



St Joseph's
140

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 and Parish Website: www.sjhf.co.uk
Parish Priest: Father Stephen Woolley
and Permanent Deacon, Reverend John Hamilton

Mass Times and Intentions for – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – 23rd March 2025

Saturday 22nd March	6.00pm (Vigil)	Noel Murtagh (RIP)	
Sunday 23rd March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	James McCall (2nd Ann.) Elizabeth Talbot Desmond Ashe (Ann.) Mary Seamus (8th Ann.)	Tea & coffee after 11.00am Mass SJ
Monday	12.00 pm 7.00 pm	Philomena McGinity (4th Ann.) William Murray (RIP)	Ferial
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	With deep gratitude Anna Law (Ann.)	Annunciation of the Lord Adoration 10.00am HF
Wednesday	12.00 noon 7.00 pm	Gabrielle Davis (Requiem) Station Mass – St Hugh’s Timperley	Ferial
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	For healing (JD) Daniel Clancy (B'day Ann.)	Ferial Tea & Toast after 9.30am Mass
Friday	9.30 am 7.00 pm	Patrick Fogarty (RIP) Stations of the Cross	Ferial
Saturday 29th March	12.00 noon 6.00pm (Vigil)	Gwyn Robinson (RIP) Thomas (Tom) Brennan (RIP)	Ferial Adoration at SJ 11.00am Confessions 11.00am-12noon
Sunday 30th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	(Edward) Brian Hargreaves (RIP) Brenda (Sick) Samiha Attallah (1st Ann.) People of the Parish	Tea & coffee after 10.00am Mass HF (proceeds for the Food Bank at Easter) 11.00am Mass SJ

OUR LADY'S LAMP This week the lamp is lit for Rosemary Peilober	SACRED HEART LAMP This week the lamp is lit for Rose Kathleen Conroy	OFFERINGS WEEKEND 16th March 2025 SJ 2251.84 HF £354.33 Many Thanks
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The Gardener, the Fig Tree and the Promise

When people die, especially in tragic or premature circumstances, we are left with a sense of injustice. There are some who will question what kind of God we have who can allow such unfairness. But the bottom line is that life simply isn't metered out to us in equal proportions. Death simply happens. There is no intent behind a natural disaster, and because there is no intent there can certainly be no injustice. In biblical days people imagined that fatal disasters and terminal illnesses were sent as some kind of punishment from God. Had the victims brought about their own fate by living sinful lives? What will Jesus' answer be? No, of course untimely death is not sent as a punishment! But whilst we are pondering the fragility of our lives, Jesus reminds us that any one of us could die in similar circumstances. We only have to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. None of us can bank on living to a ripe old age, and so we must consider how well we are prepared to live and how well we are prepared to die.

At first, today's reading feels uncomfortable. The parable of the fig tree reads like a threat. The tree is not bearing any fruit and so the master commands that it should be axed. A compassionate gardener begs that the tree be given a second chance, and so the master grants another year. It feels like a threat... bear fruit or else! But Jesus knows that threats don't bring out the best in us. Like the gardener who tends the tree and nurtures it, so Jesus is there for all who need a second chance. For those of us who make a commitment to live life in a better way, Jesus is there to support and guide us towards our goals. The parable has moved from something that sounds like a threat to something that sounds like a promise.... something inspirational!

Lent is a time to address some begging questions. How many years have we spent making the same old mistakes? What must we do to make life different? It sounds obvious, but to achieve different results, we must do something different. We are invited to ask God for help in setting new priorities, and we must achieve results that reflect God's love for us, and our love for God.

Entrance Antiphon :	My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.
Responsorial Psalm :	The Lord is compassionate and gracious.
Gospel Acclamation :	Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God. Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.
Communion Antiphon:	This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.
Year C	Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15 Psalm 103 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12 Luke 3: 1-9

LENT 2025

During this Holy Season we shall have additional Masses, devotions and activities to help us focus our hearts and minds on the Passion and Death of Christ.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Lenten Adoration at Holy Family on a Tuesday at 10.00am and at St. Joseph's on Saturdays between 11.00am and 11.50am, during confessions. Come and spend some quiet time.

ADDITIONAL MASS

Father Stephen will celebrate an additional Mass on the Mondays of Lent at 7.00pm at St. Joseph's.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays, 7.00pm at St Joseph's.

This week the Stations of the Cross are for World Peace

STATION MASSES AROUND THE DEANERY

In this Jubilee Year of Hope Mass will be celebrated in a different parish around the Deanery each week. Mass will be at 7.00pm with an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 6.00pm with Adoration. Refreshments will be served after Mass.

