

ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY - GET BOOSTED NOW

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

Email: info@sjhf.co.uk and Parish Website: www.sjhf.co.uk

Parish Priest: Father Stephen Woolley

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

Mass Times and	Intentions for	- FOURTH SUNDAY O	F ADVENT 19th I	December 2021
Saturday 18 th December	6.00pm	Carlos Squillace		
Sunday 19 th December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	People of the Parish Helen & Joseph Riley Jack Tamin (B'day Rem.) Sr. Moira STA		Blessing of Cribs and Tea/ Coffee and mince pies after 11.00am Mass
Monday	9.30 am нг 9.30 am	Agnes & Joe Daly Jamie Mannion (9th Ann.)		Ferial Carols & Nine Readings 7.00pm St. Joseph's
Tuesday	9.30 am нг 12 noon	Elizabeth Talbot Sean Brennan		Ferial
Wednesday	9.30 am нғ 9.30 am	Priest's Intention Susan Carroll		Ferial
Thursday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am 12.00 noon 7.00 pm	Priest's Intention Judith Stanistreet (Hollis) (5th Ann.) Moira Reeves (nee Travers) (25th Ann.) Maureen McIlroy		Ferial Tea & Coffee at HF after 9.30 am Mass Adoration SJ 6pm-7pm
Friday CHRISTMAS EVE	9.30 am нг 9.30 am 3.00 pm 5.00 pm нг 6.00 pm 9.00 pm	Patsy Murray Donald Stewart <i>Crib Service</i> Ethel Warrington John George Holden Priest's Intention		Ferial
Saturday 25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY	Midnight 9.00 am 10.00 am нг 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Souls / Fiona Cox Nichola McDougall Jan Day Arthur Labinjo-Hughes NO MASS		THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Sunday 26 th December BOXING DAY	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Phelan McGuirk Jones Family Mr & Mrs Noel Evans Peter Donlan NO MASS		THE HOLY FAMILY
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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 Collection over week / weekend ending 5th December 2021 SJ £1204.14. HF £235.22

Believing in Promises

It's easy for us to take promises with a pinch of salt. Whilst growing up, we've learned that promises are easily made and easily broken. We make promises of our own with varying degrees of commitment. In short, promises are not always made to be kept, and our faith in a promise is seriously undermined. No wonder the promises we read in the bible don't always make us jump for joy.

Does a promise made to us by God carry any more weight? If we were truly convinced that God was making us a promise then it probably would. There's a saying that goes, "We question all our beliefs, except for the ones we really believe, and those we never think to question." It seems that belief is key in getting excited about a promise. Mary obviously had no doubts; this is illustrated in her promptness to act on God's commands. We might not confess to doubts, but if we really don't harbour any doubts, why then do we hedge our bets? Why do we squash God into a small corner of our busy lives and get on with other things?

Mary is a perfect role model for us all. She believed in God's promise. She acted on God's commands. She didn't push God into a small corner of her life God was her life. "Blessed is she," writes Luke in today's gospel, "who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Today's gospel is an invitation for us to take God's promises to heart, to make them real in our minds, and act on them.

Entrance Antiphon:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let. The earth be opened and

bring forth a Saviour.

Responsorial Psalm:

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation :

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Year C

Micah 5: 1-4

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Deirdre Peden

Psalm 79

Hebrews 10: 5-10

Luke 1: 39-44

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

I wish everyone a very Happy and Holy Christmas. Let us not forget all who will be spending Christmas alone, and also those who are recently bereaved.

I would also like to say a big *thank you* for all the cards and gifts received for Christmas.

Each and every one is greatly appreciated. At this challenging and difficult time I urge you all to take care and stay safe. God bless you all.

Father Stephen Woolley

EXTRA MASS

Due to the Covid situation, Father Stephen is offering an extra Christmas Mass at 9.00pm at St. Joseph's on Christmas Eve.

Hopefully, this will ease the pressure for seats at all the other Masses.

