

SAINT MICHAEL'S TIMES

**The Newsletter of the Parish of St Michael's
and the Convent of the Poor Clare Colettines,**
Mereseide, Ellesmere, SY12 0PA

Parish Priest: Rev Patrick English
Residence: St Michael's, 80 Scotland Street, Ellesmere,
Tel: 01691 622283

Weekly Mass Times
Sunday: 11.00am Monday-Friday: 9.15am Saturday: 10.15am

LENT 2026

PRINCIPAL FEASTS

Saint Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop – 14th February

Mass at 10.15am

Ash Wednesday – 18th February

A day of fasting and abstinence

Mass and blessing of ashes at 9.15am in Ellesmere and 10.30pm in Wem

First Sunday of Lent – 22nd March

Mass at 11.00am

Second Sunday of Lent – 1st March

Mass at 11.00am

Third Sunday of Lent – 8th March

Mass at 11.00am

Fourth Sunday of Lent – 15th March

Mass at 11.00am

Saint Patrick, bishop, missionary, Patron of Ireland – 17th March

Mass at 9.15pm

Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 19th March

Mass at 9.15am

Fifth Sunday of Lent – 22nd March

Mass at 11.00am

The Annunciation of the Lord – 25th March

Mass at 9.15am

SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE NEEDY AND HUNGRY OF THE WORLD

This takes place on 27th February, the second Friday in Lent. As most of you will know this is also the day on which CAFOD's Lenten Family Fast Day is held. This Lent, CAFOD are inviting you to live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support. You can donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. If you wish to use a mobile phone, simply text **CAFODLENT** to 70085 to donate £10.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

The following Friday, 6th March, our sisters in Nigeria invite us to join them for the World Day of Prayer. The service they have prepared reflects on the theme, *"I will give you rest."* The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries as it circumnavigates the globe, starting in Samoa and finishing in American Samoa 38 hours later.

We will be hosting our local service in the Convent Chapel, starting at 7.00pm on Friday, 6th March. This means we will need to be able to provide all the support activities to ensure the event goes smoothly. If you can contribute or help in any way, please speak to Fran Butler.

OTHER SPECIAL DAYS OF PRAYER

As you can imagine, this is a busy time in the Church's calendar, with several other days of prayer taking place between the beginning of February and the start of Holy Week:

- Day of Special Prayer for Racial Justice – 1st February
- Day of Special Prayer for Victims of Trafficking – 8th February
- World Day of Prayer for the Sick – 11th February
- Day of Special Prayer for Europe – 14th February
- Day of Special Prayer for the Unemployed – 15th February

BAPTISMS

We are pleased to welcome Penelope Florence Halliwell and Natasha Stacy Crick into the family of the Church and the parish. Please remember the children and their families in your prayers.

"May the light of God's grace shine on them all the days of their lives"

IN MEMORY

We would also ask you to remember in your prayers the souls of Jack Kavanagh, who has died recently, and all those whose anniversaries take place at this time of year, along with all those that mourn them.

"Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they and all our departed relatives and friends rest in peace"

MANY THANKS

Thank you for your generous support for the Christmas Draw raised over £1,125 for the Sisters. The collections for Caritas raised £118.70. And please remember that the collection in support of the Retired Priests Fund takes place on 1st February. If you miss the collections in church, you can still donate through the relevant website.

200 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the Christmas Draw:

£25	Robert Benson-88	£12	John Mc Loughlin-108
£8	Georgina Jones-77	£5	Mrs J B Chatterjee-26

And the January Draw:

£30	Mary Prendergast-16	£10	Shona Bright-175
£5	Ron Jones-128	£5	Gerry and Val Bagnall-84

Although the church where our parish community and the Sisters of the Poor Clare Colettines meet each day to celebrate Mass is commonly referred to as Saint Michael's, its formal title is the Convent Chapel of Our Lady and Saint Joseph. Along with the parish hall, it forms part of the Convent of Our Lady and Saint Joseph, all of which is owned and maintained by the Sisters.

Any support you can give to them in sustaining a place of prayer and worship here in Ellesmere would be most welcome. Please make any donations to the Friends of the Convent using either the envelopes available in church or by bank transfer so that Gift Aid can be claimed where appropriate.