



# ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY

The Presbytery, Hope Road, Sale, M33 3BF Tel: 0161 973 1615

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

## Mass Times and Intentions for -EASTER SUNDAY - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> March<br>EASTER VIGIL            | <u>8.00 pm</u>                                | Norah Mullin (RIP)  |   |
| Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March<br>EASTER SUNDAY             | 9.00 am<br>10.00 am HF<br>11.00 am<br>5.30 pm | Raphael Kene<br>Philomena McGinity (3 <sup>rd</sup> Ann.)<br>Simon Johnston (RIP)<br>People of the Parish | ALLELUIA<br>THE LORD IS RISEN<br>Tea and Coffee at SJ after<br>11.00am Mass |
| Monday<br>EASTER MONDAY                                    | <u>9.00 am</u>                                | Matt Murray (RIP)   | Monday of the<br>Easter Octave  |
| Tuesday  | 9.30 am HF<br>12.00 noon                      | Eddie Booth (Ann.)<br>Denny Howells (4 <sup>th</sup> Ann.)  | Tuesday of the<br>Easter Octave<br>Adoration 10.00am at HF                  |
| Wednesday  | 9.30 am                                       | NO MASS   | Wednesday of the<br>Easter Octave   |
| Thursday   | 9.30 am<br>12.00 noon                         | NO MASS<br>Jo Riley (Get Well)  | Thursday of the<br>Easter Octave  |
| Friday   | 9.30 am                                       | NO MASS   | Friday of the<br>Easter Octave  |
| Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> April                             | 12 noon<br>6.00 pm (Vigil)                    | Thomas Moylan<br>Kathleen Walker (101 <sup>st</sup> b'day)  | Saturday of the<br>Easter Octave  |
| Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April<br>SECOND SUNDAY OF<br>EASTER | 9.00 am<br>10.00 am HF<br>11.00 am<br>5.30 pm | Aisling Murray<br>Mike Rourke (B'day Rem.)<br>Pete Rider (RIP)<br>People of the Parish                    | DIVINE MERCY<br>SUNDAY<br>Tea and Coffee at SJ after<br>11.00am Mass        |

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| <b>SACRAMENT OF<br/>CONFESSION</b><br>11.00am – 11.50am Saturdays<br>or by appointment | <b>SACRED HEART LAMP</b><br>In birthday remembrance of<br>Louisa Mary Woolley (4.4.1889)<br>RIP | <b>OFFERINGS WEEKEND</b><br>24 <sup>th</sup> March 2024<br>SJ £2290.17 HF £519.70<br>Many Thanks |
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## Approaching the Empty Tomb

Traditionally at this time of year thousands of new Christians are baptised all over the world. A young man baptised recently was asked, "Do you feel different now that you are baptised and a Christian?" "Yes," he replied, "I went from believing nothing to believing everything sort of vaguely. I hope God will make things clearer to me as I continue on this journey."

Easter is a good time to reaffirm our faith. The Resurrection is the culmination of Christ's journey on this earth, and the beginning of our journey in faith. Our journey begins with belief in the Resurrection, but approaching the 'Empty Tomb' isn't easy. Who moved the stone we wonder. Why were the linen wrappings removed, and why was the cloth that wrapped Jesus' head rolled neatly and placed separately? In our modern day times of detective stories and forensic science there is an inclination to turn the empty tomb into a crime scene, but the problem with looking at the empty tomb from an investigative point of view is that we're in danger of missing a greater truth, and the amazing implications of a Resurrection that was after all predicted.

If we were to fully embrace the reality of the Easter story we would pour out of church bouncing with a newfound enthusiasm for life. So how do we embrace the reality of a story for which there is no proof? Jesus promised all along that death couldn't contain us, and the empty tomb points to this not necessarily as proof, but as something that was promised.

Why therefore, in the context of everything else that Jesus did and said, should this surprise us?

The empty tomb gives our life purpose. Belief in the resurrection means we can live life boldly and well, looking forward to eternal life. The empty tomb gives us a means to deal with pain and suffering, it means that death is not a meaningless end of life, but the door to the fullness of life with the risen Christ.

|                      |  |           |                    |              |
|----------------------|--|-----------|--------------------|--------------|
| Entrance Antiphon :  | <i>I have risen and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.</i>  |           |                    |              |
| Responsorial Psalm : | <i>This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.</i>   |           |                    |              |
| Gospel Acclamation : | <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!</i>                                |           |                    |              |
| Communion Antiphon:  | <i>Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.</i> |           |                    |              |
| Year B               | Acts 10: 34. 37-43   | Psalm 117 | Colossians. 3: 1-4 | John: 20 1-9 |

## HAPPY EASTER

Father Woolley, Father Bernard and Deacon John wish you all a very happy and holy Easter.

We are the Easter people and Alleluia is our song! I would like to thank all our servers and readers on whom a lot of the responsibility for the presentations of the services depends. Thanks, too, to the readers of the passion, the 12 'apostles' who volunteered to have their feet washed, and the ushers who helped to keep the movement of the congregation around the church flowing easily.

