



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

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

Email: info@sjhfc.co.uk and Parish Website: www.sjhfc.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 IN ADVENT - 20th December 2020**

Saturday 19th December	6.00 pm	Jim Howarth (12th Ann.)	
Sunday 20th December FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Jamie Mannion (8th Ann.) People of the Parish Phelan, Jones & McGuirk (D'cd) Neil Dunbar	Virtual Carol Service 3.30pm
Monday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	John Dolan Brendan Massey (68th Ann killed in action)	Ferial
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12 noon	Priest's Intention Canon Gerry Breen (1st Ann.)	Ferial
Wednesday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Kevin & Beryl Duffy (SI) Mary Duffy (5th Ann.)	Ferial
Thursday CHRISTMAS EVE	9.30 am HF 12 noon 3.00 pm 5.00 pm HF 6.00 pm 9.00 pm	Priest's Intention Anne Sheehy Crib Service The Bower Family Clare Neary (Sick) Marie Ainsworth	
Friday CHRISTMAS DAY	Midnight 7.30 am HF 9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am	Holy Souls Priest's Intention John, Eileen & Terence Coyle Joe and Agnes Daly Fiona Cox	NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Saturday BOXING DAY	12 noon	Phil & John Cummins & Family	St Stephen
Saturday 26th December	6.00 pm	NO MASS	
Sunday 27th December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Nora Rigby Dennis O'Sullivan Kathleen Phillips 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**  
No count made this week

### A Job for Life

How many of us leap out of bed in the morning fired with the enthusiasm of knowing we have a very special job to do? How many of us wake up hitting the 'snooze button' not relishing our day's work one little bit? Sadly most of fall into the second category, but the truth is that there is no need to live routinely hum drum and unfulfilled lives. We are told that God has a very particular job for each of us to do; all we have to do is answer the call.

Today we hear how the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced her very special calling ... to be the Mother of Jesus. From that moment on, Mary's life would never be the same again. From that moment on the normal life she had planned with Joseph was to be turned upside down. She was about to embark on a life of great excitement, great uncertainty, challenges, joys and sorrows, but above all, great fulfilment. Answering God's call could never be boring.

We might not get angels knocking on the door, but God calls us each as surely as he called Mary. We mightn't think we have what it takes to step up to the mark, but the only qualifications God asks are a willingness to make ourselves available, commitment and trust. Mary demonstrates these qualifications when she answers very readily, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

*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 :* **I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.**

*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.**

## FATHER STEPHEN WRITES

Who could have possibly believed, when we last celebrated Christmas, the terrible year that lay ahead and as we gather to celebrate safely I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas, knowing that for some this year it will be a very difficult time. At the 7.30am Mass on Christmas Day I will especially remember all who have died or suffered in any way during this Pandemic.

To keep my mum safe, I will not be going home this Christmas and I will also remember all others who are apart from their loved ones at this special time of year.

In the coming week we start off with our virtual carol service at 3.30pm this afternoon so log on and sing all the wonderful carols at home. Also, on Monday and Tuesday, we have carols around the crib (see opposite) and on Christmas Eve I invite you to come and help clean and decorate the church (socially distanced) from 9.00am. At 3.00pm we have the revised nativity service (see opposite) and then at 6.00pm the Christmas Masses begin. For those who haven't reserved a place, all the Masses will be live streamed so you can be united in the celebration of our Christmas Masses.

One last thought, the first Christmas was pretty simple. It's OK if yours is too!

I would like to say a big **thank you** for all the cards and gifts received for Christmas. Each and every one is greatly appreciated.

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

The request for places for all the Christmas Masses has exceeded our safe capacity which means that, unfortunately, we are unable to take any more bookings

**Tickets are now ready for collection from the sacristy, after all Masses until Christmas Eve or by calling at the presbytery during the week.** Please ensure that you bring your ticket with you when you come to your Christmas Mass so the stewards can quickly identify your booking.

