



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

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

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Parish Priest: Father Stephen Woolley

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

Mass Times and Intentions for – TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 13th September 2020

Saturday 12th September	6.00 pm	Patrick Dunion (Ann.)	
Sunday 13th September TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Marie Ward William Neary (10th Ann.) Michael Slim (1st Ann.) People of the Parish	World week for Peace in Palestine and Israel 13th -19th Sept 2020
Monday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Katie Murphy (B'day) Maureen Rice	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12 noon	Priest's Intention Joe Ward (Surgery)	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wednesday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Robert Taylor Jean Dempsey	Ss Cornelius & Cyprian
Thursday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am 7.00 pm	Patrick Walsh (4th Ann.) Finbar Carroll Sick & Housebound	Ferial
Friday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Priest's Intention Sheila O'Shea (Recovery from operation)	Ferial
Saturday 19th September	12 noon	Madeleine Hill	Ferial
Saturday (Vigil Mass)	6.00 pm	Robert Taylor	
Sunday 20th September TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Turnbull Family Phil & Denis McGinity Elizabeth Dalal (100th Birthday) 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
With the local lockdown the count at HF
and SJ is currently suspended

IF FORGIVENESS WAS INFECTIOUS

"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us." Just imagine what sort of world we would live in if this simple statement could become a reality. Imagine feeling the relief of being forgiven for our sins and in turn, forgiving those who had sinned against us. Imagine the same people forgiving those who had sinned against them and so on and so on until the world's screaming grievances grew gradually quieter and finally disappeared altogether. What a wonderful world that would be. Is it any wonder Jesus talks so much of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation?

So how can we make forgiveness more of a reality? How can we make forgiveness globally 'infectious'? Firstly we need to look inwards. What do we each need to be forgiven for? Who might we be hurting, perhaps unintentionally? Might we have made someone feel small or stupid with a careless or overly sharp remark? Might we have spoiled someone else's relationship by indulging in an affair? Have we neglected a lonely or vulnerable family member? Might we have bullied someone, gossiped behind someone's back, lied, cheated or taken something that didn't belong? Have we contributed to keeping someone else in poverty or denied a helping hand when it was desperately needed? Only when we can admit our own sins and unburden our own guilt can we really appreciate the value of forgiveness in the lives of others.

Offering forgiveness is just as hard as asking for it. How often do we hear someone say, "I will never forgive that person for what they have done!" Behind the statement is a deep rooted need to avenge the offender, either by hurting them back, or by withholding forgiveness. One person not forgiving another person is bad enough, but when entire nations are unable to forgive, then mankind is in big trouble! Sometimes the sins of others are so great that we wonder how we can begin to forgive. Sometimes a crime is so great and the culprit so devoid of remorse that we wonder whether we should really be expected to forgive, yet Jesus tells us, "I do not tell you to forgive seven times but seventy seven."

It is clear that we need a few helpful strategies in place to move us from feelings of vengeance and violence to a more peaceful place. The first and probably the easiest strategy is to search for some level of understanding and empathy. Understanding why someone has done something is a strong platform for forgiveness. However, where empathy totally eludes us, it is important for us to entrust the mechanics of justice to others who are less angry and less prejudiced than ourselves. Another 'must' is to set aside any notion of forgiveness turning us into doormats or naïve and deluded 'do-gooders'. The strategy that Jesus teaches us today is that we can become more compassionate as individuals by remembering how often we have been forgiven ourselves.... perhaps more times than we can remember.

Entrance Antiphon : Give peace, Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Responsorial Psalm : The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Gospel Acclamation : Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Year A

Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7

Psalms 102

Romans 14: 7-9

Matthew 18: 21-35

FATHER STEPHEN WRITES

This time last year I and 40 parishioners were preparing to travel to the Holy Land for the parish pilgrimage.

During our pilgrimage we visited a long term refugee camp and a Palestinian parish for Sunday Mass. We also visited Bethlehem University and had a very interesting talk about the work of bringing the Palestinian and Jewish students together. This week is kept as World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel.

