



ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY

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
and Permanent Deacon, Reverend John Hamilton

Mass Times and Intentions for – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 10th December 2023

Saturday 9 th December	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Peter Raftery (8 th Ann.)	
Sunday 10 th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Frank & Mary Dolan Tom Morgan (RIP) Andrew Ovenstone (RIP) People of the Parish	Tea & Coffee after 11.00am Mass
Monday	12.00 noon	Alfred Boston (39 th Ann.)	Ferial
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	Tom Morgan John Thomas Flynn (Ann)	Ferial Adoration at HF 10.00am
Wednesday	9.15 am	Francis Mendonca (RIP)	St Lucy
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12 noon	Des Taylor (RIP) John Martin (Get Well)	St John of the Cross Tea and toast after 9.30am Mass
Friday	9.30 am	Patrick & Teresa Dolan (RIP)	Ferial
Saturday 16 th December	12.00 noon 6.00 pm (Vigil) 7.00 pm	Monica Allcroft (RIP) Donnelly Family (RIP) Christmas Get Together	Ferial Adoration SJ 11.00 am for Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis
Sunday 17 th December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Garry Corbett (2 nd Ann. 10.12) Elizabeth Talbot Henry McDaid (for healing) People of the Parish	Tea & Coffee after 11.00am Mass

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION 11.00am – 11.50am Saturdays or by appointment	SACRED HEART LAMP In loving memory of Garry Corbett (2 nd Ann. 10 Dec.)	OFFERINGS WEEKEND 3 rd December 2023 SJ £1821.51x HF £ 311.69
--	---	---

Finding 'You' Time

How prepared are you? Have you ordered all the presents and put up the tree? Preparation is one of the most important parts of Christmas, but Advent was never supposed to be about fixing the fairy lights. Advent is about spiritual preparation. In all the whirlwind preparations for the Christmas celebrations, we need to prepare a way for the Lord, and this preparation begins with a call from an eccentric man living alone in the desert over two thousand years ago.

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance. Today we might easily dismiss the rantings of a strange man who dressed in camel hair and fed on locusts, but interestingly, people travelled miles into the desert to be baptised by him, so charismatic a man was he, and so important his message. Two thousand years later, his message is just as relevant to those of us who want greater meaning in our lives. The repentance that John teaches means so much more than being sorry for our sins.

Repentance means changing the direction of our lives away from poor and ungodly choices. Was the direction of our life decided by what exams we did or didn't pass at the age of seventeen? Has the direction of our life been determined by arbitrary decisions and random circumstances? Advent is a time to decide what sort of a person we would really like to be, and in what direction we would really like to be heading. "Prepare the way of the Lord," John tells us, "make straight his paths." To allow God into our lives, we are asked to remove any obstacles in God's path. How can we open our minds to God's will if our time is consumed in filling the freezer and making Christmas puddings? Advent is an opportunity for us to make some quiet time to contemplate and prioritise. What is it exactly that is preventing God's work in our lives? "One mightier than I is coming after me," John tells us, "I have baptised you with water, he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." In the desert of commercialism, we are reminded that the reason for the season is not turkeys and baubles. Preparation is a time of reflection; a little 'You' time.

Entrance Antiphon :	<i>O people of Sion, behold the Lord will come to save the nations and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.</i>			
Responsorial Psalm :	<i>Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.</i>			
Gospel Acclamation :	<i>Alleluia, Alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!</i>			
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.</i>			
Year B	Isaiah 40: 1-5. 9-11	Psalm 84	2 Peter 3: 8-14	Mark 1: 1-8

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AT ST. JOSEPH'S

For the last few years at Christmas Father Stephen has asked for donations of poinsettias. However, we have a wonderful team of people who arrange the altar flowers each week and this year we are returning to Christmas flowers. Father Stephen asks if you could make a donation towards the cost of the flowers rather than donating a poinsettia. *With this in mind, there will be a retiring collection at all Masses this weekend.*

Any donations of holly to decorate the window sills will also be gratefully received.

