



# ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY – GET BOOSTED NOW

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**

Retired Priest, Father David Peters and Permanent Deacon, Reverend John Hamilton

## Mass Times and Intentions for – THE HOLY FAMILY 26th December 2021

Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00pm	NO MASS	
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> December HOLY FAMILY	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Phelan McGuirk Jones Family Mr & Mrs Noel Evans Peter Donlan NO MASS	
Monday BANK HOLIDAY	10.00 am HF 10.00 am	Rita Brown Sarah, Ellen and Alfred Boston	St John
Tuesday BANK HOLIDAY	10.00 am HF 12 noon	Priest's Intention Francesca Smithers (17th Ann.)	The Holy Innocents
Wednesday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Clarice 'Cal' Turrell Frances Billington	St Thomas Becket
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon 7.00 pm	Priest's Intention Ann and Arthur (Sick) NO MASS	Sixth Day of Christmas Octave
Friday NEW YEAR'S EVE	9.30 am HF 9.30 am 7.00 pm	Barry Dobson Elizabeth O'Hara People of the Parish	Seventh Day of Christmas Octave
Saturday 1st January NEW YEAR'S DAY	10.00 am HF 12 noon	Francesca Smithers (B'day Rem) NO MASS	Mary Mother of God
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	6.00 pm	Gertie Coleman & Family	
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Maria Galbraith (Continued Recovery) Patrick Culliney (B'day Rem.) John Sherrard (4th Ann.) People of the Parish	

<b>SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION</b> 11.00am – 12 noon Saturdays, observing social distancing. Or by appointment	<b>SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM &amp; MARRIAGE</b> By arrangement with Father Woolley	<b>LAST WEEK'S OFFERING</b> Collection over week / weekend ending 12th December 2021 SJ £1365.85 HF £264.55
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### A Lesson in Parenting

When we hear stories about the Holy Family we are struck by the normality of Jesus' upbringing. Mary and Joseph behave like any parents of today. Secondly we are struck by the love and tenderness that surrounds Jesus in his early years. The fact that he was born in a stable and grew up with no great wealth doesn't seem to matter. What matters is that Jesus grew up knowing that Mary and Joseph loved and cared for him.

Jesus would have been brought up in a Jewish tradition, and he would not have been expected to challenge this tradition. What is interesting for us to learn is, that by the tender age of twelve Jesus was developing a sense of who he really was. When Jesus causes his parents much distress by becoming separated from them to stay in the temple listening to the teachers, he tells Mary and Joseph, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?" Mary and Joseph don't quite understand what he means, but we are told, "Mary stored all these things in her heart." She had faith in her son, and she allowed him to become the individual she always knew he was.

Sounds easy doesn't it, yet thousands of parents today must be shaking their heads. It's not easy to let go and allow your child to be his or her own person, especially if you see them making all sorts of mistakes. Today's gospel is a lesson in parenting. Surround your children with love and caring. Pass down all the good Christian traditions you yourself have learned, then have faith and allow your child to be the person they need to be.

Entrance Antiphon :	<i>The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger.</i>		
Responsorial Psalm :	<i>O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!</i>		
Gospel Acclamation :	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!</i>		
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.</i>		
Year C	Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6.12-14	Psalm 83	Colossians 3: 12-21      Luke 2: 41-52

## THANK YOU

After all the Christmas celebrations 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 is about families . . . . . family is family, whether it is the one you start out with; the one you are in love with, or the family you gain. 2021 has been a year which again has been for everybody a very difficult and, for some, tragic year at the loss of loved ones. Let us love and appreciate our families always.

To mark the beginning of 2022, which we hope and pray will be so much better than the last two, Mass on New Year's Eve will be at 9.30am at St. Joseph's & Holy Family and 7.00pm at St. Joseph's. We pray for a better 2022 when we will once again be able to meet, hug and show affection to our family and friends without any worry.

There will be no 12 noon Mass at St. Joseph's on New Year's Day. 10.00am Mass at Holy Family will be followed by our now traditional 'bacon butties' served in the Parish Centre, unless there are further restrictions.