I remind you that we can only open the church for public worship if we fulfil the required legislation.

With this in mind, just as for each Sunday, **we still need stewards for all the Christmas Masses.** If you can generously offer your time to help, please sign the stewarding sheet in the sacristy with your contact details. This is going to be an extremely challenging time for all of us as my number one priority must be keeping everyone safe and I appreciate your help, support and encouragement as we try to make Christmas the special time of year that it normally is. Please remember that Christmas Day begins an octave which lasts for one week so you can fulfil your Christmas Devotion throughout the week.

## MUMS-TO-BE

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we are asked to pray for all who are waiting for a 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.

## 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 decorated immediately after the 12 noon Mass on Christmas Eve. *Any donations of holly will also be gratefully received.* Thanking you in anticipation.

## HOME SUPPORT

The SVP have a dedicated phone number for anyone needing support at this time – be it a regular phone call, help with shopping, etc. *Please don't hesitate to call if you need assistance, or know of anyone who is in need of help over this Christmas period. 07942 670277.*

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome to the Church and Parish Community **Andrew Liu Jonas, Jade Maria Jonas and William James Goddard Shaw** who were baptised at St. Joseph's last weekend. We welcome Andrew, Jade and William into the Church and commend their parents for passing on to them the Faith of the Apostles.

## VIRTUAL CAROL SERVICE

As we still can't sing together in church, a virtual Carol Service will take place next this afternoon from 3.30pm. From the comfort of your homes, you are invited to sing along with the carols and listen to the beautiful Christmas story told through Scripture.

## CRIB SERVICE

For the last fourteen years, a highlight of people's Christmas has been the crib service. Unfortunately, due to the Covid Pandemic, we are unable to gather in the normal way. However, Father Stephen invites families to come along from 3.00pm 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.

"God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: When our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, as I look upon this manger, may it remind me of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up my thoughts to Him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all. May I keep Him with me in my heart this day, and always, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen."

## CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB

On Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December, you are invited to gather around your family crib from 7.00pm – 8.00pm on one or both nights to sing along with some Christmas carols and Christmas prayers with Father Stephen. This is all via the live stream so get yourself comfortable and enjoy.

## THE 37TH CAFOD CHRISTMAS RUN / WALK

will be a "Fun Run Like No Other" on Sunday 27th December at 2.00 pm at Sale Water Park. The 5km course can be run or walked (socially distanced) - family and friends very welcome. If you would like participate details from Kieron Walsh 07785 344102 (See poster in narthex). "All proceeds to CAFOD – to help especially the poorest who are greatest affected by the pandemic this Christmas. *Sponsors / Runners wanted.*

In addition donations gratefully received via [www.justgiving.com/campaign/funrunlikenoother](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/funrunlikenoother)

## MARY A WOMAN OF PRAYER AND A MODEL FOR OUR PRAYER

Concluding Pope Francis' reflection on how, in Advent, we meet the Virgin Mary as the Prayerful Woman.

### Mother of God and Mother of the Church

Mary, the Pope said, prayerfully accompanied the newborn Church and through her openness to the power of the Holy Spirit the Mother of God thus became the Mother of the Church.

"In the Virgin Mary, natural feminine intuition is exalted by her most singular union with God in prayer. This is why, reading the Gospel, we note that she seems to disappear at times, only to reappear for crucial moments: it was God's voice that guided her heart and her steps where her presence was needed," he said.

### A splendid pearl

Saint Luke tells us that Mary "treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart," he continued, explaining, "Everything ends up in her heart so that it might pass through the sieve of prayer and be transfigured by it."

The Mother keeps everything and brings it to her dialogue with God, Pope Francis concluded: "Someone has compared Mary's heart to a pearl of incomparable splendour, formed and smoothed by patient acceptance of God's will through the mysteries of Jesus meditated on in prayer. How beautiful it would be if we too could be a bit like our Mother!"