



## ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY

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

### Mass Times and Intentions for SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026

|                                                                                                            |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>                                                                       | <b>6.00 pm (Vigil)</b>                                                          | <b>The Duffy Family</b>                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b><br><b>SIXTEENTH</b><br><b>SUNDAY IN</b><br><b>ORDINARY TIME</b>         | <b>9.00 am</b><br><b>10.00 am HF</b><br><b>11.00 am</b><br><b>5.30 pm</b>       | <b>Michael Reynolds (RIP)</b><br><b>People of the Parish</b><br><b>Barry Peter Reeves (22<sup>nd</sup> Ann.)</b><br><b>Laurence O'Connor (19<sup>th</sup> Ann.)</b> | Tea & Coffee at SJ<br>after 11.00am Mass                                                                           |
| <b>Monday</b>                                                                                              | <b>12.00 noon</b><br><b>6.00 pm HF</b>                                          | <b>Captain Daniel Shepherd GM (Killed in action)</b><br><b>Leavers' Mass (HF)</b>                                                                                   | Ferial                                                                                                             |
| <b>Tuesday</b>                                                                                             | <b>9.30 am HF</b><br><b>12.00 noon</b>                                          | <b>Catherine McLouch</b><br><b>Francis Mendonca (5<sup>th</sup> Ann.)</b>                                                                                           | Ferial<br><u>Adoration 10.00am HF</u>                                                                              |
| <b>Wednesday</b>                                                                                           | <b>9.30am</b>                                                                   | <b>Sheila Ward (RIP)</b>                                                                                                                                            | St Mary Magdalene                                                                                                  |
| <b>Thursday</b>                                                                                            | <b>9.30 am HF</b><br><b>12.00 noon</b>                                          | <b>Spruce Family</b><br><b>Flora Dowds (2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.)</b>                                                                                                    | St Bridget                                                                                                         |
| <b>Friday</b>                                                                                              | <b>9.30 am</b>                                                                  | <b>Catherine Travis (Sick)</b>                                                                                                                                      | Ferial                                                                                                             |
| <b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July</b>                                                                       | <b>12 noon</b><br><b>6.00 pm (Vigil)</b>                                        | <b>Monica Ferrao (2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.)</b><br><b>Kevin Kennedy (2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.)</b>                                                                            | St James<br><u>Confessions</u><br><u>11.00am – 11.50 am</u>                                                        |
| <b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July</b><br><b>SEVENTEENTH</b><br><b>SUNDAY IN</b><br><b>ORDINARY TIME</b>       | <b>9.00 am</b><br><b>10.00 am HF</b><br><b>11.00 am</b><br><b>5.30 pm</b>       | <b>Gerard Baratt (RIP)</b><br><b>People of the Parish</b><br><b>Phyllis Reynolds (RIP Ann.)</b><br><b>Maria Lee (RIP)</b>                                           | Tea & coffee at SJ after<br>11.00am Mass                                                                           |
| <b>OUR LADY'S LAMP</b><br>this week is lit for<br><b>Michelle &amp; John Manock</b><br><b>&amp; Family</b> | <b>SACRED HEART</b><br><b>LAMP</b><br>this week is lit for<br><b>Alan Lloyd</b> | <b>ST CARLO ACUTIS'S LAMP</b><br>this week is lit for<br><b>Flora Dowds</b><br><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.</b><br><b>Rest in Peace</b>                                   | <b>OFFERINGS WEEKEND</b><br><b>12<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b><br><b>SJ £1737.09 HF 318.32</b><br><b>Many Thanks</b> |

### Wheat and Weeds

Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a field in which the master has sown good seed. In the night, an enemy comes and plants weeds, so when the crop grows it is a mixture of wheat and weed. The servants' instinct is to pull the weeds out, but the master demands that the bad grow alongside the good ... he himself will sort the wheat from the weeds at the final harvest.

It's a typical Palestinian problem, the darnel weed, which looks just like wheat in its early stages is a menace to the harvest. The roots of the darnel weed intertwine with the roots of the wheat. To pull the darnel out can jeopardise the harvest. Similarly, just as it's hard to tell the difference between wheat and darnel, so it's not always easy for us to tell the difference between good and evil. A bad person can change and become good, and a seemingly good person might not be as virtuous as we imagine. It's best if we refrain from judging; this job is best left to God.

In films and novels, the good guys always win and the bad guys always get their come-uppance. Happy endings satisfy our human sense of justice, but in reality justice seems strangely elusive. We come up against evil time and time again. Sometimes we get so angry that we want to take justice into our own hands. Sometimes we are incensed that God can allow evil to grow alongside good, but before we get too irate, maybe we need to stop and take a good long look in the mirror. What makes us so sure that we're not weeds too? Where did we get that assurance that we are represented in the parable as the wheat? Rarely is reality black and white. We all have good and bad inside us. We all need to change, and we all deserve the opportunity to make those changes. Perhaps this is the reason Jesus' advises us to leave the evil to grow alongside the good. As Martin Luther King Jnr. once said, "God's purpose is not wrathful judgement. God's purpose is redemption, and the road to redemption is by way of reconciliation."

|                            |                                                                                                                                                         |          |                   |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Entrance Antiphon:</b>  | <b>See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.</b> |          |                   |                     |
| <b>Responsorial Psalm:</b> | <b>O Lord, you are good and forgiving.</b>                                                                                                              |          |                   |                     |
| <b>Gospel Acclamation:</b> | <b>Alleluia, alleluia! I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children. Alleluia!</b>    |          |                   |                     |
| <b>Communion Antiphon:</b> | <b>The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.</b>                                   |          |                   |                     |
| Year A                     | Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19                                                                                                                                    | Psalm 86 | Romans 8: 26 - 27 | Matthew 13: 24 - 43 |

## HOLIDAY SEASON

Our schools break up this week and Father Stephen wishes everyone a happy and restful time with family and friends wherever you are spending your holiday, in the UK or abroad. We also especially welcome all visitors to St Joseph's & Holy Family.

