



St Joseph's  
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**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](mailto:info@sjhf.co.uk) and Parish Website: [www.sjhf.co.uk](http://www.sjhf.co.uk)

**Parish Priest: Father Stephen Woolley and Permanent Deacon, Reverend John Hamilton**

**Mass Times and Intentions for HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH – 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Martin Jennings (2 <sup>nd</sup> Ann.)	
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Daniel Grover (Christmas Blessing) Marie Reardon (10 <sup>th</sup> Ann.) Francesca Smithers (21 <sup>st</sup> Ann.) Kathleen & Louis Ashley (RIP)	Tea & coffee at SJ after 11.00am Mass
Monday	12.00 pm	NO MASS	St Thomas Becket
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	NO MASS NO MASS	Sixth Day of Christmas Octave Adoration 10.00am HF
Wednesday NEW YEAR'S EVE	7.00 pm	Private Intention	Seventh Day of Christmas Octave
Thursday NEW YEAR'S DAY	10.00 am HF	Francesca Smithers (B'day Rem.)	MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD Refreshments after Mass
Friday	9.30 am 11.00 am	John George Holden Ann Kirrane (Requiem Mass)	Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	12.00 noon  6.00 pm (Vigil)	John Hall (4 <sup>th</sup> Ann.)  Madge, Jim, Kevin & John McKeown	Saturday of Christmas Season  Confessions 11.00am – 11.50am
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> January SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Michael Dockery (RIP) Patrick Culliney (B'day Rem.) Patricia Ganderton (RIP) People of the Parish	Tea & coffee at SJ after 11.00am Mass
<b>OUR LADY'S LAMP</b> This week the lamp is lit for World Peace	<b>SACRED HEART LAMP</b> This week the lamp is lit in loving memory of Ralph Kene Rest in Peace	<b>ST CARLO ACUTIS'S LAMP</b> This week the lamp is lit for The O'Connell Family	<b>OFFERINGS WEEKEND</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2025 SJ £2171.43 HF £350.08 Many Thanks

**Standing Up to Herod**

Along the mantelpiece our Christmas cards depict angels and shepherds and the Baby Jesus surrounded by the love of his family. Today however we are given a picture of the Holy Family fleeing to safety from a ruthless and murderous dictator.

Herod, realising the wise men had tricked him was infuriated, and commanded that all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under should be killed. In a dream an angel appears to Joseph, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there, for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him." It is difficult to imagine anyone as cruel or as wicked as Herod. It is hard to imagine anyone so insanely jealous that they could put innocent babies to death. In the context of the 'Feast of the Holy Family' we have to admire how promptly Joseph responded to the angel's message and how well he protects his family from the formidable

Herod. In the wider context perhaps the main point of the story is that no amount of wickedness or evil could sabotage God's plan. All over the globe people suffer tragedy and loss and terrible injustice, yet still they somehow manage to retain their faith in God. This has to be testimony to the presence of God in our lives, and testimony to the spirit in each of us that abhors evil.

A lot is spoken nowadays of family values, but sadly those values can often be more about becoming successful and making lots of money than becoming good people. The Holy Family reminds us that real family values are about standing up to the 'Herods' in our world and creating a culture of justice and love. Evil only exists if we allow it.

*Entrance Antiphon : The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.*

*Responsorial Psalm : Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways.*

*Gospel Acclamation : Alleluia, alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia.*

*Communion Antiphon: Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.*

Year A

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14

Psalm 128

Colossians 3: 12-21

Matthew 2: 13-15 19-23

## 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. Also, there is a 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, Mass booklet preparation and those who donated to the recent flower collection to help decorate the church this year. The church looks exceptionally beautiful and many people have commented on this. I wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Thank you all very much.

*Father Stephen Woolley.*

## CRIB OFFERINGS

Please support Caritas by placing your offerings in the basket by the crib. Thank you.

**“Your compassion brings comfort, dignity, and hope.”** Through your generosity, Caritas is able to accompany individuals and families across our Diocese who are facing hardship, offering crisis food vouchers, practical help, and the assurance that they are not alone.

Donations may also be made online at: [www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk](http://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk)

## ST JOSEPH'S AND HOLY FAMILY WALKERS

Sunday 25th January. Stretford and Urmston - 3 miles; 1 boot. Expect some mud, but generally good paths! Meet at St Joseph's 1.15pm for 1.30pm start. Back about 4.00pm. Led by Phil. See Poster in Narthex <https://sites.google.com/view/stjosephswalkers>

## COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers Ann Kirrane and Anne Maloney 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.

*Death is not extinguishing the light.*

*It is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.*

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome to the Church and Parish Community Raj Takhar who was baptised at St. Joseph's last weekend. We welcome Raj into the Church

## BELLS OF THE NEW YEAR

(A Poem for the New Year)

Another year has come and gone.

Time does not wait, it travels on.

This chapter closed, we turn the page,  
Remembering all we've lost and gained.

Let's raise our hearts and turn to face  
The dawning light of this new day.

May courage be the song we sing  
As hopeful bells of the new year ring.

*John Mark Green*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

## ALTAR SERVERS' CHRISTMAS 'THANK YOU'

Father Stephen would like to invite all the altar servers at St Joseph's & Holy Family to an evening out at the Christmas Pantomime - Cinderella

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm at Robert Bolt Theatre

If you would like to go and have permission of your parents/guardians then please sign the list in the sacristy. Parents/guardians do not need to attend. Meet at the theatre at 7.00pm.

## CAFOD 41<sup>st</sup> CHRISTMAS FUN RUN/WALK

yesterday was completed by nearly 20 Parishioners / family and friends - Sponsorship and Donations will be collected after ALL Masses or donate on line <https://www.justgiving.com/page/stjoseph-holyfamily-sale>

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

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

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

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 6.30pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre. £12 with fish and chips, mushy peas, tea, bread & butter.

Booking forms in the sacristy.

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Every year we make and break the same old resolutions, but that's no reason not to try again. This year invite the Holy Spirit into your plans. Why have our resolutions failed in the past? Do we need to ask the Holy Spirit for discernment in what we plan to do?

Do we need to ask the Holy Spirit for willpower, courage, or persistence?

This year make God part of your new direction.

## MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

1<sup>st</sup> January

The first day of the year is the day the Church sets aside for honouring Mary. Mary represents true discipleship. Mary exhibits a life of hearing, seeing, and telling of God's marvellous deeds. Mary inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events in our own lives. If Mary had made a new year's resolution in that stable all those years ago, it probably would have been to make herself an instrument for God's will. As for our own resolutions, we could live another year of frustration and disappointment, or we could resolve to make Mary our model, and look harder for God's direction in our lives.

## PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026, staying at the Hotel Padoue which is central to the Domain. Full board. The cost is £949, sharing a room or £1119 for single occupancy. Full liturgical programme, including Holy Mass, every day. Completed forms (available in the sacristy at St Joseph's) to be sent as soon as possible direct to Northern Star with a deposit of £300 per person.

## 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*