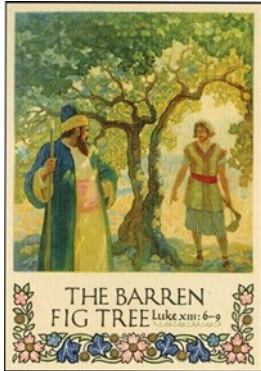


## Reflection – God, the patient gardener.



Jesus says: “There once was a person who planted a fig tree in his garden. When the man came to pick the fruit, the tree had not borne any fruit. The man immediately went to his gardener and told him: “For the past three years I have come to pick figs from these trees and for the past three years, the tree has not borne any fruit. I want you to cut the tree down now.” The gardener said: “Sir, I ask you to leave the tree one more year. I will fertilize it and cultivate the ground around it. And if it does not bear fruit this year, then you can cut it down.”

What a patient man this gardener is! The gardener wants to give this tree one more chance. He is unwilling to “cut it down.” It is seldom that anyone has a perfect garden. Gardeners learn to let nature take its course and yet to intervene when it is appropriate. This gardener was determined to try some other tactics before uprooting the plant.

This Gospel gives a wonderful image of God. God is the gardener – a hopeful and patient gardener. God will not toss us aside immediately if we are not bearing fruit. Our gardener, God, will fertilize us, nurture us, and pull the weeds that are growing within and around us. However, we have to allow God to be our gardener. The question for us is: will we bring our weeds to God and ask him to help us uproot the weeds from our hearts?

If we ask God to do so, God will gift and grace us as we work together with God to uproot the weeds from our lives. Hopefully, over time, the weeds will gradually disappear from our lives. We have to trust our Divine Gardener’s timing. We human beings typically want instant answers and instant solutions. However, our weeds may be deeply rooted and it may take time for them to be completely uprooted. Will we trust God, our gardener? Will we strive to be patient with the process?

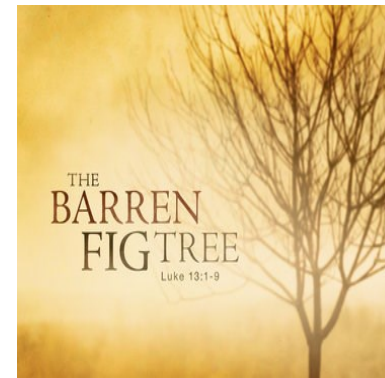
Today I invite you to ask yourself: What is the weed I want uprooted from my heart and life? Take your desire to God and place it in God’s hands. God is trustworthy! God will not fail you! In the meantime, trust and be patient.

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### LENT COURSE

The theme this year is **LIVING FRUITFULLY**.

The course will be here on **TUESDAY 26th March 2pm** in the parish hall



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT CHRIST CHURCH CATHOLIC CHURCH, HEALD GREEN

Saturday 23rd. March 2019

(Vigil Mass) 5.30pm

Sunday 24th March 2019

Mass 9am & 11am

(Children’s Liturgy at 11am)

|     |          |                              |                                          | Intentions                          |
|-----|----------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sat | 23rd Mar | Third Sunday of Lent         | Vigil Mass 5.30pm                        | Sylvia Dugdale                      |
| Sun | 24th Mar |                              | Mass 9am<br>Sung Mass 11am               | Josie Jepson RIP<br>Albert Bagnall  |
| Mon | 25th Mar | The Annunciation of the Lord | Mass 10am                                | John Kelly RIP                      |
| Tue | 26th Mar | Ferial                       | Mass 10 am                               | Paul Marciniak RIP                  |
| Wed | 27th Mar | Ferial                       | Mass 10 am                               | John Kelly RIP                      |
| Thu | 28th Mar | Ferial                       | Mass 10 am                               | Mary Williamson RIP                 |
| Fri | 29th Mar | Feria                        | Mass 10 am<br>Stations of the Cross 7 pm | Father of Tina Shaw RIP             |
| Sat | 30th Mar | Ferial                       | Mass 10 am<br>Vigil mass 5.30pm          | John Dennison RIP<br>John Allen RIP |

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fr. Paul will be in the confessional on Saturday 11.30-12 noon and 5-5.20pm.

OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT.

### CHRIST CHURCH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Finney Lane, HEALD GREEN Cheadle, SK8 3DY

Priest: Fr. Paul R. Lomas

Tel No: 01614375042

Mobile 07973239942

E mail: christchurchhg@yahoo.co.uk



### Next Week : Fourth Sunday of Lent:

Saturday 30th. March 2019 Vigil Mass 5.30pm

Sunday 31st. March 2019 Mass at 9am & 11am

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY BRITISH SUMMERTIME

Clocks go forward 1 hour at 1am 31/3/19

### ADULT CATHOLICS TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY'

#### (ACTS)' DAY OF REFLECTION SAT 13/4/19

at Shrewsbury Cathedral. Open to all ages, the theme will focus on the 'Divinity of Christ'. Fr Tom Cunnah will lead the day which starts with Mass at 9.30am and finishes at 3.30pm. The address is: 11 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE (the Cathedral is about a 10 minute walk from Shrewsbury train station). Payment by anonymous donation (suggested cost £10). Please contact Siobhan Cartwright for further details ([siobhanbc@gmail.com](mailto:siobhanbc@gmail.com) / tel: 0161 477 2783 / 07761138947).

