



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 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 11th December 2022

Saturday 10 th December	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Simmons (4 th Ann.)	
Sunday 11 th December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Angela Moore (RIP) Des Taylor Sheila Ivill (RIP) People of the Parish	
Monday	9.30 am 12.15 pm	Alfred Boston (38 th Ann.) Theresa Cronin (Funeral Service)	Ferial
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	John Dolan (RIP) Donna Ivill (50 th B'day Rem.)	St Lucy
Wednesday	9.15 am	Francis Mendonca	St John of the Cross
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	Patrick Dillon (Sick) Pat Hanrahan	Ferial
Friday	9.30 am	Kilroy Family	Ferial
Saturday 17 th December	12.00 noon 6.00 pm (Vigil)	Maureen O'Hara (B'day Rem. 21.11) Jack Tamin (B'day Rem.)	Ferial
Sunday 18 th December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Marie Patricia Tazaki (RIP) Betty Talbot and Topp Family Nichola McDougall (1 st Ann. 11.12) Linda Booth (RIP)	

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION 11.00am – 11.50am Saturdays or by appointment	SACRED HEART LAMP This week the lamp is lit for Anne Fogarty (89 th Anniversary) RIP	LAST WEEK'S OFFERING SJ £1889.40 HF 412.05
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Myopic Expectation

It's at this time of year that our children are asking for every new toy they see on the TV. As discerning adults we know the castle that lights up, shoots arrows and transforms into a fire spouting dragon will just be a frustrating lump of plastic once we get it home, with batteries that give up after three minutes. Our children's expectations are unrealistic and it is up to us to buy a toy that we know will be more fun.

Today's gospel is all about myopic expectation.

From his prison cell John the Baptist sends word to Jesus. "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answers, "Go and tell John what you hear and see. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." It's interesting that Jesus doesn't send back a "Yes I am," kind of answer. Rather he sends a "Work it out yourself," kind of answer. He asks John to look at the evidence. It seems strange that John, normally so certain and so confident should declare a doubt, but perhaps we can understand his disappointment. John has been arrested and thrown into prison. He is feeling tired and disillusioned. It is likely that he'd had misguided expectations of Jesus. Perhaps he'd expected Jesus to come in the manner of a king or of a great warrior with the power to conquer the oppressor. John has some working out to do. John needs to understand that the work of a Messiah is to teach God's love, not just push a few Romans around.

So what of our own expectations? Do we expect God to sort out all our problems and make our lives easy and comfortable? Or do we believe that God is there to help change us and guide us through our daily choices. Do we understand that God is preparing us for his kingdom or are we guilty of myopic expectation? Perhaps we have some working out of our own to do.

Entrance Antiphon :	<i>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.</i>			
Responsorial Psalm :	<i>Come, Lord, and save us.</i>			
Gospel Acclamation :	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!</i>			
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.</i>			
Year A	Isaiah 35: 1-6. 10	Psalm 145	James 5: 7-10	Matthew 11: 2-11

BLESSING OF CRIBS

Next Sunday 18th December 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.

CHRISTMAS WEEK

Monday 19th December

Service of Carols and Nine Readings

This will take place 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.

Christmas Eve – Saturday 24th December

Cleaning the Churches ready for Christmas –

ALL WELCOME – 9.30am until midday

Tea, coffee and mince pies

Holy Mass at St. Joseph's – 12 noon

Children's Crib Service at St. Joseph's 4.00pm

Vigil Masses for Christmas

5.00pm Holy Family 6.00pm St. Joseph's

Christmas Day – Sunday 25th December

Masses

MIDNIGHT MASS 12 midnight at St. Joseph's

9.00am and 11.00am at St. Joseph's

10.00am at Holy Family

(There will be no 5.30pm Mass on Christmas Day)

Boxing Day – Monday 26th December

Holy Mass 9.30am St. Joseph's

Tuesday 27th December (Bank Holiday)

Holy Mass 10.00am Holy Family

Holy Mass 12 noon St. Joseph's

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday 19th May 2023 at 7.00pm 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.

CHRISTIAN ICONS

An icon exhibition at St Teresa's Church, Wilmslow

11th-18th December 7.15am – 6.00pm

The exhibition introduces viewers to the art and history of icon painting, the symbolism of icons and their role in Christian worship.

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers, **Theresa Cronin, Veronica Burke, Sandra Watson** and **Kathleen Smith** 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.

Death is not extinguishing the light.

It is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.

FLOWERS AT CHRISTMAS

Once again this year, Father Stephen is asking for your generosity in donating a poinsettia plant, preferably in red or gold pots. They can be dropped off at the presbytery at any time leading up to Christmas. Any donations of holly also gratefully received.

Thanking you in anticipation.

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.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP

Today Sunday 11th December the Holy Family Cafod Group will be serving mulled wine and mince pies after 10.00am Mass. All are welcome to join the group in this annual event.

ADVENT ADORATION

There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament next Saturday 17th December – the last Saturday of Advent.

11.00am – 11.50am

An opportunity for quiet reflective prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

CAFOD 39th CHRISTMAS FUN RUN/WALK

(3km & 5Km) on Tuesday 27th December at "The Mystery" Wavertree Liverpool at 11.00am.

If interested, please contact Kieron 07785 344102 – lifts can be provided.

If you would like to support the walkers or runners you can contribute on-line (details to follow). Sponsorship will be collected in the next few weeks and money/donations collected in the New Year. *Help CAFOD help the poorest in communities around the world.*

ST JOSEPH'S AND HOLY FAMILY WALKERS

Down Your Way: Walkden Gardens and Worthington Park with a family-friendly treasure hunt.

Next Sunday 18th December 2022 Meet at

St Joseph's 1.15pm for 1.30pm start - less than 3 miles and suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs

Led by Fran & Jeff (Tel No.0161 962 6274)

Back at St. Joseph's 3.30pm when hot drinks will be on offer in St Joseph's Parish Centre.

This one is literally a walk in the park. Still, bring reasonably rugged footwear as when we visit the two parks, you will be able to choose where you roam within them.

OUR MISSION TOGETHER

Over the last five years, Our Mission Together has successfully supported the three pillars of Strengthening Parishes, Providing for Clergy, and Mission and Social Outreach. Through the generosity of donors, the initiative has achieved some amazing results which are highlighted in the Our Mission Together Impact Report. Copies of the report are available at the back of church for you to take home.