



# ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY – HANDS – FACE – SPACE - AIR

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

Email: info@sjhfc.co.uk and Parish Website: www.sjhfc.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 – 11th April 2021**

Saturday 10th April	6.00pm	Henry Keogh (1st Ann.)	
Sunday 11th April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Ella Feeney (32nd Ann.) Angela Pope (B'day Rem.) Charlie and Mary Roper People of the Parish	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
Monday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Kitty McCaul James Monaghan (1st Ann.)	Ferial
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12 noon	Priest's Intention Ernest Chadwick (31st Ann.)	Ferial
Wednesday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Special Intention Kath Walker (B'day Thanksgiving)	Ferial
Thursday	9.30 pm HF 12 noon 7.00 pm	Priest's Intention Travis Family Seamus Wilkinson	Ferial
Friday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Ethel Warrington Eileen Collins	Ferial
Saturday	12 noon	Mairin O'Hara	Ferial
Saturday 17th April	6.00 pm	Paul Barry	
Sunday 18th April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Michael Chadwick (5th Ann.) Joseph and Helen Riley Joan Brown People of the Parish	

**SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**  
11.00am – 12 noon Saturdays,  
observing social distancing.  
Or by appointment

**SACRAMENTS OF  
BAPTISM & MARRIAGE**  
By arrangement with  
Father Woolley

**LAST WEEK'S OFFERING**  
Collection over week /weekend  
ending 28th March 2021  
SJ £1272.25 HF £322.58

### The Way Forward

For those who find belief elusive, there is an uncomfortable beatitude in today's gospel. "Happy are those who have not seen and have believed." This can feel like a reproach to those of us who harbour doubts, but the important thing to remember is that doubt can be a good thing. Doubt means that we are still questioning something that we care about. Doubt means that we are still looking for answers . . . . that we are still learning and growing. Doubt is a tool that we can use to carve a mature faith. Belief isn't something we either have or haven't got . . . belief is a process, and the end product of that process, is one's own spiritual self.

The story of 'Doubting Thomas' is aimed at all those generations of people who will not see the risen Lord, yet are asked to believe. So are we really being asked to believe in what we cannot see or hear or touch, when even those closest to Jesus had problems in accepting what was happening?

In today's gospel we see Thomas struggling with a problem that many of us still struggle with today. Thomas desperately wanted to believe in the risen Jesus, but he wasn't the sort of person to pretend he understood something when he didn't. He wasn't the sort of person that could pretend that he didn't have doubts when he did. There are many of us today who desperately want deeper meaning in our lives. There are those amongst us who have become disillusioned with the Church and wish they could embrace what it once meant. There are many of us who would like to find a deeper faith but have found only stumbling blocks. Like Thomas, we find that the gap between faith and doubt too big a leap. The good news is that just as Jesus showed Thomas patience so he will be patient with us too. The good news is that just as Jesus gave Thomas a way to forward his faith so too will we be shown a way forward if we want it enough.

Entrance Antiphon : *Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk.*

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 B

Acts 4: 32 - 35

Psalm 117

1 John 5: 1-6

John 20: 19-31

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Deirdre Peden

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## **FATHER STEPHEN WRITES**

Easter Sunday was a wonderful celebration for us all. Thank you to so many who told me the 8.00am Mass was a welcome addition to the Mass times last weekend and enabled many people to come to Mass in person on Easter Day (over 60 at that Mass).

A very big thank you to the stewards who enabled large numbers of people to safely attend Mass and Stations of the Cross at all the Triduum services over Easter.

Many people have commented on the changes the we had to make because of Covid and quite a lot of you seem to like them and have asked me to make them permanent – this has been duly noted! Who knows what the next few months will bring but let's pray that we are free of Covid restrictions as soon as possible.

On Monday we begin to open up society with the next stage of the 'road map'. Please take care – I am looking forward to the first drink in my nearest pub garden!

We continue to keep in our prayers all involved with the vaccine roll out. If you are offered the vaccination, please accept – by doing so you are helping the whole community.

Although we have now increased our capacity in church, please continue to sanitise your hands as you enter and leave, wear face coverings at all times unless you are medically exempt, and please keep social distancing of six feet at all times.

The main thing will always be to

**STAY SAFE – STAY WELL!**

With things getting back to some kind of normality, this is my last 'Father Stephen writes..' in this form. Thank you for your support, kindness and love over these very difficult months. It has helped me to carry on from day to day with such positivity and hope.

God bless you all!

## **ST. BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS - 16<sup>TH</sup> April**

Millions of people have come to the spring Bernadette uncovered for healing of body and spirit, but she found no relief from ill health there herself. Interestingly Bernadette moved through life, guided only by blind faith in things she did not understand. Blind faith is something we might find uncomfortable in this day and age, but it's something we are all guided by from time to time. Maybe there are times we have to accept that blind faith is better than blind doubt.

*Recommended Viewing*

### **BEYOND THE CROSS**

'Beyond the Cross' is a five-part art and culture series that you can watch on Youtube.

'Beyond the Cross' follows the Risen Christ through the artist's eye taking in some of the main encounters of the season of Easter.

You can watch the first episode at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hP8NjGApz3Y>

You can also access this at

[www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/beyond-the-cross](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/beyond-the-cross)

## **BITESIZE**

"I respect faith, but doubt is what gets you an education."

*Wilson Mizner*

## **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

This Sunday is popularly known as 'Mercy of God Sunday.' Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. She was canonized on April 30th, 2000, the Sunday after Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. The second Sunday of Easter is also known as 'Low Sunday' or 'Thomas Sunday'.

## **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.

## **PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH**

O St. Joseph whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the Throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires,

O St. Joseph do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord' so that having engaged here below your Heavenly power I may offer my Thanksgiving and Homage to the most Loving of Fathers.

O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you with Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me, and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen.

## **SPONSORSHIP FOR FATHER STEPHEN'S LENTEN BIKE RIDE**

Many thanks for all who have sponsored Father Stephen's 100 mile bike ride for CAFOD.

We are now collecting all the money and, where relevant, registering donations for gift aid; so, please can you contact Fran Grubert ([cafod.sjh@gmail.com](mailto:cafod.sjh@gmail.com)) or 962 6274 if you don't have email) if .....

1. You have registered on a sponsorship form but not now ticked as having paid.
2. You have recorded your donation as paid but not that it is eligible for gift aid (if this is relevant).
3. You have made a donation directly to Father Stephen that would be eligible for gift aid but not signed up on a sponsorship form.

## **COMMENDED TO GOD**

We hold in loving memory and prayers **Philomena (Phil) McGinity** who has died recently. May she rest in peace. We extend to her family and friends our deepest sympathy at this sad and extremely difficult time.

## **SAINTS CLUB**

Saints Club winners for March are:

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Prize | St. James the Lesser |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize | St. Barnabas         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize | St. Luke             |