We wish you a happy holiday in company with your loved ones.

## "SHADES OF LOVE AND LIGHT" VOCAL RECITAL

This afternoon Sunday 19th July at 4.00pm

You are invited to a vocal recital performed by Alice Madden, a member of our music group. Alice has recently received a First Class Honours in her final undergraduate soprano recital, and will be repeating for us here at St Joseph's. Music by Bach, Mozart, Bridge and Britten. Entry by voluntary donation; all profits to Ambitious about Autism, a charity which supports autistic children and their families.

## THE SVP

are holding their annual raffle. Details of prizes are given on the poster in St Joseph's narthex. Around 50% of the money raised from tickets sold at St Joseph's will come back to our conference. Raffle tickets cost £1 each or you can buy a book of 5 for £5 and will be available for purchase after all masses this weekend.

## CATHOLIC HOLIDAYS IN THE LAKE DISTRICT THIS SUMMER

During August and September, Castlerigg Manor in Keswick is opening its doors to families, groups of friends, or private individuals who are looking for an affordable stay in the Lake District. Breakfast and evening meal are provided, and Mass is celebrated on site. For more information check out [castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us](http://castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us) or contact [director@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:director@castleriggmanor.co.uk) / 017687 72711

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome to the Church and Parish Community Harper Elsie Hodson and Conor John Corbett who were baptised at St. Joseph's last weekend. We welcome Harper and Conor into the Church and commend their parents for passing on to them the Faith of the Apostles.

## BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The café which is open in the St Joseph's Parish Centre on a Friday has now finished for their summer break. We would like to thank the team who have so cheerfully and faithfully served us since the café opened last September. Lily, Tom, Lewis & Mysune have now graduated and are moving on. We wish them all the best for the future.

The café will reopen on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 12.30pm – 2.30pm with a new team.  
We look forward to meeting them.

## MARCH FOR LIFE

Join March for Life UK in London for the annual march, the 'Pro-life Family on Saturday 5th September Summit' and 'Youth Summit'. Unite with thousands of others at this family-friendly event, where we recognise the value of life from conception and help all people understand why abortion is a tragedy in itself and one that harms the family to its very core. Find out more at [marchforlife.co.uk](http://marchforlife.co.uk) or email [info@marchforlife.co.uk](mailto:info@marchforlife.co.uk)  
To book a place on a coach from Hale Barns, High Legh or Sandbach please contact Gerry on 07990 970 103 or [g.c.mcgettigan@gmail.com](mailto:g.c.mcgettigan@gmail.com)

## THE CAFOD CAKE SALE AND INFORMATION EVENT

*With a celebrity guest!* will take place at the coffee morning after 11.00 am Mass in St Joseph's Parish Centre today Sunday 19th July. Proceeds from the cake sale will be dedicated to the Venezuela Earthquake Appeal but the information event will be focussed on this summer's campaign. This will be about the Debt Crisis engulfing the economies of some of the poorest countries and how it could be addressed by our own government at very little expense!

Come along and find out more about CAFOD and their latest campaigns, and see what your own parish group has been up to this year! We are very honoured that our event is to be attended by **Kayode Akintola**, CAFOD's Head of Region for the whole of Africa, as well as our own Diocesan representative, Kathryn Keenan!

## CEMETERY TOUR

For those who missed the last tour and those who wish to visit again, Michael Riley will be leading a tour of the historic Sale, Brooklands Cemetery next Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, meeting by the Cemetery Lodge at 7.00pm.

This fascinating tour will explore some of the impressive funerary monuments, and delve into the lives of the notable characters they commemorate.

## CAFOD HOLY FAMILY

### DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

Further to the notice in last week's newsletter, CAFOD at Holy Family has sent a cheque for £350 to CAFOD'S emergency appeal for Venezuela.

This was money raised from donations and repository sales.

As always, our thanks go to the very generous congregation at Holy Family.

## ST. MARY MAGDALENE – 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Mary of Magdala is perhaps the most maligned and poorly understood figure in early Christianity. The whole story of Mary as a prostitute, who is fallen and redeemed, is a very powerful image of redemption. Powerful as this image may be, it is not the story of Mary Magdalene. Mary Magdalene is mentioned in each of the four gospels in the New Testament, but not once does it mention that she was a prostitute or sinner. At some point Mary Magdalene became confused with two other women in the Bible: Mary, the sister of Martha and the unnamed sinner from Luke's Gospel (7: 36-50). In 1969 the Catholic Church declared that Mary Magdalene was not the penitent sinner of Luke's Gospel but the reputation still lingers.

## ST FRANCIS CHURCH CHESTER

As part of the Jubilee Year and in preparation for the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, Franciscan churches have been designated as places of pilgrimage where the faithful may obtain a Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions. We are therefore inviting parishioners from across the Diocese to join us for a special Pilgrimage Day at St Francis Church, Chester, on Thursday 17th September 2026, the Feast of the Stigmata of St Francis.

## COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers Laurence (Sonny) Mannion & Anne Maltby who have died recently. May they rest in peace. We extend to their families and friends our deepest sympathy at this sad and difficult time.