can sanctify each hour of our day, offering all that we do and say to the glory of God.

Thank you to Angie, Bernie and their teams for taking down all the decorations and getting our church ready for Ordinary Time. Their time and efforts are very much appreciated as they make sure our church always looks stunning for the various seasons of the Church year. They are always looking for extra volunteers, so if you would like to help look after our church, arrange the flowers, keep the church clean, or help in the sacristy please do let us know. While the decorations have gone, the Crib will remain in church until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, on the 2 February, the traditional end of the Christmas season. There is a lovely Irish tradition of taking a whisp of straw from the church Crib to bring blessings of health and protection. Please do take a piece of straw from the crib if you wish.

I'm very grateful to Eddie for leading us in Celebrations of God's Word while I am unavailable this week. These short liturgies offer you an opportunity to gather together and reflect on the scripture readings of the day and how God speaks to us through His Word.

Wishing you a blessed and joy filled week ahead.

Now that we are a one priest parish again, for any home communions, sick visits, Mass intentions, baptisms, funerals, RCIA, etc. please contact Canon Chris via the Parish Office.

LITURGY & PRAYER:

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: please pray for Chloe L., ZiNing Joseph Lin, John R., William C., AE B., Amrut, Sue O'M., Anna B., Valentine M., Jozef and Anna M., Niall O'H., Gerard, Jim & Bernadette S., Gerry B., Hannah H., Denis C., Kitty D., Seema Mc., B. S., Lisa C., K. C., Sam H., A.P., Jo R., Timothy M., Margaret B., May & John H., Anne L., Brian T., John R., Bernadette B., Roger P., and Margaret L.

MARIAN LAMP:

This week the Marian Lamp burns for a *Special intention*.

SAINT HUGH & SAINT JOHN LAMP:

This week the Saints Lamp burns for *Barrie Kenyon RIP*

If you would like one of the lamps to burn for a week for a particular intention, please contact the Parish Office. A donation of £5 per lamp per week is recommended.

EPIPHANY BLESSING: There is still some blessed chalk available at the back of church to take home and mark your front door with **20 + C + M + B + 26** invoking God's blessing on your home and family. The prayer sheet explains more about this ancient practise.

PARISH:

FUNERAL: It is with great sadness that the family of Barrie Kenyon announce his passing. Barrie's funeral will take place on Saturday, 3rd February, at 10:30 am at All Saints Catholic Church, 27 Belle Vue Road, Ashbourne DE6 1AT. All who knew him are warmly welcome to attend the Mass and join the family in prayers for the repose of his soul.

LOST AND FORGOTTEN ITEMS: There are many items in the church porch. Please collect yours at your earliest convenience. Any remaining items will be donated to charity after 30 January.

HOLY WATER: To mark the feast of the Baptism of the Lord Canon Chris has blessed holy water for all our parishioners. If you didn't pick one up last week, please help yourselves to a bottle of Holy Water from the font.

COLD & FLU SEASON: If you are feeling unwell, please avoid receiving Holy Communion from the Chalice. Also remember that if you are really unwell, the Sunday obligation does not apply, and it is not a sin to miss Mass. We hope everyone remains healthy and well this winter.

WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK will be replaced with a Celebration of the Word of God, while Canon Chris is away. Masses are available at Holy Angels, Saint Vincent, and Saint Joseph's.

PAX CHRISTI COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: after all Masses on 17/18 January. Bishop John Arnold, President of Pax Christi, reminds us of the message of Pope Leo XIV "*Peace be with you all, towards 'an unarmed and disarming peace'*". Pax Christi gives a practical expression of this hope through its outreach work promoting the Gospel message of nonviolence and offering peace education in schools. It is a national organisation with only three members of staff, and it depends greatly on Peace Sunday collections. Donations do not qualify for Gift Aid. Thank you for your support.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME: Thank you to those who have expressed an interest. There is enough interest to make this Parish Pilgrimage to Rome from Monday 25 May to Saturday 30 May 2026 possible. The dates fall in half term week in case any teachers, or families wish to join us. Organised by Tangney Tours and lead by Canon Chris: flights, transfers, hotel accommodation (bed and breakfast), dinner each evening, travel rep, travel insurance and visiting the major sights of Rome for approx. £1245 (plus single room supplement). Brochures and booking forms will be available very soon. The hotel has been booked!

PARISH MEETING: Canon Chris has brought together a small team to help him look at the suggestions raised at the Parish Meeting and look at a way forward. Immediate priorities have been identified including more regular Sunday coffee, prayer for the parish, a lent catechetics course, and parish hall atmosphere. Other priorities will arise from these.