Dates as follows:

Wednesday 26th March St Hugh & St John Timperley
Wednesday 2nd April Sacred Heart, Wythenshawe
Wednesday 9th April St Vincent's Altrincham

HOUSE ROSARY GROUP

The House Rosary Group's next meeting will be this Thursday 27th March at 7.00pm at Amy's home – 5 Yew Tree Drive (off Broad Road), Sale M33 2EX. All welcome.

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Governors of Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Sale Moor, wish to appoint an outstanding, visionary and aspirational Headteacher for September 2025. For more information please visit <https://www.holyfamilysalemoor.co.uk/job-vacancies/>

FRANCIS HOUSE CHICKS

Father Stephen has recently been appointed as a Trustee for St Francis House Children's Hospice. He has asked some of our parish 'knitters' to knit little chicks which contains a chocolate surprise. These will be on sale on Mothering Sunday, 30th March, price £2 and all money raised will go to Francis House.

Any of our parish 'knitters' who would like to knit a chick would be much appreciated.

HAND SANITISERS

We have been given a few bottles of hand sanitiser. These are at the back of church – no charge but donations to Francis House welcome.

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers John Richards, Gabrielle Davis, Raymond (Ray) McMahon, Christine (Mary) Hackland, Eileen Leech and Paula Mike 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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome to the Church and Parish Community Cecilia Mary McAllister and Marnie Elizabeth Dakin who were baptised at St. Joseph's last weekend. We welcome Cecilia and Marnie into the Church and commend their parents for passing on to them the Faith of the Apostles.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME

begins next Saturday – clocks go forward one hour

140th ANNIVERSARY OF ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Saturday 10th May

Celebration Mass

The 6.00pm Mass on Saturday 10th May will mark the 140th Anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in this beautiful church. This is a momentous occasion and I look forward to welcoming parishioners, as well as invited guests that have a long association and form an historical part of our parish.

Celebration Dinner

Following the Mass, an evening of celebration, including a two course meal, will be held in the Parish Centre. Tickets priced at £12 for adults and £6 for children are available via the parish office during the week or after Mass at the weekends. When buying tickets please ensure your name & phone number are entered on the list provided. Once we have received your details and payment tickets will be given out.

Celebration Tea and Cake Sunday 11th May

For those of you unable to attend the evening celebration, our celebrations will continue on Sunday 11th May after the 11.00 a.m. Mass, where tea and homemade cakes will be served in the Parish Centre and where I will be cutting a specially commissioned cake to mark the occasion.

Parish Timeline 1885 - 2025

Please continue to send in any photographs you may have so we can create a timeline of events since 1885 to the present day. I have been enjoying looking at old photographs and reading newspaper articles alongside our Sale Historian, who has an amazing knowledge of our church and parish community.

Father Stephen

ST. JOSEPH'S AND HOLY FAMILY WALKERS

Today Sunday 23rd March

Prestwich Clough, Drinkwater Park, Phillips Park. 5 miles (1 Boot) with Woodland, Ponds, Sculptures and a Historic Churchyard.

Meet at St Joseph's car park at 1.00pm for 1.15pm depart. Return to St Joseph's for 4.30pm

DIOCESAN LENT TALKS

The second of three evenings on the themes of Faith, Hope, and Love here in church is this Tuesday 25th March and the final one will be the following week 1 April, at 7.00pm. Each session will conclude with Benediction and Compline, the Night Prayer of the Church. This week's on Hope will be delivered by Mrs Natalie Orefice, Director of the Diocesan Department of Evangelisation & Catechesis. This is a wonderful opportunity for deepening your spiritual life as we journey towards Easter.

FAMILY FAITH AND FUN DAYS

St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine in Stockport is hosting Family Faith and Fun Days monthly on 27th April, 18th May and 29th June. For adults and children. Full details are on the noticeboard in the narthex.

TRAFFORD SOUTH FOOD BANK

Many thanks for all the recent donations. Items currently being requested are: Long Life Milk (blue top whole milk or green top semi-skimmed milk); Sponge Puddings; Custard; Cordial; Instant Mashed Potato; Angel Delight; Tinned Tomatoes; All Purpose Cleaning Spray; Deodorant. Shampoo.

SAINTS CLUB WINNERS

February: 1st Prize St Margaret Clitherow
2nd Prize Blessed Margaret Pole
3rd Prize St Daniel & Companions