BLESSING OF CRIBS

Today Father Stephen invites families to bring their family cribs for a blessing. The Parish Centre will be open before 11.00am Mass to set your cribs up. Father Stephen will bless the cribs after 11.00am Mass, when there will be tea & coffee, mince pies and Christmas music.

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers **Deacon John Conway** who has died recently. May he rest in peace. We extend to his family and friends our deepest sympathy at this sad and extremely difficult time.
The Requiem Mass for Deacon John will be celebrated next Wednesday 13th December at 9.45am at All Saints church.

ST JOSEPH'S REPOSITORY CHRISTMAS SHOP

Christmas at St. Joseph's Repository. Do come and visit and see the cards, candles, cribs, calendars, advent calendars, children's activity books, snowglobes, diaries etc.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will take place on 17th May 2024, which will be the 140th Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone at St. Joseph's.
Forms are available in the sacristy for anyone in Year 8 and above wishing to be confirmed next year.
The Confirmation Programme will begin in the New Year & registration must be received before the programme begins.

ADVENT 2023

Sheets (white) are available at the back of church with full details of all Masses and Parish events for Advent, Christmas and New Year. Please take one home.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The recent Poppy Appeal from St. Joseph's raised £639.33. Thank you.

MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to all who supported the cake sale for the Motor Neurone Disease Association after 11.00am Mass on 19th November. It was a wonderful event and in total raised £821! Thank you to all who baked or bought cakes and for your generous donations.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

29 May – 5th June 2024

We have a number of people booked on the pilgrimage. Deposits are now due - £300 per person. Please contact Mariiana on 07791908861 for further information.

CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

Next Saturday 16th December 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Come along and enjoy a traditional evening of Christmas carols and songs for all the family in St. Joseph's Parish Centre. Tea, coffee, and home made mince pies! All welcome!

SERVICE OF CAROLS & NINE READINGS

Monday 18th December at 7.00pm. Come and hear once again the beautiful story of Christmas. After the service, join Father Stephen in the parish centre for Christmas drinks and mince pies.

ST JOSEPH'S & HOLY FAMILY WALKERS

Family walk (suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs) today Sunday 10th December. Family friendly treasure hunt. Bridgewater Canal and Walton Park. 1.15pm in St Joseph's car park for 1.30pm start. Return by 3.30pm for hot drinks and mince pies in the Parish Centre.

CAFOD 39TH CHRISTMAS FUN RUN/WALK

(3km & 5km) on Wednesday 27th December at "The Mystery" Wavertree Liverpool at 11.00am – If interested please contact Kieron 07785 344102 (posters in narthex/Parish Centre) – lifts can be provided. All walkers/runners welcome. Sponsorship will be collected nearer the time and collected after Christmas.

Help CAFOD help the poorest in communities around the world.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

On Tuesday 9th January, we will be inviting any prospective parents to come and see our wonderful school in action! We will begin with a tour around school from 9.00am and will finish in the hall, where there will be some light refreshments.

This will be followed by an open afternoon on Thursday 11th January from 3.30pm - 4.30pm; this, again, is for prospective parents of children who are going to be in Nursery or Reception in September 2024. We look forward to seeing you there!

SAINTS' CLUB FOR CHILDREN

Sunday 17th December 4.30pm – 5.00pm via Zoom
Celebrate Advent together by spending time with Mary and Joseph on the way to Bethlehem. Pray, sing and have fun together. Email Ilona Harrison on ilonaharrison19@gmail.com for the zoom link.

THANK YOU

Father Stephen thanks SVP members at Holy Family and at St. Joseph's for their wonderful Christmas celebrations last week at St. Joseph's and this weekend at Holy Family. Almost 100 people were served a beautiful Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

Father Stephen also thanks all SVP members for all they do for parishioners and the wider community throughout the year.

BITESIZE

What would be the use of immortality to a person who cannot use well a half an hour.

Ralph Waldo