Many of the points raised at the meeting have already been actioned: The last two years of accounts are now posted on the porch noticeboard (these predate Canon Chris), the diary of events is now in the newsletter, the length of Sunday Masses has been standardised, outside lighting has been repaired/upgraded, and a parish pilgrimage has been planned. Please keep these parish developments in your prayers.

PARISH HALL HEATING: The heating in the hall is back working but will require some work to repair some frost damage and to ensure the system continues to run for the rest of the winter. Watch this space

CATECHETICS:

CONFIRMATION: We have had a great response from those enquiring about the Sacrament of Confirmation for next year. If you are in School Year 8 or above and wish to be Confirmed please write to Canon Chris at the Parish Office requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation and include **yours, and your parents, contact details**. Bishop Mark will be with us on Wednesday 6 May 2026. Many thanks.

SAINTS' CLUB FOR CHILDREN: We started our Saints' Club five years ago on the Feast of Saint Don Bosco who is our Patron Saint. That's why we would like to dive again deeper into the message and life of this wonderful friend in Heaven! The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is in February: Welcome to learn new facts about Lourdes! We will pray, sing and have fun together. As always, there will be small, but nice prizes to win. We will pray for PEACE in Ukraine and everywhere. On Sunday 25th January, 4.30 - 5.00 pm,

Meeting ID: **693 132 0046**; Passcode: **1SWAW8**.

ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931320046?pwd=RDRqMnJkalNmZ0ZBTnVXeVdoa1NkZz09&omn=85728117248>

BETROTHED: there are three marriage preparation courses offered by the Shrewsbury Diocese this year, which will help to prepare a couple from a spiritual/faith perspective and relational perspective. Registration is essential. To find out more and register, please contact: monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Saint Clare's Church Parish Hall on the 7th & 14th of February 2026 Address: Downsfield Road, Lache, Chester, GB CH4 8HH or Saint Vincent de Paul Church Westleigh Parish Hall on the 28th of February & 7th of March 2026: Address: Groby Road Altrincham WA14 2BQ or Shrewsbury Cathedral Parish Room on the 21st & 28th of March.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE: For children under 7 years of age: the next evening course will be on Thursday 5 February 2026 at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Book a place by emailing the Parish Office.

DIOCESE:

Vacancies have arisen within the Shrewsbury Diocesan Youth Mission Team for a Programme Coordinator, Youth Mission Team Member and an Administration Assistant. Further details regarding the 3 posts can be found on the Diocesan Website. <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Interested parties should send their CV to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Closing date Friday 23 January 2026.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHESHIRE: A Service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Chester Cathedral, CH1 2DY this Sunday, 18 January, at 5pm. The Guest Speaker will be Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London. This service brings together believers from many traditions to pray for peace, justice and deeper unity in our communities and our world. The service will also feature the Chester Taize Choir. Refreshments will be served after the service.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY! The Diocese is excited to launch the new social media platforms to keep you updated on news, events, and faith-filled content from across the Diocese of Shrewsbury! Follow us for inspiring stories, parish updates, and ways to grow in your faith. Follow us on:

Facebook: @shrewsdiocese

Instagram: @shrewsdiocese

Twitter/X: @shrewsdiocese

Website: www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Join our online community and be part of the journey as we share the beauty of our Catholic faith together!

EVENTS:

LORETO REUNION. A get together for the year group which started at the school in Altrincham in 1977 is being organised for March. For further details please contact samfinlandudley@gmail.com.

FINANCE:

OFFERINGS: THANK YOU.

Sunday 11th January £683.05. Plus, standing orders and card donations. Your consistent support is invaluable. Donations and the profits made over the year from the piety stall mean we have been able to donate £500 to Caritas and £500 to CAFOD. Crib collection raised £129.98 for the Friends of the Holy Land.

Thank you for your financial support of the parish.

WHAT'S ON:

Sunday 18 January: Baptism of the Lord

10.30am Children's Liturgy in the Parish Hall

Monday 19 January:

10am	Tea & Coffee in the church porch
2pm	Living Waters Prayer Group in the church porch
7pm	Irish dancing classes in the Parish Hall
7pm	SVP meeting in the Parish Hall

Tuesday 20 January:

9.30am	Exercise class in the Parish Hall
1pm	Craft Group in the Parish Hall

Wednesday 21 January:

9.30am	Toddlers group in the Parish Hall
10.30am	Mothers in a prayer in the church porch
6pm	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides in the Parish Hall
6.30pm	Choir practise in Church

Thursday 22 January:

7pm Holy Hour and Adoration in Church

Friday 23 January:

Saturday 24 January:

Sunday 25 January

10.30am Children's Liturgy in the Parish Hall

Could parish groups please keep the Parish Office informed of dates and times of meetings and events, so the diary is always accurate. Many thanks in anticipation.