



ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY

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 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 3rd December 2023

Saturday 2 nd December	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Maureen Howie (7 th Ann. 1/12)	
Sunday 3 rd December FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm 7.00 pm	Michael Keaney (30 th Ann) Brian Lilley Frances Murray (RIP) Patrick Curran (RIP) Holy Hour	Mulled wine & mince pies after 10.00am Mass at HF - for CAFOD Tea & Coffee after 11.00am Mass <u>7.00 - 8.00 pm : Holy Hour for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land</u>
Monday	12.00 noon	Clare Kirrane (2 nd Ann.)	Ferial
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	NO MASS Lianne Lyne (Successful Op.)	Ferial Adoration at HF 10.00am
Wednesday	<u>9.15 am</u>	Denis Relihan (24 th Ann.)	Ferial School Toy Mass
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12 noon	Paddy Power (5 th Ann.) NO MASS	St Ambrose Tea and toast after 9.30am Mass
Friday	9.30 am <u>12 noon</u>	Brigid Killoran (Ann.) John Gilmartin (B'day Rem.)	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday 9 th December	12.00 noon 6.00 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Simmons (5 th Ann.) Peter Raftery (8 th Ann.)	Ferial Adoration SJ 11.00 am for Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis
Sunday 10 th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Frank & Mary Dolan Tom Morgan (RIP) Andrew Ovenstone (RIP) People of the Parish	Tea & Coffee after 11.00am Mass

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION 11.00am – 11.50am Saturdays or by appointment	SACRED HEART LAMP In loving memory of Michael Fogarty (4 th Ann. 6 Dec.)	OFFERINGS WEEKEND 26 th November 2023 SJ £1971.75 HF £ 394.17
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Waiting For Judgement Day

A man goes on a journey leaving his slaves in charge, each with a job to do. A doorkeeper keeps watch to alert the slaves as to his master's return. The story illustrates the time of waiting between Jesus' first coming as a little baby at Christmas to his second coming on Judgement Day. Did the slaves really need a doorkeeper to alert them to the master's return? After all, waiting for the second coming shouldn't be the same as waiting for a bus! The point is not to wait for the master's return before hurling ourselves into great busy-ness. We have to spend our waiting time in preparation and constant readiness.

"Keep alert," we are told "keep awake." We are asked to keep alert and awake not for fear of being caught out like naughty school children, but in a spirit of 'keeping our eye on the ball.' We all know how we would like to contribute. Each of us is aware of our unique place on the planet and how we would like to be remembered. Sadly, all too often it is easy for us to 'take our eye off the ball' and get caught up in other concerns.

The news is full of people who have reached the end of their life unexpectedly. None of us has been afforded an exact time and date for our final preparations. Instead we are asked to live in a permanent state of readiness seizing every opportunity on a daily basis to prepare for God's Kingdom. Our Advent goal needs to be about waiting in readiness from this day until our last.

Today's invitation is to decide on our plans and bring them to fruition. Just in the same way as we draw up any other plan, we need to do the same for our Advent goals. In the same way as we put our plans in a diary, it helps to put our spiritual plans in a diary too. Who are we going to help today and how? Whose life can we impact and by when? It probably sounds hugely trite, but we need to put Judgement Day in the diary!

<i>Entrance Antiphon :</i>	To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted: let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.			
<i>Responsorial Psalm :</i>	God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.			
<i>Gospel Acclamation :</i>	Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!			
<i>Communion Antiphon:</i>	The Lord will bestow his bounty and our earth shall yield its increase.			
Year B	Isaiah 63: 16-17. 64: 1. 3-8	Psalm 79	1 Corinthians 1: 3-9	Mark 13: 33-37

MONDAYS TOGETHER

Tomorrow 4th December 2.00pm – 4.00pm in St. Joseph's Parish Centre. Come and spend time among friends and enjoy a demonstration of making Christmas Table decorations. All welcome. Admission £1.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AT ST. JOSEPH'S

For the last few years at Christmas Father Stephen has asked for donations of poinsettias. However, we have a wonderful team of people who arrange the altar flowers each week and this year we are returning to Christmas flowers. Father Stephen asks if you could make a donation towards the cost of the flowers rather than donating a poinsettia. With this in mind, there will be a retiring collection at all Masses next weekend.

