



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 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 26th July 2026

Saturday 25 th July	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Kevin Kennedy (2 nd Ann.)	
Sunday 26 th July SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Gerard Baratt (RIP) People of the Parish Phyllis Reynolds (RIP Ann.) Maria Lee (RIP)	Tea & Coffee at SJ after 11.00am Mass
Monday	12.00 noon	Frances Pierce	Ferial
Tuesday	10.00 am HF 12.00 noon	Laurence Antony Mannion (Requiem) Andrew Quinn (Sick)	Ferial Adoration 10.00am HF
Wednesday	9.30am	Bernadette Regan (RIP)	Ss Mary, Martha & Lazarus
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	Mary Kingsmith (RIP) Eileen Conlan	Ferial
Friday	9.30 am	Souls in Purgatory	St Ignatius of Loyola
Saturday 1 st August	12 noon 6.00 pm (Vigil)	Joyce Wordsworth (RIP) Special Intention (James)	St Alphonsus Mary Liguori Confessions 11.00am – 11.50 am
Sunday 2 nd August EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Catherine McLonilon People of the Parish Mollie & Bernard Nevin (RIP) Mike Tetlow (RIP) Australia	Tea & coffee at SJ after 11.00am Mass
OUR LADY'S LAMP this week is lit for Bernard Anghelides Rest in Peace		SACRED HEART LAMP this week is lit for Kevin King B'day Rem.	ST CARLO ACUTIS'S LAMP this week is lit for Special Intention
OFFERINGS WEEKEND 19 th July 2026 SJ £1879.75 HF 399.93 Many Thanks			

Buried Treasure

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

In both parables both men appreciate the true value of what they have discovered. Both men are certain about the wisdom of what they must do and are willing to put everything on the line to secure their newfound treasure.

Today Jesus is asking us to determine how much we treasure the Kingdom of Heaven. How valuable is Heaven to us and what are we prepared to do to secure it? Are we prepared to give all we've got and to renounce everything that gets in the way? If the two men in the parables had passed their treasure by or failed to recognise the treasure's value, we would have thought them insane, yet this is how we behave all the time.

All too often we are prepared to let the Kingdom of Heaven slip through our fingers. Perhaps we do this because we have never stopped to reflect on how valuable the Kingdom of Heaven is. Perhaps we have recognised the value of God's Kingdom to us but have forgotten it in the day-to-day distractions of putting meals on the table and paying the bills. Perhaps heaven's rewards seem so distant that we prefer instead to work for more immediate and tangible rewards . . . , home improvements, fame, social acceptance and career development. Perhaps we think we can work on God's agenda and our own agenda simultaneously, recognising the value of God's Kingdom but not quite able to renounce our own self-interest. Jesus gives us some concrete advice. He tells us that those who study the scriptures and search diligently will find the discernment to recognise God's treasure and the wisdom to secure it.

Entrance Antiphon:	God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.			
Responsorial Psalm:	O Lord, how I love your law!			
Gospel Acclamation:	Alleluia, alleluia! I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children. Alleluia!			
Communion Antiphon:	Blessed the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits			
Year A	1 Kings 3: 5-6a, 7-12	Psalm 119	Romans 8: 28-30	Matthew 13: 44-52

CAFOD

Thank you to all who attended the CAFOD Cake Sale and information session last Sunday. £341 was raised for the Venezuela Earthquake response and will be sent to CAFOD

Thank you also for coming to hear Kayode Akintola speak about the International Debt Crisis. There will be further opportunities during August and September to sign CAFOD's petition calling on our government to take action on this.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Join March for Life UK in London for the annual march, the 'Pro-life Family on Saturday 5th September Summit' and 'Youth Summit'. Unite with thousands of others at this family-friendly event, where we recognise the value of life from conception and help all people understand why abortion is a tragedy in itself and one that harms the family to its very core. Find out more at marchforlife.co.uk or email info@marchforlife.co.uk To book a place on a coach from Hale Barns, High Legh or Sandbach please contact Gerry on 07990 970 103 or g.c.mcgettigan@gmail.com

