



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](mailto:info@sjhf.co.uk) and Parish Website: [www.sjhf.co.uk](http://www.sjhf.co.uk)

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

**Mass Times and Intentions for FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT – 21st December 2025**

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Jack Tamin (B'day Rem.)	
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December <b>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b>	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Judith Stanistreet (9 <sup>th</sup> Ann.) Elizabeth Talbot Terry O'Connor (RIP) Dionisio Tividad	Tea & coffee at SJ after 11.00am Mass Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers
Monday	12.00 pm	Mary Duffy (10 <sup>th</sup> Ann.)	Ferial
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	Agnes & Joe Daly (RIP) Canon Gerry Breen (6 <sup>th</sup> Ann.)	Ferial <u>Adoration 10.00am HF</u>
Wednesday <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	9.30 am 4.00 pm HF 6.00 pm	Tom Considine Topp, Rourke & Power Families Norah Mullin (2 <sup>nd</sup> Ann.)	Ferial
Thursday <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	Midnight 9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am	Priest's Intention Davey Family People of the Parish Marie Coyle (Sick)	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
Friday	9.00 am	Bill & Dorothy Richards (Christmas Mem.)	St Stephen
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	12.00 noon 6.00 pm (Vigil)	Special Intention (H) Martin Jennings (2 <sup>nd</sup> Ann.)	St John <u>No Confessions Today</u>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December <b>HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</b>	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Daniel Grover (Christmas Blessing) Marie Reardon (10 <sup>th</sup> Ann.) Francesca Smithers (21 <sup>st</sup> Ann.) Kathleen & Louis Ashley (RIP)	Tea & coffee at SJ after 11.00am Mass

**OUR LADY'S LAMP**  
This week the lamp is lit in  
loving memory of  
Marie Kelly  
(Ann.)  
Rest in Peace

**SACRED HEART LAMP**  
This week the lamp is lit in  
loving memory of  
Bernardus Schindeler  
(B'day Rem. 22.12.1890)  
Rest in Peace

**ST CARLO ACUTIS'S  
LAMP**  
This week the lamp  
is lit for  
Noreen Kelly  
Special Intention

**OFFERINGS WEEKEND**  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
SJ £1937.12 HF £476.15  
Many Thanks

**Difficult Decisions**

If we are lucky we might get through life without making any painful or difficult decisions, but we can't all be so lucky. There are some who will choose to give birth to a child knowing that the baby has a disability. There are those who will choose to care for a relative who is very ill or dying. These decisions are made with no real clue of what lies ahead, but they will always be made out of love. There's no doubt about it, for people who make difficult decisions in life there will be great difficulties ahead. What is equally certain is that there will be great rewards too. Our Nativity scenes show Mary and Joseph smiling fondly at the Baby Jesus as though bringing the son of God into the world had been one of the easiest decisions to make. As we look in at the cosy scene, we have to remember that the history of salvation would have been completely different if either Mary or Joseph had said 'no' to God's plan. Saying 'yes' to God's plan didn't give Mary or Joseph an easy life, but being part of God's plan in such a direct and practical way must have brought them great fulfilment, and of course, it earned them a place in the history books for all eternity.

We too are part of God's plan, though it probably doesn't feel like it. We too have a part to play in leaving the world a better place than we found it. What is God asking of each of us? Is there a nagging vocation that keeps throwing opportunities into our path, opportunities that up until now we have managed to sidestep?

Advent is a time to make decisions that will turn our predictable lives into roller-coasters with difficult lows but rewarding highs.

*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 :* **Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.**

*Gospel Acclamation :* **Alleluia, alleluia. Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel – which means, God with us. Alleluia.**

*Communion Antiphon:* **Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel**

Year A

Isaiah 7: 10-14

Psalm 24

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-24

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS

I wish everyone a 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.  
God bless you all.

*Father Stephen Woolley*

## CRIB OFFERINGS

Please support Caritas by placing your offerings in the basket by the crib. Thank you.

**“Your compassion brings comfort, dignity, and hope.”** Through your generosity, Caritas is able to accompany individuals and families across our Diocese who are facing hardship, offering crisis food vouchers, practical help, and the assurance that they are not alone.

Donations may also be made online at: [www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk](http://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk)

## ST. STEPHEN'S DAY TRADITION

26<sup>th</sup> December

St. Stephen's Day, better known to us as Boxing Day, is traditionally celebrated on December 26th. The old custom of giving to the poor is reflected in today's Christmas carol 'Good King Wenceslas' who gave gifts of bread and wine to a poor man on 'the feast of Stephen'. In short Boxing Day is a day of good will to those who are not so well off as we are.

## COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers Ann Kirrane and Anne Malone 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.

*Death is not extinguishing the light.*

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

## APF MISSIO RED BOXES

Many thanks to all who have a red collection box in their homes. The total amount collected in 2024 was £3360.17.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The recent Poppy Appeals from St Joseph's raised £667.12 and from Holy Family £56.48.  
Thank you.

## VACANCIES

have arisen within the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team for a Programme Coordinator, Youth Mission Team Member and an Administration Assistant. Further details regarding the 3 posts can be found on the Diocesan Website. <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Interested parties should send their CV to Pauline McCulloch [recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)  
Closing date Friday 23 January 2026.

## ON TV CHRISTMAS EVE 2025 23:50 BBC ONE

Midnight Mass from the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs in Cambridge.

A live celebration of the First Mass of the Nativity with carols, readings and the traditional blessing of the crib.

## FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

The Gospel on the Fourth Sunday of Advent focuses on the role of Mary in our salvation. Traditionally in this week we are asked to pray for all who are waiting for a birth, that they may be given patience and strength. We also pray for all who work in maternity units and with mothers, that they may always recognise and cherish the gift of life. We must also remember to pray for expectant dads and for those who are trying for a baby, that they may not give up hope

## 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.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 41<sup>st</sup> CHRISTMAS FUN RUN/WALK

Next Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 after ALL Masses this weekend or

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

*Help CAFOD help the poorest in communities around the world.*

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

## PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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