



## 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 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	6.00pm (Vigil)	Jack Tamin (B'day Rem.)	
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Judith Stanistreet (8 <sup>th</sup> Ann.) Elizabeth Talbot Peter Ormesher (RIP) People of the Parish	Tea & coffee after 11.00am Mass SJ
Monday	12.00 pm	Christy Roche	Ferial
Tuesday CHRISTMAS EVE	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon 4.30 pm HF 6.00 pm	Christopher Brett Nuala Gerrety (Sick) Rourke & Topp Family Nora Mullin (1 <sup>st</sup> Ann.)	Ferial
Wednesday CHRISTMAS DAY	Midnight 9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am	Priest's Intention Ann & Jez Spruce The Hancock Family Margaret Leigh (RIP)	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Thursday	8.30 am	Margaret & Reg Philips (RIP)	St Stephen
Friday	9.30 am	Sarah & Alfred Boston	St John
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	12.00 noon 6.00pm (Vigil)	Martin Jennings (1 <sup>st</sup> Ann.) Paddy, Peggy & Family	The Holy Innocents (No Confessions today)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> December HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY & JOSEPH	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Noel Murtagh (88 <sup>th</sup> B'day Rem.) Helen & Joseph Riley (RIP) Paddy (Pat) Berry People of the Parish	Tea & coffee after 11.00am Mass SJ

<b>OUR LADY'S LAMP</b> This week the lamp is lit for <b>John &amp; Mary Dixon</b> and all departed family RIP	<b>SACRED HEART LAMP</b> This week the lamp is lit for <b>Bernardus Schindeler</b> B'day Rem. 22.12.1890 RIP	<b>OFFERINGS WEEKEND</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b> SJ 2086.09 HF 422.25 Many Thanks
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### The Promise of a Lifetime

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 forgotten. 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. We don't always believe in a promise.

Does a promise made to us by God carry any more weight? Well yes of course! 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 his commands. We might not confess to doubts, but 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 :	<b>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</b>			
Responsorial Psalm :	<b>Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth and we shall be saved.</b>			
Gospel Acclamation :	<b>Alleluia! Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. Alleluia!</b>			
Communion Antiphon:	<b>Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.</b>			
Year C	Micah 5: 1-5	Psalm 80	Hebrews 10: 5-10	Luke 1: 39-45

## 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.

## 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 26<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## NEW YEAR FISH 'N CHIP SUPPER & FILM NIGHT

Enjoy an evening out with parishioners and friends with good British food and a seasonal film.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January (6.45pm after 6.00pm Mass) in St Joseph's Parish Centre. £12 with fish and chips, mushy peas, tea, bread & butter. Booking forms in the sacristy.

## CAFOD 40<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS FUN RUN/WALK

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December at "The Mystery" Wavertree Liverpool at 11.00am – If interested poster in narthex / Parish Centre – lifts can be provided. All Walkers / Runners welcome.

Sponsors will be collected after ALL Masses this weekend.

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

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome to the Church and Parish Community **Roya Ann Moore** and **Ronnie Nuala Moore** who were baptised at St. Joseph's last weekend. We welcome Roya and Ronnie 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 Margaret Devine and Noel Murtagh 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.

## THE PLAYERS

would like to thank all those who attended their Puss in Boots pantomime. £200 was raised for the SVP Youth Camp in North Wales and £200 for the British Heart Foundation, from the sale of raffle tickets. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at our summer performance.

## APF MISSIO RED BOXES

Many thanks to all who have a red collection box in their homes. The total amount collected in 2024 was £3767.49.

## FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday of Advent is a day on which we pray for expectant mothers everywhere. We must also remember to pray for expectant dads, and for would-be parents who are trying for a baby but haven't been successful just yet.

## 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.

## MADDEN FAMILY CHARITY RECITAL

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January, from 3.30pm - 5.30pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre, Katrina, Ben, Alice, Laurie and William Madden will be giving a concert in aid of the *Motor Neurone Disease Association* and a children's charity based in Uganda called *Play Action International*. It will be an informal and entertaining classical concert with a mix of piano, violin, cello, clarinet and vocal numbers. Tickets are free with a voluntary contribution to the charities (cash or card welcome). Refreshments included!

## CONFIRMATION 2025

Confirmation for St Joseph's & Holy Family will be on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025, the eve of the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in the present St Joseph's church.

Forms are now available in the sacristy for anyone in Year 8 and above wishing to be confirmed next year. The Confirmation Programme will begin in the new year & registration must be received before the programme begins.

## ROMULUS SINGERS' CHARITY CONCERT 'Amid The Falling Snow'

on Sunday 12 January 3.00pm-4.30pm in Holy Angels Parish Hall, Hale Barns in aid of Caritas **Cornerstone** day centre which supports the homeless in Manchester. Tickets £10 (£5 student/child) available online at <http://www.romulus-singers.co.uk/falling-snow> or on the door. A varied programme including works by Will Todd, Enya, Chris de Burgh and even Beyonce - followed by light refreshments. All proceeds will support the essential work of Cornerstone

## ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Open Events for prospective nursery and reception parents. A chance to come and see our wonderful school in action, to see our fantastic learning environments and to ask any questions. Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am and 4.30pm.

Do join us if you can.

## BBC RADIO 4

Christmas Eve 2024 23:30

The traditional Radio 4 Christmas Eve celebration of Midnight Mass comes live from Leeds Cathedral this year. Christmas begins with a joyous celebration of the Mass of the Nativity. The Bishop of Leeds, Marcus Stock, leads the service as the Catholic Church begins a Holy Year of Jubilee under the spiritual theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope'.