LOURDES DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

Next week the 75th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will depart for Lourdes. The Youth section leave on Wednesday; the main coach on Thursday; and the planes on Friday. You can follow the pilgrimage services on Lourdes TV, via the Sanctuaries website <https://www.lourdes-france.com> – especially join the pilgrims for the International Mass next Sunday 2 August at 9.30am (8.30am UK time) and Grotto Mass on Monday 3 August at 10am (9am UK time). Other liturgies maybe live streamed too.

Bishop Mark has asked us to pray for the following intentions:

- To pray for our Holy Father, Pope Leo.
- To pray for all who have gone before us in the pilgrimage of Lourdes over the 75 years of our Diocesan Pilgrimage.
- To pray that we and all pilgrims will respond to the message of prayer and conversion, walking together in Eucharistic faith and love, all our lives.
- To pray we will generously respond to our calling and for an abundance of new vocations in our Diocese to the great callings of Marriage, the Priesthood and the Consecrated Life.
- To pray for the peace of the world amid many dangers and conflicts.
- To pray the threat of euthanasia to the sick and the aged will be averted and the lives of the most vulnerable cherished and safeguarded.
- To pray with Our Lady and Saint Bernadette that through the pilgrimage of life we will always remain in the joy of the Gospel.

LOURDES PETITIONS

If you would like to send a petition to be placed at the Grotto, please put it in the basket at Our Lady's altar.

The pilgrims from St Joseph's & Holy Family will take them.

HOLIDAY SEASON

Father Stephen wishes everyone a happy and restful time with family and friends wherever you are spending your holiday, in the UK or abroad. We also especially welcome all visitors to St Joseph's & Holy Family. We wish you a happy holiday in company with your loved ones.

ST JOSEPH'S & HOLY FAMILY WALKERS

Friday evening 7th August. Spud Wood, Lymm. Meet at St Joseph's Car Park at 6.15pm for short (2 miles), gentle evening walk with refreshments afterwards at local pub for those that wish. For more details please see the website www.stjosephswalkers.org.uk.

ST FRANCIS CHURCH CHESTER

As part of the Jubilee Year and in preparation for the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, Franciscan churches have been designated as places of pilgrimage where the faithful may obtain a Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions. We are therefore inviting parishioners from across the Diocese to join us for a special Pilgrimage Day at St Francis Church, Chester, on Thursday 17th September 2026, the Feast of the Stigmata of St Francis.

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers Laurence (Sonny) Mannion & Andrew (Andy) Gudgeon (Australia) 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.

DO I HAVE TO GO TO MASS ON HOLIDAY?

Most of us simply don't think much about Church when we are on holiday or if we do think about it, we usually don't put the effort into making it happen. The trick is to plan Church into your holiday. Don't think of your Sunday obligations as an inconvenience, finding a new church is part of the adventure and will be part of your holiday memories when you come home. So while you are planning your trip, take some time to search for a Catholic Church using a 'phone book, the internet or ask at your hotel reception. Don't just rely on the chance that you will pass by a church near your hotel.

SUMMER HOLIDAY FOODBANK

Donate mindfully

The school holidays are a wonderful time for the children, but for parents struggling to make ends meet it can be an additional anxiety. For those of us with a little bit of extra income, this is a good time to donate to your local foodbank. Donating food and toiletries may sound obvious but giving some thought to what you donate is equally important. At this time we have been specifically asked for mashed potato, sponge puddings, tinned spaghetti, tinned vegetables - carrots, sweetcorn – coffee, toiletries – particularly shampoo and adult's & children's toothpaste.

With what the organisers already have in store, the aim is to provide three days of balanced, nutritional meals for those who need a parcel.

Donations can be made via 'Jim's Box' in the narthex at St. Joseph's or via the box in the narthex at Holy Family.