



St Joseph's
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ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY
YEAR OF JUBILEE 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope
"In Service to God's Kingdom of love, justice and peace."

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 IN ADVENT – 14th December 2025

Saturday 13 th December	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Elizabeth O'Connell (RIP)	
Sunday 14 th December THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Noel Murtagh (1 st Ann.) Mary Cave (RIP) Sofia & Maria (10 th Baptism Ann.) People of the Parish	Tea & coffee at SJ after 11.00am Mass & HF after 10.00am Mass
Monday	12.00 pm	Anne Curran Moron (RIP)	Ferial
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	Eileen Kerr (RIP) Johnny Butler (RIP)	Ferial <u>Adoration 10.00am HF</u>
Wednesday	9.15 am (school)	Thomas Costello (Ann.)	Ferial
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	Fr David Peters (B'day Rem.) Patrick Hanrahan	Ferial
Friday	9.30 am	Michael Muldoon (Recovery)	Ferial
Saturday 20 th December	12.00 noon 6.00 pm (Vigil)	Jamie Mannion (13 th Ann.) Jack Tamin (B'day Rem.)	Ferial <u>Confessions & Adoration</u> <u>9.00am – 12 noon</u>
Sunday 21 st December FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Judith Stanistreet (9 th Ann.) Elizabeth Talbot Terry O'Connor (RIP) Dionisio Tividad	Tea & coffee at SJ after 11.00am Mass Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers
OUR LADY'S LAMP This week the lamp is lit for Josh Hodgson	SACRED HEART LAMP This week the lamp is lit in loving memory of Michael Fogarty, Mary Fogarty & Anne Fogarty (Anniversaries) Rest in Peace	ST CARLO ACUTIS'S LAMP This week the lamp is lit in loving memory of John Richards, Tony Richards & Robert Richards Rest in Peace	OFFERINGS WEEKEND 7 th December 2025 SJ £2121.57 HF £319.42 Many Thanks

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

Responsorial Psalm : Come, Lord, and save us.

Gospel Acclamation : Alleluia, alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim 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 A

Isaiah 35: 1-6a. 10

Psalm 146

James 6: 7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

TRAVELLING NATIVITY

During Advent, part of our journey to the crib will be the Travelling Nativity. This is a custom, originally from South America, where statues of Mary and Joseph travel from house to house in the parish during Advent, finally reaching the church on Christmas Eve. If you would like to house the Holy Family for one night, please sign the list in the sacristy, or for more information see Father Woolley.

FOUR BIBLE STUDIES ON THE ADVENT SUNDAY GOSPELS

Mauro Lannicelli breaks open the Advent Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. The Holy Mass will come alive in a new way! The last of four is this Wednesday 17 December. 7.00pm – 8.00pm. Free of Charge / LIVE on YouTube. Registration: comeandsee.org/advent25. Please see notice in narthex for full details.

BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY CAFE

The Brentwood Community Café team would like to thank all the customers who have supported them while establishing the community café in St Joseph's Parish Centre on Friday lunch times. Running the café each Friday has provided students with invaluable learning experiences.

The final café of the year will be next Friday 19th December with a festive Christmas theme when they will be serving hot chocolate and mince pies. The café will re-open on Friday 9th January 12.30pm – 2.30pm, when they sell hot and cold drinks, toasted teacakes and delicious cakes. Please support.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026

Tuesday 9th June – Tuesday 16th June 2026, staying at the Hotel Padoue which is central to the Domain. Full board. The cost is £949, sharing a room or £1119 for single occupancy. Full liturgical programme, including Holy Mass, every day. Completed forms (available in the sacristy at St Joseph's) to be sent as soon as possible direct to Northern Star with a deposit of £300 per person.

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers Ann Kirrane who has died recently. May she rest in peace. We extend to her family and friends our deepest sympathy at this sad and difficult time.

ST JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS REPOSITORY

We have a number of 2026 catholic diaries and 2026 religious calendars. Also, boxed and individual Christmas cards; snow globes; children's nativity story / colouring books; advent calendars; candles; nativity sets - and much more.

ADVENT 2025

There are still green sheets 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.

TAIZE/CAFOD EVENING

A very big thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful and prayerful evening. A total of £71 was raised and has been sent on to Cafod. Thank you for your continued generosity.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments can be worn to emphasise our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP

The Holy Family Cafod Group will be serving mulled wine and mince pies after 10.00am Mass today Sunday 14th December. Everyone is welcome to join the group at this annual event.

SERVICE OF CAROLS & NINE READINGS

Tomorrow Monday 15th 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.

ALTAR SERVERS' CHRISTMAS 'THANK YOU'

Father Stephen would like to invite all the altar servers at St Joseph's & Holy Family to an evening out at the Christmas Pantomime - Cinderella

Thursday 15th January 7.30pm at Robert Bolt Theatre

If you would like to go and have permission of your parents/guardians then please sign the list in the sacristy. Parents/guardians do not need to attend. Meet at the theatre at 7.00pm.

CAFOD 41st CHRISTMAS FUN RUN/WALK

Saturday 27th December at "The Mystery" Wavertree Liverpool at 11.00am – If interested see the poster in narthex/Parish Centre – lifts can be provided. All Walkers/Runners welcome. For further info contact Kieron Walsh 07785 344102 – sponsors will be collected the week before after ALL Masses or

Sponsor on line <https://www.justgiving.com/page/stjoseph-holyfamily-sale>

Help CAFOD help the poorest in communities around the world.

HOLY FAMILY TODDLER GROUP

Thank you all for your support in 2025. Tomorrow Monday 15th December will be the last session before Christmas and we will open again on Monday 12th January. Sessions are drop in and parents or carers remain with the children. All pre school children and their grown ups are welcome so do bring your friends and neighbours. We hope all the families have a lovely Christmas

BOILER RENEWAL

The loss adjustors have now been to visit the presbytery to assess the damage after the flood. In about two weeks, we will know if an insurance claim can be made.

NEW YEAR FISH 'N CHIP SUPPER & FILM NIGHT

Enjoy an evening out with parishioners and friends with good British food and a great film.

Friday 9th January 6.30pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre. £12 with fish and chips, mushy peas, tea, bread & butter. Booking forms in the sacristy.

DIOCESAN YEAR BOOKS 2026

are now available in the repository, priced £9