BLESSING OF CRIBS

Next Sunday 10th December Father Stephen invites families to bring their family cribs for a blessing. The Parish Centre will be open before 11.00am Mass to set your cribs up. Father Stephen will bless the cribs after 11.00am Mass, when there will be tea & coffee, mince pies and Christmas music.

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers **Deacon John Conway** who has died recently. May he rest in peace. We extend to his family and friends our deepest sympathy at this sad and extremely difficult time.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

ST JOSEPH'S REPOSITORY

We have a number of 2024 catholic diaries and 2024 religious calendars (small and medium sized); a number of boxed cards – 16/18 per box for £3.50; snow globes; children's nativity story / colouring books, advent calendars and much more.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will take place on 17th May 2024, which will be the 140th Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone at St. Joseph's.

Forms are available in the sacristy for anyone in Year 8 and above wishing to be confirmed next year.

The Confirmation Programme will begin in the New Year & registration must be received before the programme begins.

LAST CALL FOR DRIVERS

Grateful thanks to the 6 drivers who have volunteered – but we could really do with just 2 more. Do you attend the 11.00am Sunday morning Mass and would be willing to offer a lift just once every 2 months – that's 6 times a year! The more drivers the fewer occasions you would be called upon – if you can help let Father Stephen have your name/contact details or call Kieron Walsh 07785 344102 . Thank you.

ADVENT 2023

Sheets are available at the back of church with full details of all Masses and Parish events for Advent, Christmas and New Year. Please take one home.

PRAY FOR PRIESTS

For December are available at the back of church.

ADVENT SUNDAY

Holy Hour at St Joseph's

Today – 3rd December 7.00pm – 8.00pm

As we prepare to greet the Prince of Peace, born for us in Bethlehem, we will spend an hour praying for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land.

Quiet time, songs, prayer. All welcome for the whole hour or for a short period of prayer.

BLESSING OF THE CTIS CRIB

The Churches Together in Sale crib outside the town hall will be blessed by Father Stephen this Tuesday 5th December at 7.00pm with St. Joseph's choir and the Salvation Army Band. Traditional carols will be sung. Please come along and support this important witness of faith in our local community.

TRAVELLING NATIVITY

During Advent, part of our journey to the crib will be the Travelling Nativity. This is a custom, originally from South America, where statues of Mary and Joseph travel from house to house in the parish during Advent, finally reaching the church on Christmas Eve.

If you would like to house the Holy Family for one night, please sign the list in the sacristy, or for more information see Father Woolley.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP

Today Holy Family CAFOD group will be serving mulled wine and mince pies after 10.00am Mass.

All are very welcome to join this annual event.

Holy Family CAFOD group would like to thank all parishioners for their continued generosity. We have been able to send £500 to CAFOD for their Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal.

ST JOSEPH'S & HOLY FAMILY WALKERS

Family walk (suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs) next Sunday 10th December. Family friendly treasure hunt. Bridgewater Canal and Walton Park. 1.15pm in St Joseph's car park for 1.30pm start. Return by 3.30pm for hot drinks and mince pies in the Parish Centre.

CAFOD 39TH CHRISTMAS FUN RUN/WALK

(3km & 5km) on Wednesday 27th December at "The Mystery" Wavertree Liverpool at 11.00am – If interested please contact Kieron 07785 344102 (posters in narthex/Parish Centre) – lifts can be provided. All walkers/runners welcome. Sponsorship will be collected nearer the time and collected after Christmas.

Help CAFOD help the poorest in communities around the world.

THE PLAYERS SALE –

A CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

'A Touch of Magic'.

This Thursday 7th and Friday 8th December at 7.30pm and Saturday 9th December at 2.00pm at St. Joseph's Parish Centre. Adults £6, Under 18's £4 and a Family Ticket £15. Please ring Teresa on 0161 969 0270.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

29 May – 5th June 2024

We have a number of people booked on the pilgrimage. Deposits are now due - £300 per person. Please contact Marijana on 07791908861 for info of how to make payment.

There are still limited spaces available.

ST JOSEPH'S CAFOD GROUP

The Quiz Night on 18 November raised £1,160 including £190 from the raffle. Thank you everyone for your continued support and generosity.