



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

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 - THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - 13th December 2020

Saturday 12th December	6.00 pm	Gerard Mooney (11th Ann.)	
Sunday 13th December THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Kitty Coffey People of the Parish Donna Ivill (2nd Ann.) Peter Raftery (5th Ann.)	
Monday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Ethel Warrington Kate Tennant	St John of the Cross
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12 noon	Priest's Intention Marie Garside (Sick)	Ferial
Wednesday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Warren Francis Bridget Lister	Ferial
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12 noon 7.00 pm	Priest's Intention Peter Ghattas (Sick) Norman Griffiths	Ferial
Friday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Paddy Power (2nd Ann. 7/12) Ann Dunleavy (Sick)	Ferial
Saturday	12 noon	Jack Tamin (B'day Rem.)	Ferial
Saturday 19th December	6.00 pm	Jim Howarth (12th Ann.)	
Sunday 20th December FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Jamie Mannion (8th Ann.) People of the Parish Phelan, Jones & McGuirk (D'cd) Neil Dunbar	Virtual Carol Service 3.30pm

**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**  
Since second Lockdown and last weekend  
SJ £1673.80 HF £913.68

## God at the Wheel

What is the difference between a Christian and someone who is not a Christian but is simply a very good person? The answer is that a very good person uses his or her own agenda. A Christian testifies to Christ. John the Baptist understood this very well. John understood that he had come as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. John hadn't come to change the world or work miracles or offer salvation ... he had simply come to prepare the way for a man who could. The gospels and the course of history are filled with men and women who have borne witness to Christ, some very famous and some we will never hear of. John the Baptist was probably the most significant because he sets the precedent. So how is John's example relevant to the rest of us?

In a legal context a good witness is someone who doesn't try to put their own interpretation on events. A good witness is someone who recognises the importance of truth and doesn't taint it with their own agenda. John the Baptist takes 'witness' to another level. We are not just to report the truth, but to channel it with understanding, humility and an appreciation of our human limitations. We provide good witness when we have done something good or clever, but are careful to give God credit for it. We provide good witness when we follow Jesus' teaching but trust in God to magnify our human effort.

Advent is a time for us to wake up and see the light. Advent is a time for us to re-assess the job we feel God has set for us and to get on with it. Advent is a time we clear the obstacles and prepare straight pathways. Advent is the time we recognise that God is at the wheel.

Entrance Antiphon : **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.**

Responsorial Psalm : **My soul rejoices in my God.**

Gospel Acclamation : **Alleluia, alleluia. The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon: **Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.**

Year B

Isaiah 61: 1-2.10-11

Lk 1:46-50.  
53-54

2 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8. 19-28

### FATHER STEPHEN WRITES

It's wonderful news that the infection rate in Trafford is falling and let's hope it continues in the right direction. However, with Christmas and the holiday season, we must all try our best to maintain the good work that we have so far managed to achieve. Once again I offer you the risk factors from Professor Van Tam.

1. Danger of closed spaces.
2. Danger of crowding
3. Danger of close contact indoors
4. Duration of contact
5. Volume of noise, especially indoors

Those who are able and wish to come to Mass, please observe the necessary requirements – sanitise hands as you enter the church, register for test and trace, wear face coverings at all time, followed the steward to your seat and wait for instruction for Holy Communion. Thank You.

On a happier note, some of the lighting in church has been upgraded to LED and is a vast improvement. The remaining lights will be changed at the end of January 2021. I hope this helps when you come to Mass.

I am also, in the New Year, going to look at the sound system and see if we can upgrade it with all the new technology. Let's hope and pray that 2021 will be a much happier year for us all.

### CHRISTMAS

If you wish to come to Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day places will still be limited due to social distancing.

With this in mind, and after much consideration, there are sheets at the back of church to register your place.

The Masses this year will be:

Christmas Eve - 5.00pm Holy Family,  
6.00pm St. Joseph's (*no more names being taken*), 9.00pm St. Joseph's, Christmas Day - Midnight St. Joseph's, 7.30am Holy Family, 9.00am St. Joseph's (*no more names being taken*), 10.00am Holy Family and 11.00am St. Joseph's (*no more names being taken*)

Please register for one of the Masses where space is still available completing a separate line for each person. You should only sign up for one Mass.