At this difficult time, there is a special need to thank all who worked so hard to make the Christmas Masses so uplifting and inspiring - the musicians, the servers, the readers, ministers of communion, all the cleaners, flower arrangers, sacristan, and those who donated poinsettias to help decorate the church.

A special thanks must go to the stewards who helped us to open the church safely for our Christmas Masses and throughout the year.

Thank you all very much.

## CHRISTIAN NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

- 1 Spend more time with God, family and friends. Get to know God better and that will increase your appreciation for those he has put into your life to share your days with.
- 2 Enjoy life more. God created us to know him, love him and serve him. Life is intended to be a joyful experience, not a drudge. Knowing God makes us more grateful for all we have been gifted with, and it allows us to enjoy every moment as precious.
- 3 Get rid of a habit that's been holding you back and doing you no good. Whether it's a negative attitude or even some obvious sin, choose something obvious to work on during this coming year.
- 4 Try to learn something new about God each week. Read your bible more to see what God is asking of you. Listen more attentively to sermons and homilies that try to deepen your relationship with God. Find some way of continuing your lifelong religious education.
- 5 Make a more determined effort to help others. Volunteer for some community task or go out of your way to keep an eye on someone you know needs it. By helping others you are showing them the face of God and are giving proof of your faith.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome to the Church and Parish Community **Louis Stephen Robert Killen** who was baptised at St. Joseph's last weekend. We welcome Louis into the Church and commend his parents for passing on to him the Faith of the Apostles.

## PRAY FOR PRIESTS

for January are now available at the back of church.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022

## CAFOD 38<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS FUN RUN/WALK

(3km & 5km) on tomorrow 27<sup>th</sup> December at "The Mystery", Wavertree, Liverpool at 11.00am – If interested please contact Kieron 07785 344102 – lifts can be provided.

In addition Fr Stephen will be walking the same distance at Sale Water Park tomorrow 27<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am.

If you would like to support the Walkers or Runners you can contribute on-line CAFOD's Christmas Fun Run - JustGiving ( under fundraisers click on Kieron

Walsh and St Joseph Walkers & Runners page). Sponsorship will be collected w/e 26<sup>th</sup> Dec and money / donations collected in the New Year.

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

## ST. JOSEPH'S & HOLY FAMILY WALKERS

9th January A 4 mile circular walk through Denzell Gardens and into Dunham Massey. Meet at St. Joseph's car park 1.15pm for 1.30pm departure. Contact 0161 969 0270 for more details.

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

On Saturday 1st January we observe the solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. This is a natural theme having just celebrated the birth of her son Jesus. The birth of a child is always a sign of hope . . . hope not just for the parents and immediate family, but also for the whole community. The lives of Mary and Jesus spell a vision of a hope, a vision of justice and peace, a vision of freedom and liberation, a vision of social change and concern for the common good. It spells a vision of God present in the poor child and the holy young woman of Nazareth; a vision of God to be found in all the people and things of our world and especially among the poor.

## CRIB OFFERINGS

Please support *Caritas* by placing your offerings in the basket at the back of church. Thank you.

## IT IS NOT OVER

It is not over, this birthing.

There are always newer skies into which God can throw stars.

When we begin to think that we can predict the Advent of God, that we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem, that's just the time that God will be born in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.

Those who wait for God watch with their hearts and not their eyes, listening always listening for angel words. *Anne Weem*

## HOLY INNOCENTS DAY

Childermas Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December

Holy Innocents Day, once also known as 'Childermas', falls on 28th December. It commemorates King Herod's massacre of all male infants in and around Bethlehem under the age of two in an attempt to kill the young Christ. In the days when Christmas was less child centred, Childermas was a time for indulging children with treats and parties.

## COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers **Linda Booth, Alan Frank Royle** and **Brian Lilley** who have died recently. May they rest in peace.

## BITESIZE

It's not only children who grow. Parents do too. As much as we watch to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours. I can't tell my children to reach for the sun. All I can do is reach for it, myself. *Joyce Maynard*