We are most grateful to the church cleaners who, on a week-to-week basis, do a magnificent job to keep the church clean and tidy. Thanks, too, to our florists who have made the churches look so beautiful.

I also need to thank all those in the back office who have been responsible for getting all the leaflets ready for Holy Week. Special thanks to all our musicians and singers for uplifting the liturgy over holy week and Easter.

The success of Holy Week depends on so many people cooperating together to help all of us take part in the unique ceremonies that take us through the last days of Christ, his passion, suffering, death and resurrection. Thank you to all.

A Blessed Easter to you all! *Father Stephen Woolley*

## THE PASCHAL CANDLE - THE PILLAR OF FIRE

What is this great paschal candle that stands in our midst, which during the Fifty Days of Easter seems always to be burning, and never to go out?

It is the pillar of fire by which God led the children of Israel from slavery to freedom, through the dusty desert to the land flowing with milk and honey.

Behind it, we marched freed from sin from the gloom of exile back into our church's house on Easter's eve.

- *With it, we led those chosen for the sacraments of new life to the font of baptism that is both tomb and womb. It is the holy sign of Christ our Light. (Thanks be to God!)*
- *On it, we traced the sign of Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, the alpha and omega.*
- *Into it, we pressed five jewels that are the wounds of divine hands and feet and side.*
- *For it, we sang our song of consecration and praise: "Accept, O God, this Easter candle. Let it shine with the lights of heaven and bravely burn forever!"*
- *From it, we take our own light, a flame divided but undimmed. All who are baptized walk in its glow.*

For fifty days it shines gloriously in the assembly of the church. Then, held in a place of honour near the font, it is brought out and lit for every evening sacrifice of praise, for every baptism and every funeral, every birth and every birth unto eternal life. And as the days and seasons turn, slowly this pillar of finest wax and strongest wick is consumed, burned down, eaten up by fire, sacrificed – like Christ himself – and never truly extinguished. And, so it measures our days and seasons until it is Easter again, until once more we sing in the light of a new paschal candle:  
Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

## NOT JUST EASTER SUNDAY

The Easter Season isn't just Easter Sunday. It's fifty days long, and the last of those days is Pentecost (Greek for 'fiftieth') marking the birth of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. In older traditions, it's called 'Whitsunday' because the traditional colour for church clothing and decor on Pentecost is white. On that day the Holy Spirit arrives to be with us, and that Spirit sends a fresh wave of joy. During these fifty days of Easter, while we are singing alleluia to our Risen Saviour, we are also listening to the stories of the struggles and hardships of the early followers of Jesus.

## PRAY FOR PRIESTS

for April are available at the back of church.

## EASTER HOLIDAYS

From tomorrow until 13 April, Father Stephen will be away visiting his friends in the USA.

Next weekend we welcome to St Joseph's Fr. Emmanuel Mbeh to give a Red Box Appeal. Missio is the Pope's charity for world Mission and through the Red Box we support the Church around the World where it is young and in need. Please do consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing up to give via Direct Debit.

Father Stephen also thanks Father Keith Butterworth, Father Gavin Landers and Father David Irwin for covering some of the Masses

## DAY OF DIVINE MERCY

This special celebration will be held next **Sunday 7th April 2024** at St Hugh and St John Church, Timperley, WA14 5HL. The church will be open from 1.30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 2.00pm and Confessions from 2.00pm. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be read at 3.00pm and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated at 3.30pm.

You are invited to recite the 9-day Novena Prayers and Chaplet commencing on Good Friday. The Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet can be found at <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena>

## MANCHESTER MARATHON

is on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April** and, once again, access to St. Joseph's and Holy Family will be affected by road closures.

To see route maps and how this will affect you visit <https://www.manchestermarathon.co.uk/route/road-closure-info/>

## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION - APRIL

Regardless of where you live in the world, gender equality is a fundamental human right. Advancing gender equality is critical to all areas of a healthy society, from reducing poverty to promoting the health, education, protection and the well-being of both girls and boys. There has been progress over the last decades, but there is still lots to do in order to achieve the UN gender equality goal by 2030. Pope Francis invites us to join his prayer intention "...that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."

## URBI ET ORBI

*Easter Sunday BBC 1*

On the eleventh Easter of his pontificate, Pope Francis gives his Easter message and blessing, Urbi et Orbi – to the city and to the world. Today, Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 11.00am.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome to the Church and Parish Community **Douglas John Martyr Taylor** who was baptised at St. Joseph's last weekend. We welcome **Douglas** into the Church and commend his parents for passing on to him the Faith of the Apostles.

## VACANCY

St Philip's Catholic Primary School, Stockport is looking to appoint a highly motivated and inspirational Deputy Headteacher from September 2024. More information can be found at: <https://www.stphilipsstockport.co.uk/page/vacancies/144123>