I remind you that we can only open the church for public worship if we fulfil the required legislation.

With this in mind, just as for each Sunday, we will need stewards for all the Christmas Masses. If you can generously offer your time to help, please sign the stewarding sheet in the sacristy with your contact details.

This is going to be an extremely challenging time for all of us as my number one priority must be keeping everyone safe and I appreciate your help, support and encouragement as we try to make Christmas the special time of year that it normally is.

Please remember that Christmas Day begins an octave which lasts for one week so you can fulfil your Christmas Devotion throughout the week.

### 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. The church will be decorated immediately after the 12 noon Mass on Christmas Eve. Any donations of holly will also be gratefully received.

Thanking you in anticipation.

### 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

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome to the Church and Parish Community **Indie Jasmine Murphy** and **Anaiya Willow Murphy** who were baptised at St. Joseph's last weekend. We welcome Jasmine and Anaiya into the Church and commend their parents for passing on to them the Faith of the Apostles.

### VIRTUAL CAROL SERVICE

As we still can't sing together in church, a virtual Carol Service will take place next Sunday 20th December from 3.30pm. From the comfort of your homes, you are invited to sing along with the carols and listen to the beautiful Christmas story told through Scripture.

### SVP COLLECTION

The SVP groups at Holy Family and St Joseph's, unfortunately, will not be able to host the Christmas Lunch that we normally put on to entertain the people we visit in our parish. This year we have instead been working with local Catholic primary and secondary schools, to provide Christmas cards and individual gifts for the people we visit. A special collection will take place at all masses this weekend to help fund this work, and the support that the SVP provides to parishioners and our twinned Conferences abroad. Thank you again for your continued support through this difficult period.

Please contact us on 07942 670377 if you need assistance, or know of anyone who is in need of help over this Christmas period.

### THE 37TH CAFOD CHRISTMAS RUN / WALK

will be a "Fun Run Like No Other" on Sunday 27th December at 2.00 pm at Sale Water Park. The 5km course can be run or walked (socially distanced) - family and friends very welcome. If you would like participate details from Kieron Walsh 07785 344102 (See poster in narthex). "All proceeds to CAFOD – to help especially the poorest who are greatest affected by the pandemic this Christmas". *Sponsors / Runners wanted.*

In addition donations gratefully received via [www.justgiving.com/campaign/funrunlikenoother](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/funrunlikenoother)

### CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB

On Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December, you are invited to gather around your family crib on one or both nights to sing along with some Christmas carols and Christmas prayers with Father Stephen. This is all via the live stream so get yourself comfortable and enjoy.

### TRAVELLING NATIVITY

Unfortunately, due to Covid, we cannot invite you to host the Holy Family this year. However, the Holy Family is 'travelling to Bethlehem' and you can follow their progress each day on the Website / Facebook page. If your Holy Family is 'travelling to Bethlehem', why not send Father Stephen a photograph of their progress.

### MARY A WOMAN OF PRAYER

#### AND A MODEL FOR OUR PRAYER

Continuing Pope Francis' reflection on how, in Advent, we meet the Virgin Mary as the Prayerful Woman.

An Attitude of Openness

Pope Francis said there is no better way to pray than to place oneself in an attitude of openness: "Lord, what You want, when You want, and how You want".

He said that this attitude allows many believers to face reality without getting upset when their days are filled with problems, "knowing that in humble love offered in each situation, we become instruments of God's grace".

Prayer, the Pope said, "knows how to calm restlessness, knows how to transform it into availability."

Prayerful Acceptance

He recalled the many moments of tremendous trial endured by the Virgin Mary and of how she was accompanied by prayer in every moment of her life, and in every moment of Jesus' life, right up to His death and resurrection.

"If in prayer we understand that each day given by God is a call, our hearts will then widen and we will accept everything. We will learn how to say: 'What You want, Lord. Promise me only that You will be present every step of my way,'" he said.

*Next Week:*

*Mother of God and Mother of the Church & A Splendid Pearl*