



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 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 21st March 2021

Saturday 20th March	6.00 pm	Rose Elizabeth Pandya (4th Ann.)	
Sunday 21st March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Ronnie Boyle John Gilmartin Angela Donlan & Catherine Atherton (Twins - Special B'days) People of the Parish	
Monday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	John Ryan (7th Ann.) Mr McBride	Ferial
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12 noon	Priest's Intention Sheila Mather (B'day wishes)	Ferial
Wednesday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Liz Dalal James McCall (Sick)	Ferial
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12 noon 7.00 pm	Priest's Intention Anna Law (14th Ann.) Paul Keogh (15th Ann. 17.3)	The Annunciation of the Lord
Friday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am 7.00 pm	Regina Greer Jack Beck (14th Ann. 25.3) Stations of the Cross	Stations this week - for a deeper connection between the Eucharist & the Cross
Saturday	12 noon	Maureen Relihan (6th Ann.)	Ferial 11.00am-12 noon Adoration SJ
Saturday 27th March	6.00 pm	Bob Bell	<u>Clocks move forward one hour tonight</u>
Sunday 28th March PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Thomas Moylan (Ann.) People of the Parish Anthony Tabish (USA) Brian Riley (4th Ann.)	

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 7th March 2021
SJ £1197.20 HF £151.57

A Greater Purpose

Living through the pandemic has felt like 'life on hold' for many of us. For many of us, living through the pandemic has prompted us to rethink how we should be spending our lives. How best should we spend the time we have left?

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.

As Christians, living through the pandemic has taught many of us to look for a greater purpose whatever age we might have reached.

Entrance Antiphon : 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.

Responsorial Psalm : A pure heart create for me, O God

Gospel Acclamation : 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!

Communion Antiphon: Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

Year B Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Psalm 50 Hebrews 5: 7-9 John 12: 20-33

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Deirdre Peden

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FATHER STEPHEN WRITES

Holy Week begins next Sunday. Unfortunately, this Passion (Palm) Sunday we can't have a procession and so our donkey Anthony will not be able to come. However, palm crosses will be given out at the end of Mass.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on Sunday, Monday & Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm.

On Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at both St. Joseph's & Holy Family at 7.30pm. Unfortunately this year, due to the pandemic, we are unable to watch until midnight.

On Good Friday at 11.00am there will be a children's Stations of the Cross at St. Joseph's and then at 3.00pm the Liturgy of the Passion of Our Lord at both St. Joseph's and Holy Family. Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at St. Joseph's in the evening at 7.00pm.

On Holy Saturday we will be cleaning and decorating the churches at 10.00am. All are welcome to come along and help prepare the churches – socially distanced of course – many hands make light work.

The Easter Vigil will begin at 8.00pm at St. Joseph's only.

On Easter Sunday all the Masses are at the normal time.

The extra Masses and devotions are all open because of the generosity of our stewards. If anyone would like to join the team then please contact me as soon as possible

Easter this year will still be under a number of restrictions – social distancing, not able to sing as a congregation and face coverings will still have to be worn.

Some happy news for our Year 4 schools & parish children who were unable to celebrate their First Holy Communion last May. The First Holy Communion celebration for them will be on Saturday 26th June when, hopefully, all restrictions will have been lifted.

For this year's First Holy Communion children, we have set the celebration for Saturday 18th September.

Also, at St. Joseph's, after the Easter holidays, one class per week will come over to Mass on Wednesday mornings. Hopefully, in September, we will be able to resume the school Mass on Wednesdays.

From 17 May baptisms may proceed with up to 30 people present. If you are waiting to have your child baptised, please contact me and we can arrange a date.

Unfortunately, funerals are still limited to only 30 people attending in church. Hopefully, this restriction will be removed after 21 June.

We continue to keep in our prayers all involved with the vaccine roll out.

Although we have now increased our capacity in church, please continue to sanitise your hands as you enter and leave, wear face coverings at all times unless you are medically exempt, and please keep social distancing of six feet at all times.

The main thing will always be to

STAY SAFE – STAY WELL!

During Lent I have received many pictures of the Last Supper or Good Friday with Jesus on the Cross from our parish children and from the schools. There is still time to send yours in. It will be displayed in the Sacred Heart chapel during Holy Week and Easter.

I am delighted to report that my 100 mile Lent CAFOD bike ride has passed the 60 mile mark and I have reached my 10 miles per outing on several days. Please keep me in your prayers. Also congratulations to all who are walking, cycling, running through Lent. Please don't forget if you want to sponsor me there are forms at the back of church and I would always welcome other cyclists who wish to join me – socially distanced of course.

BITESIZE

"Don't compromise yourself. You're all you've got."

Janis Joplin

LENT 2021

There are Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 7.00pm. Next Friday's Stations will be for a deeper connection between the Eucharist and the Cross

On Saturday morning, between 11.00am and 12 noon at St. Joseph's, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by the 12 Noon Mass. All are invited to spend a little time before the Lord at this anxious time for everyone.

NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION ON THE PANDEMIC

Day of Prayer – Tuesday 23rd March 2021

Tuesday 23 March, the anniversary of the first national lockdown, will be marked with a minute's silence at midday. At 8.00pm, people are encouraged to create a 'beacon of remembrance' on their doorsteps by beaming phones, candles and torches into the night sky. Prominent buildings and landmarks will also be lit up across the UK.

Prior to that, here at St. Joseph's there will be an hour of Adoration between 7.00pm and 8.00pm. – don't forget to bring a light – torch/phone.

Cardinal Nichols and Archbishop McMahon stress that prayer is an essential part of this reflection and remembrance: "For all who live by faith in God, reflection and prayer always go hand in hand. Prayer completes reflection. Reflection informs prayer. Prayer opens our life to its true horizon. Without prayer we live in a foreshortened world and are more easily swamped by its clamour and tragedy. Throughout this difficult year, so many have been inspired by prayer, so much effort sustained in prayer, in every place. So let us make the 23 March truly a day of prayer."

EASTER CRAFT ACTIVITY PACKS

The Children's Liturgy team have put together some activity packs for families to enjoy during Holy Week.

The packs can be collected from the presbytery over the next two weekends. We have asked the children to make cards for the Easter Baskets being sent out by the SVP - please can the cards be dropped off in the envelope provided at the presbytery by next

Friday 26th March.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Father Woolley sent our best wishes to Bishop Mark on the Feast of St. Joseph celebrated on Friday, in this year dedicated to St. Joseph.

The Heavenly Father chose you, St. Joseph, to be the husband of the Holy Mother of God, and to watch over His only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

In times of joy and trial, pray for us so that we too can recognise the loving plan of the Eternal Father, who always works for the good of those who love Him. Teach us, Guardian of the Holy Family, to be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit; and to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in all the circumstances of our lives and above all, in the mystery of the Holy Eucharist.

At the last, pray for us that we may happily join you, the just and faithful servant, to praise God forever in the company of Our Lady and all the saints.

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new envelope boxes for 2021-22 are now available for collection in the narthex.

Where parishioners have been unable to use their envelopes during the pandemic, it is suggested that you may prefer to set up a standing order.

Please contact the parish planned giving organisers for standing order forms or help with joining the scheme/gift aid – Anne Stanley on 973 9159 for St. Joseph's and Veronica Saunders on 973 3773 for Holy Family. Alternatively, email the parish office – info@sjhf.co.uk