



ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY

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

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**Parish Priest: Father Stephen Woolley
and Permanent Deacon, Reverend John Hamilton**

Mass Times and Intentions for -FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT - 17th March 2024

Saturday 16 th March	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Paul Tanney (RIP)	
Sunday 17 th March FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Priest's Intention Paddy Power (B'day Rem 6.3) Peter Doyle (RIP) Paul Keogh (RIP)	Tea & Coffee after 11.00am Mass SJ with Irish music
Monday	12.00 noon	Vera Kennedy	Ferial
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	Marie Delaney (RIP) Winifred Fitzgibbon (Requiem)	St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday	9.15 am 7.00 pm	Christine O'Dwyer (1 st Ann.) Station Mass at <u>Holy Angels Hale Barns</u>	Ferial
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	Priest's Intention Sheila Langeveld (RIP)	Ferial Tea & Toast after Mass at HF
Friday	7.30 am 9.30 am 7.00 pm	Thanksgiving (Ethan) Johnny Lloyd (RIP) Stations of the Cross	Ferial
Saturday 23 rd March	12.00 noon	Thomas Mullarkey (75 th Ann.)	Ferial Adoration SJ 11.00 am
	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Mary Duffy (37 th Ann.)	
Sunday 24 th March PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	James McCall (1 st Ann.) Elizabeth Talbot (Ann.) Mary Josephine Fitzsimons (RIP) People of the Parish	Anthony the donkey at 11.00am Mass Tea & Coffee after 11.00am Mass

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION 11.00am – 11.50am Saturdays or by appointment	SACRED HEART LAMP This week the lamp is lit in loving memory of David Woolley (Ann. 17 March) Rest in Peace little brother	OFFERINGS WEEKEND 10 th March 2024 SJ £1919.84 HF £443.29 Many Thanks
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Unless A Grain of Wheat Falls

'Eat drink and be merryfor tomorrow we die.' In a life or death situation, human nature would always prompt us to hold on to life no matter what the consequences, but in today's gospel a grain of wheat is used to teach us a valuable lesson. The selfless grain of wheat falls and dies to enable a fresh harvest. What point is there in choosing life, if that life boils down to nothing more than self preservation? On the other hand, what great value death, if that sacrifice gives others life. Many of us fail to understand why Jesus perceived the necessity of going to Jerusalem where he knew he would die. Wouldn't it have made more sense for him to bypass Jerusalem and carry on teaching into his dotage? Jesus however, isn't about to compromise his purpose.

Jesus determines to give his life so others can find true life. This is what Christianity is all about. Jesus teaches us that we must 'die to self' before we can be of any use to God. Letting one's own ambition die to be replaced by God's plans for us? 'Dying to self'? Could we be blamed for not feeling enthused? How many of us really see the wisdom in ditching our own exciting life plans to go around being holy? Perhaps we need to think again about how exciting our ambitions really are. Perhaps sacrificing our own agenda and recognising God's plan in our lives could be the best and most exciting thing that ever happened to us. Perhaps sacrificing something of ourselves for a greater purpose could put us in touch with who we really are.

"Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." This epitomizes everything as Christians we are not!

Entrance Antiphon :	<i>Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength</i>			
Responsorial Psalm :	<i>A pure heart create for me, O God.</i>			
Gospel Acclamation :	<i>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!</i>			
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.</i>			
Year B	Jeremiah 31: 31-34	Psalm 50	Hebrews 5: 7-9	John 12: 20 - 30

LENT 2024

During this Holy Season we shall have additional Masses, devotions and activities to help us focus our hearts and minds on the Passion and Death of Christ.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

There is Lenten Adoration at Holy Family on a Tuesday at 10.00am and at St. Joseph's on Saturdays between 11.00am and 11.50am, during confessions. Come and spend some quiet time.

ADDITIONAL MASS

Father Stephen celebrates an additional Mass on the Fridays of Lent at 7.30am at St. Joseph's.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays, 7.00pm at St Joseph's. This week the Stations of the Cross are for those who are sick and housebound (these will be livestreamed)

STATION MASSES AROUND THE DEANERY

In this Year of Prayer, in preparation for the Holy Year 2025, Mass will be celebrated in a different parish around the Deanery each week. Mass will be at 7.00pm with an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 6.30pm or after Mass. Refreshments will also be served after Mass.

This week Mass will be on Wednesday 20th March at Holy Angels, Hale Barns and will be the final Station Mass for this Lent. Many thanks to all who have supported this new initiative for our Deanery.

CHILDREN'S WAY OF THE CROSS

Will take place at 10.30am on Good Friday. If any child in the parish (Reception and above) would like to take part, please email Alison Macdonald – ali.macdonald.937@gmail.com with your child's name, age and a contact phone number. Names will be needed by Thursday 21st March. After the performance, there will be the tea and coffee in the parish centre, with arts and crafts for the children.

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers Winifred Fitzgibbon 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.

Death is not extinguishing the light.

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

A PRAYER FOR LENT

Lord Jesus, may I never lose sight of the signs of your presence in my life, and the signs of your action in the world today. Free me from spiritual dullness, indifference, and every distraction that would keep me from you. During this time of grace, may I listen to your word, seek you in prayer, serve you in others and long for your resurrection in my life. Amen.

SAINTS CLUB

The winners for February are:

1 st Prize	St John of God
2 nd Prize	St Maria Bertilla Boscardin
3 rd Prize	St Cecilia

THERE ARE SPECIAL RED SHEETS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU TAKE ONE HOME WITH YOU

ASK YOUR MP TO SUPPORT THE ABORTION TIME LIMIT REDUCTION AMENDMENT

Support an amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law.

Take Action: Postcards are available at the back of church here today, please collect one and post it to your MP asking them to support this amendment!

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE-CWL

The next meeting is at 7.00pm this Monday 18th March at St. Joseph's Parish Centre. We will have the Annual Review Meeting followed by some delicious refreshments. After and during the break there will be opportunities for members to choose their favourite record and story in preparation for the April meeting when we will have a Desert Island Discs evening. The compère will gather requests and stories in preparation for next meeting. Subscriptions will still be collected and entrance is £2.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new Offertory Envelopes are now available in the narthex at St. Joseph's & Holy Family.

GIFT AID: If you have been in the scheme and are no longer paying tax or, alternatively, if you wish to join the scheme please contact our Planned Giving organisers Anne Stanley on 973 9159 for St. Joseph's and Veronica Saunders on 973 3773 for Holy Family

ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY

Tuesday 19th March

Joseph was wholeheartedly obedient to God In marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage. The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment in calling him a "just" man. This just man lived his life by faith, seeking to do good in every concrete circumstance of life a model for fathers everywhere.

DAY OF DIVINE MERCY

This special celebration will be held on Sunday 7th April 2024 at

St Hugh and St John Church, Timperley, WA14 5HL The church will be open from 1.30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 2.00pm and Confessions from 2.00pm. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be read at 3.00pm and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated at 3.30pm.

You are invited to recite the 9-day Novena Prayers and Chaplet commencing on Good Friday. The Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet can be found at <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena>

TOO LATE FOR LENT?

So you haven't got round to doing anything for Lent and wonder if it's too late? Are you thinking that you might as well forget about it now and try it next year instead? The answer is that it's never too late to do anything for God. Even if there is only one day left to do something, it's worth the effort because, after all, an effort made even if it is small and late, it is still an effort God will see. It's not too late to do something for Lent and one of the places we might start is to say we are sorry, whether to God or to another person.