HOLLY & 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 cleaned and decorated immediately after the 9.30am Mass on Christmas Eve. If you are able to come along to help clean and decorate the church Father Stephen would greatly appreciate all help offered. Mince pies and a cup of tea will be served. Thanking you in anticipation.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

O mother of all tenderness, During this holy season we pray In thanksgiving for family and friends, May we never take them for granted.

We pray for all whom Christmas brings
Little joy but added worry:
Comfort them and grace them with your peace.
Give courage to all who suffer oppression,
And make plain the way of help.

Grant to all of us to spread the Spirit
Of your Son, whose birthday we keep,
Through acts of kindness
And words of goodwill,
This day and forever more.
Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome to the Church and Parish Community **Rocko William Wild** and **Kayla Marie Gorgees** who were baptised at St. Joseph's last weekend. We welcome Rocko and Kayla into the Church and commend their parents for passing on to them the Faith of the Apostles.

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers Susan Carroll, Clare Kirrane, Bridget Hudson and Brian Lilley who have died recently. May they rest in peace. We extend to their family and friends our deepest sympathy at this sad and extremely difficult time.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP

The Holy Family Cafod Group would like to thank everyone who was able to stay behind after Mass last Sunday for mince pies and mulled wine. £86.40 was raised for Cafod. The group would also like to thank all parishioners for their continuing generosity. We have been able to send Cafod £400 this year to help in the vital work which is being done throughout the world.

VACANCY

We are advertising for a vacancy for the Headteacher at St. Joseph's Primary School for Easter 2022.

If you are interested please see the advert on the school website.

MUMS-TO-BE

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we are asked to pray for all who are waiting for the birth of a child, may they be given patience and strength. We are asked to pray for all who work in maternity units and with parents. May they always recognise and cherish the gift of life. We also pray for those who are trying for a child, that they are given courage and that their hope is rewarded. Father Stephen will bless all mums to be at the end of each Mass.

ADVENT ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS

Next Thursday Father Stephen will celebrate the last Holy Hour of Adoration & Confessions between 6.00pm and 7.00pm. Father Stephen will be sat in front of Our Lady's altar to hear confessions during the Holy Hour.

This will give us an opportunity for quiet reflective prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

BLESSING OF CRIBS

<u>Today Sunday 19th December</u> Father Stephen is inviting 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.

MONDAYS CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

Tomorrow Monday 20th December 12.30pm – 2.00pm Why not come along, meet friends and fellow parishioners in the week before Christmas.

SERVICE OF CAROLS AND NINE READINGS

Tomorow Monday 20th 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.

CRIB SERVICE

For many years, a highlight of people's Christmas has been the crib service. Unfortunately, due to the Covid Pandemic, once again this year we are unable to gather in the normal way. However, Father Stephen invites families to come along from 3.00pm until 3.45pm on Christmas Eve to make a visit and to pray at the crib, thanking God for His goodness this Advent, for all families in need at Christmas time and to recognise the creation God declared to be good.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the one time we will all go to church and celebrate something that happened a long time ago..... but that something that 'happened a very long time ago' is with us every day.

We go to church to celebrate the wonderful Christmas message that God loves us so much that he sent his Son to be with us, to support us, to endure with us, to share life's struggles and to guide us. Our challenge is to move forward through life's joys and sorrows confident in God's love. Our challenge is to make it to next Christmas better and stronger than we are today.

CAFOD 38th CHRISTMAS FUN RUN/WALK

(3km & 5km) on <u>Monday 27th December</u> at "The Mystery", Wavertree, Liverpool at 11.00am – If interested please contact Kieron 07785 344102 – lifts can be provided.

can be provided.

In addition Fr Stephen will be walking the same distance at Sale Water Park on that Monday 27th at 11.00am. All walkers/runners welcome. Sponsorship will be collected weekend 18/19 December and money/donations collected after Christmas.

Help CAFOD help the poorest in communities around the world.