



ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY – YEAR OF THE WORD

The Presbytery, Hope Road, Sale, M33 3BF Tel: 0161 973 1615

Email: info@sjhf.co.uk and Parish Website: www.sjhf.co.uk

Parish Priest: **Father Stephen Woolley**

Retired Priest, **Father David Peters** and Permanent Deacon, **Reverend John Hamilton**

Mass Times and Intentions for – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – 19th April 2020

Sunday 19th April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30 am	People of the Parish	
Monday	9.30 am	Joan Davidson (100th b'day)	Ferial
Tuesday	9.30 am	Ann Galloway (B'day Rem.)	Ferial
Wednesday	9.30 am	Doreen Emma Lowe (Requiem Mass)	Ferial
Thursday	9.30 am	Imelda Bridget Jones (2nd Ann.)	St. George
Friday	9.30 am	Joseph & Helen Riley (B'day & Ann.)	Ferial
Saturday	9.30 am	All the sick	St. Mark
Sunday 26th April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30 am	People of the Parish	

Please note the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation.

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION No Confessions at 11.00am Saturdays until further notice. By appointment only	SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM & MARRIAGE By arrangement with Father Woolley	LAST WEEK'S OFFERING SJ: - HF: - We receive approximately £520 from standing orders Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.
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FINDING FAITH

What would it be like to have an unerring and unshakeable faith? What would it be like to have a faith driven not by proof but by an inner voice? Most likely it would be life changing. When we truly believe something in our hearts, we begin to act it out in our lives. An unerring faith would enable us to enjoy peace in the darkest corners of our lives, but is there a real danger that our thirst for that life changing faith could lead us to 'leave our brains at the church door'?

Faith and doubt are the flipside of the same coin. In our hurry for faith we can quietly bury any doubts leaving them to fester. On the other hand, we can give so much weight to our doubts that faith eludes us altogether. Doubt isn't necessarily a bad thing, after all, the disciples needed signs, and Thomas in particular needed concrete evidence. Doubt can be a good thing even, if it leads us to answer the questions that will eventually help us to develop a mature faith. Doubt becomes a bad thing when it builds an insurmountable barrier. Thomas believed that it was foolish to believe something without proof, but if we are so afraid of being foolish or fear to believe without scientific evidence, our doubts will never lead us to ask the right questions. Our doubts will only spur us to pick holes.

So how can we use doubt as a positive tool rather than a negative force? Perhaps there's been a time when you've followed a court case where nearly all the evidence has been circumstantial. The jury have the uncomfortable task of reaching a certain belief without all the evidence they would like. Significantly, barristers don't confront jurors with the hardest parts of the case first. Barristers begin by building a picture based on certainties. Only when the case seems overwhelmingly watertight do they introduce points that are more circumstantial. Perhaps this is the way to approach our religious doubts,

- Entrance Antiphon : *Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.*
- Responsorial Psalm : *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good for his love has no end.*
- Gospel Acclamation : *Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Alleluia!*
- Communion Antiphon: *Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing alleluia.*

Year A

Acts 2: 42-47

Psalm 117

1 Peter 1: 3-9

John 20: 19-31

CORONAVIRUS

During the coronavirus pandemic and following the instruction of the Prime minister St. Joseph's and Holy Family are closed for personal prayer until further notice.

Please follow with great care public health guidelines to maintain hygiene and social distancing.

During the public health crisis and following official advice, Sunday and weekday masses are not being publicly celebrated until further notice.

However, celebration of Mass at St. Joseph's still takes place each day at 9.30am, without a public congregation, and can be seen via Utube, Facebook or the parish website.

We continue to monitor the situation both nationally and locally very carefully and pass on any information we receive as soon as possible.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

If you are following Mass on any of the social media live streaming, Father Woolley suggests that, during the silence after Communion, everyone prays this prayer.

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Many people have been asking Father Woolley about the weekly collection. He suggests you could put envelopes to one side and bring them when the isolation is over.

Alternatively, you may wish to set up a Standing Order, either permanently or in order to continue to make your regular Offertory giving to the Parish during the period when Mass is not being celebrated in public, please contact the parish Gift Aid organisers.

St. Joseph's parishioners contact Anne Stanley, on 0161 973 9159 and Holy Family parishioners contact Veronica Saunders on 0161 973 3773.

NOT JUST EASTER SUNDAY

The Easter Season isn't just Easter Sunday. It's fifty days long, and the last of those days is Pentecost (Greek for 'fiftieth') marking the birth of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. In older traditions, it's called 'Whitsunday' because the traditional colour for church clothing and decor on Pentecost is white. On that day the Holy Spirit arrives to be with us, and that Spirit sends a fresh wave of joy. During these fifty days of Easter, while we are singing alleluia to our risen Saviour, we are also listening to the stories of the struggles and hardships of the early followers of Jesus.

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers

Henry (Harry) Keogh, Doreen Emma Lowe, James Monahan and Bernard Stanley who have died recently. May they rest in peace. We extend to their families and friends our deepest sympathy at this sad and extremely difficult time.

HOME SUPPORT

If you or anyone you know is isolating at home and needs support please ring the Presbytery on 0161 973 1615.

BLESSING FOR ALL FRONT LINE WORKERS

Father Woolley would like to thank all our Doctors, Nurses, First Responders and other health care workers who are continuing to care for us during this coronavirus crisis. Thank you, too, to the half a million people who have 'signed up' as NHS volunteers and to all who are working on the front line. We pray that the Lord will bless and protect them all in their work of care and support. Thank You ALL.

FATHER STEPHEN WRITES

As we continue in the 'lockdown' for a further number of weeks, I am delighted that so many people are finding the streaming of the Masses so helpful. If you have any intentions, prayer requests or people you would like remembered, please email me at info@sjhf.co.uk. We are all strengthened in these difficult days by our faith and unity as people of God. I continue to hold you all in my prayers each day.

KEEP SAFE, KEEP WELL. GOD BLESS ALL!

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION & HEALING

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in

Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the People of your Dowry, England, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide,

so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and fasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our plea – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger,

O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

LIVING IN A VIRTUAL WORLD

A Visit to the Vatican

Being stuck at home doesn't mean that we can't get our 'cultural fix'. Thanks to 'virtual tours' there are many museums that we can visit virtually.

Unless your computer happens to be an antique, the Vatican museums are a great place to begin. Start with a 360° view of Michelangelo's masterpiece, the

Sistine Chapel. While the painted ceiling is a showstopper, each chapel wall explores a different aspect of the Christian faith journey: the stories of Moses, Christ, and the Popes throughout history.

Then work your way through the remaining Vatican museums: Pio Clementino Museum, Chiaramonti Museum, New Wing, Raphael's Rooms, Niccoline Chapel, and Room of the Chiaroscuro.

To begin your virtual tour, visit

www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.html

SAINT GEORGE – 23rd April

Okay, it's highly unlikely that St George ever killed a dragon, or for that matter that he ever came to England. Perhaps we could use the feast day as a 'prompt' to slay our own dragons whatever they might be laziness, greed, the need to gossip or put people down. Happy St George's Day!

BITESIZE

"I would rather have a mind opened by wonder than one closed by belief."

Gerry Spence

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to Father Stephen's mum who will be celebrating her 85th birthday on Wednesday.