### The Celebrate North West family conference

takes place on April 27-28 at All Hallows College, Macclesfield. It is a two-day event packed full of interesting and thought provoking experiences that help to engage and encourage the faith of all ages by offering an all-age, exciting, faith-building experience. Please phone Chris and Martina on 01706 640 359, or email them at [northwest@celebrateconference.org](mailto:northwest@celebrateconference.org) or go to <https://www.celebrateconference.org/north-west>

### Called to Holiness, Gifted for Mission: The Laity

*The third of 4 diocesan talks will be given by Barbara Davies (Mobile 07730 526 821):*

*Wed 27 Mar, 7pm-9pm; Our Lady's, Ellesmere Port. It will be repeated in the south at a future date. All details on the front page of the diocesan website.*

### TALK ON CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME MONDAY 8TH APRIL 7.30PM

An interesting talk by Catherine Green, CAFOD campaign volunteer  
St Vincent's Parish Centre Groby Rd Altrincham WA14 2BP. See poster in the porch.

### YOUR HOLY NAME STORY PROJECT

The Holy Name Church is a Grade 1 listed gothic revival building of 1869-71 Built by the Jesuits, it served as a parish church until 1960. The aim of this project is to record personal accounts of experiences of the Church by conducting interviews with people who attended the Church while also acquiring photographs, archives and local history pertaining to the Church. If you wish to participate contact: Grace Thornhill [holynamestory@gmail.com](mailto:holynamestory@gmail.com)

### Attention all Gift Aid Donors

The tax year 2018/19 will be coming to an end on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and the Parish will then make a claim to HMRC (HM Revenue & Customs) for Gift Aid refunds on all donations made in the tax year. Father Paul would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the donations you have made over the course of this tax year. If your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay income tax (or if for any other reason you do not wish to remain in the Gift Aid Scheme) please let Jane Handley, our Parish Gift Aid Organiser (Mobile Telephone Number 07925 340 252) or the Parish Office know by 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019, otherwise it will be assumed you have paid sufficient income tax for the Parish to reclaim Gift Aid on donations you have made during the tax year.

In addition it is important that we keep our Gift Aid records up-to-date and therefore if you have moved house or change your name in the past few years, we would be grateful if you could let Jane or the Parish Office know.

### Gift Aid & Planned Giving Envelopes

The envelopes for the 2019/20 tax year are now available for collection in the porch. They should be used from 7th April. If you would like to give regularly by envelope or standing order, please contact the office and fill in the appropriate forms.

### VACANCIES

#### ST AMBROSE COLLEGE HALE BARNES

Teacher of :- Geography  
Design & Technology  
Deputy Head of Humanities  
[www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk](http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk)  
See notice board in the porch

### Urgent Appeal for Volunteers

Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury are in need of volunteers for their asylum seeker and refugee project at St Aidan's Centre in Wythenshawe. Tuesday afternoon's (11:45-2:30) or Thursday mornings (9:45-12:30).

We need male and female volunteers for the Tuesday group, which is an "English Conversation" group helping both male and female clients to improve their English. We need female volunteers for the Thursday group, which is just for women and their children. We work to improve English skills and we learn about each other's cultures while taking part in fun activities. We particularly need female volunteers who will help with the children. If you feel you could spare 2-3 hours per week to join our team of reliable and friendly volunteers, please contact Rachel Hughes (Caritas Volunteer Coordinator) 07938 377 689/email: [rachel.hughes@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk](mailto:rachel.hughes@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk)

### WELCOMERS NEEDED

People comment on how nice it is to be greeted when coming to Mass - the 2 persons welcoming have to arrive half an hour before Mass. Currently we only have 4 teams for Saturday Vigil; 5 teams 9am and 6 teams 11am Sunday. When the rotas are done the teams can check and swap with others if the date is not suitable, even on the last minute. We would love to have a response from some of our younger members. If you feel you can't commit but are willing to be called on occasionally Please contact the office

### CAFOD EMERGENCY CYCLONE IDAI APPEAL

Cyclone Idai has wiped out crops & live-stock, damaged water supplies & wrecked sanitation facilities, leaving vulnerable families even more exposed. Please pray for them and if possible donate on the CAFOD website

### PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND



May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family and to this celebration

ROSARY Monday to Friday at 9.30am.

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH is prayed prior to 10 am weekday Mass or Service of the Word & Communion.

### DIVINE MERCY GROUP

This group meet each Monday at 2pm in the Meeting Room.

### HOLY WATER

*Holy Water* is available from the stone jar on the altar steps near the Baptismal Font.



### BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Andrea Lomas will be available on Tuesday evenings 7.30-8.30pm for anyone wishing to discuss arrangements.

### FATHER MANINGI –THANK-YOU CARD

See his card, received in thanks for the donation we sent for the building of the Secondary School, in the porch

### LENT—So what are you doing?

**Why not :**

- **Attend an extra weekday mass**
- **Follow the way of Jesus in Stations of the Cross each Friday**
- **Make sure you fast on Wednesdays & Fridays**
- **Spend 5 minutes each day quietly praying to God**
- **Attend the Lent course on Tuesdays**

### WEEKDAY EVENING MASS DURING LENT

St Chad's—Tuesdays 7.30pm  
St Ann's Wednesdays 7.30pm