Coronavirus continues to cause difficulties throughout the world but our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land are suffering more than most. Lockdowns that had been lifted have been reimposed resulting in the poorest Christians in the area unable to work for many more weeks or months.

Tourism has been devastated. Over 30,000 Palestinians are employed in the tourism sector and with no visitors this has resulted in mass unemployment. In Bethlehem alone, 80% of families were dependent on pilgrims and any savings they had, if at all, have been depleted.

With no system of state benefits or furloughing family life is suffering from poverty, anxiety and stress.

Please remember the peoples of the Holy Land and let us all pray for a just and lasting peace.

Unfortunately, due to people obviously not keeping to the rules, further restrictions will begin tomorrow across the country. Please keep the rules - we must consider our community so all are safe and well. Let's hope that the infection rate across the country comes down this week and we will soon be able to meet family and friends in our homes and gardens. Please keep safe and well and keep the rules!

I appreciate your patience and co-operation in trying to return to as normal as possible at this time. Please remember face coverings are now mandatory by law to be worn in church. However, if you have any reason, including medical, which exempts you please let the stewards or me know. Please see opposite about when to take your face covering off to receive Holy Communion.

I hope these bullet points will reassure you and help you on your return back to Mass.

Before You Arrive

- You should stay at home if you are unwell. People who are vulnerable or who feel unsure about returning to Mass need to consider the wisdom of doing so.
- Remember the Sunday obligation has not been reinstated and live streaming of Masses will continue.
- You should avoid bringing any unnecessary items into church, e.g. shopping bags, to avoid contamination or cross infection.

When You Arrive

- You will be welcomed by a volunteer steward.
- You will be directed to the hand sanitiser.
- You will be directed to a bench. It may not be where you usually sit.
- You must adhere to social distancing guidelines in place.
- Any children accompanying you must do the same.
- Baskets will be available at the entrance (and exit) for your weekly envelopes or other contributions.
- Baskets will also be available at the entrance for a candle to be lit on your behalf for your intention.
- Toilet in the narthex will remain closed at all times.
- The repository will be closed.

During Mass

- There will be no Sign of Peace.
- There will be no singing.
- People receiving Communion will be instructed to approach with their arms outstretched so as to maintain a reasonable distance from the priest, deacon or minister.
- You may only receive the Sacred Host in your hand and not on your tongue. Please keep your face covering in place, covering mouth and nose.
- Communicants must avoid skin to skin contact with the minister's hands.
- You must then step to one side, remove your face covering, place the Sacred Host in your mouth and replace your face covering.

After Mass

- Use only the designated exits.
- Please take home any newsletters and other papers you may use.
- Please keep the social distancing as you leave the church and do not gather in the church porch or on church property for conversations.
- Hand sanitiser will be available outside church.

SVP MASS FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

With the continuing restrictions required for the Covid-19 virus, can we please remember our fellow parishioners who are most affected - the sick and the housebound.

Father Stephen will be saying a special Mass for them this Thursday evening 17th September at 7.00pm.

The mass will be live streamed so that all parishioners can join via St Joseph's and Holy Family Catholic Churches Facebook page and then uploaded to the parish website.

Traditionally the SVP Conferences of both Holy Family and St Joseph's have provided transport to this special Mass but unfortunately, due to the present restrictions, we have not been able to do that this year.

Please continue to pray for our fellow parishioners and attend the mass in person or join on-line to show your support.

EDUCATION SUNDAY 2020

"A learning people in a time of change"

Today is Education Sunday and this year it takes place at a time when many children, young people and staff have been away from schools, colleges and universities and have been working in different ways.

Churches, too, have had to learn and adapt, whilst still maintaining a pattern of worship. This is a time to think about what we have learnt about ourselves, about our communities and about God.

Today's readings teach us about the values needed to live and grow happily together. Today those values are just the same. Do not harm people, do not cheat, do not steal, forgive as we would like to be forgiven ourselves. We still have those same rules! Today we ask our youngsters the importance of looking after each other, and the consequences of only thinking of ourselves.

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers **Susan Patricia Daulby** and **Warren Francis** 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.