



ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY - **HANDS - FACE - SPACE**

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

Email: info@sjhfc.co.uk and Parish Website: www.sjhfc.co.uk

Parish Priest: Father Stephen Woolley

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

Mass Times and Intentions for - SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS - 3rd January 2021

Saturday 2nd January	6.00 pm	Kathy & Kevin Murray	
Sunday 3rd January SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Patrick Culliney (B'day Rem.) Ethel Warrington John Meyrick & Francis Sherrard (3rd Ann.) Elizabeth Thallon (Sick)	
Monday	9.30 HF 9.30 am	Kevin & Beryl Duffy (SJ) Pauline & Stan Hutchinson	Monday of the Christmas Season
Tuesday	9.30 HF 12 noon	Priest's Intention Kathleen Keegan (Ann.)	Tuesday of the Christmas Season
Wednesday Holy Day of Obligation	9.30 am HF 9.30 am 7.00 pm	Val & Sean O'Hara (SI) John Holden Ted Woolley	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12 noon 7.00 pm	Priest's Intention Jenny & Auntie Mu Julia Linnen (20th Ann.)	Thursday After Epiphany
Friday	9.30 HF 9.30 am	Intentions of Jan Margaret Barr	Friday After Epiphany
Saturday	12 noon	Forbes Grant (RIP)	Saturday After Epiphany
Saturday 9th January	6.00 pm	Allan Anghelides (Sick)	
Sunday 10th January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	The Dowds Family John Gilmartin Neil Bramfit (4th Ann.) Maureen Relihan (B'day Rem.)	

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
11.00am - 12 noon Saturdays,
observing social distancing.
Or by appointment

**SACRAMENTS OF
BAPTISM & MARRIAGE**
By arrangement with
Father Woolley

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING
No count made this week

The Word

All the best books have great beginnings, and St. John's gospel is no exception. The gospel begins with an eighteen-verse introduction, which we call 'The Prologue'. The prologue contains intriguing themes such as creation, life, and truth. Through it all, John refers to Jesus as the 'Word'. If John had been writing today, would he have used different language?

To us the word 'Word' is simply a means of expression. In John's day the word 'Word' had greater implication. To understand today's gospel, we need to know that in Hebrew Scriptures the 'Word' had a power of its own. The 'Word' was not just a sound or an expression, but something with its own life. The 'Word' was an agent of creation. We can see this for ourselves in Genesis. 'God said, "Let there be light," and light appeared.' God's 'Word' has the power to create.

To call Jesus the 'Word' was to attribute to him the ability to make things happen.

We can bring our own understanding of the 'Word' to help us understand this gospel. Our own understanding of words is of language, understanding and communication. Perhaps to describe Jesus as the 'Word' is to imply that he was sent as a communication between God and us.

How would we have recorded the beginning of Jesus' public ministry? We may have been tempted to record his great deeds as any well-trained newspaper reporter may have done. We may have been tempted to place him in a political or historical context worthy of any great public figure. John however, begins his gospel by placing Jesus fairly and squarely at the centre of creation itself. The story starts with the bold statement that Jesus is the meaning behind creation, life and truth. It's a great beginning. Can we put down John's gospel; tell ourselves this has no relevance in our lives or do we keep turning the pages.

Entrance Antiphon : **When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.**

Responsorial Psalm : **The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.**

Gospel Acclamation : **Alleluia, alleluia. Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon: **To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.**

Year B

Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12

Psalm 147

Ephesians 1: 3-6.15-18

John 1: 1-18

2021

I received in a Christmas card *It's been a year full of highs and lows, surprises and challenges. . . and it's years like these, that help us be truly thankful and think how rich we really are. Family and friends are priceless, our time is gold and our health is wealth. . . .* May 2021 be a year when we can once again gather with family and friends with increasing hope of an end to the pandemic. I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Let us pray that we will, as a parish, also begin to get back to normalizing our worship and our social activities.

One of my hopes for 2021 is a parish pilgrimage in thanksgiving to Our Lady of Walsingham after she has walked the difficult path through 2020 with us.

Being in Tier 4 still allows for the opening of churches and, for us, the celebration of Mass. Let us pray that the infection and death rate will soon begin to decline and we keep all those who are ill with the virus in our prayers, together with all the front line workers.

HOME SUPPORT

The SVP have a dedicated phone number for anyone needing support at this time – be it a regular phone call, help with shopping, etc. *Please don't hesitate to call if you need assistance, or know of anyone who is in need of help over this Christmas period. 07942 670277.*

REACH FOR THE STARS

Epiphany of the Lord - Wednesday

At this time of year lots of us are making new year resolutions, but how many of us have the nagging feeling that we have made the same resolution many times before, yet despite our best intentions each year has followed the same path as previous years. Some of us refuse to make resolutions, knowing only too well that change is out of reach. It's not that we don't want change. Most of us want life to be a little different. Some of us long for a new way of life, so how come 'change' is so elusive?

Today the Church commemorates the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. We call it the 'Epiphany' a word derived from the Greek meaning 'to appear' or 'to be shown forth'. The Epiphany is about searching for meaning purpose and revelation.

The Magi were men of great learning, intellect and wealth, yet they weren't prepared to sit back and imagine they knew it all. Guided by a star and motivated by a hunger for truth, they stepped out of their comfort zone and set out across the desert not knowing what they would find or how long it would take. It was a journey of faith and great courage.

The biggest barrier we encounter in our quest to find change is the inability to realise that we have to do something a bit different. We do the same things day in and day out, yet expect a different outcome. Today we are invited to look for something that will pull us free of our old way of doing things. In the same way as the star got the wise men questioning, so too we find guiding stars in our lives that make us question.

What circumstances get us looking for deeper meaning? The desire to leave a mind-numbingly meaningless job, the need to make sense of a family illness, or the curiosity to research the background to a motivational book are all circumstances in which we might find our 'guiding stars'. Today's gospel reading is an invitation for all God's people to step out of their old way of life and search for something new.

THE 37TH CAFOD CHRISTMAS

RUN / WALK

The 37th CAFOD Christmas Run / Walk took place at Sale Water Park last Sunday 27th December in very cold and muddy conditions. 29 parishioners, including Fr Stephen, either ran or walked the 5 Km course or supported the runners / walkers (socially distanced - which was a challenge!).

Collection of sponsorship / donations will be made this weekend after **ALL** masses or please take an envelope and return it. In addition donations gratefully received via

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/funrunlikenoother> (follow fundraiser Kieron Walsh and then go on to St Joseph's Runners & Walkers page.

Help CAFOD - to help the poorest of the poor this Christmas who are affected by this global pandemic

CRIB OFFERINGS

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

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Prayer for Priests for January are available as you leave church by the car park exit.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION

JANUARY 2021

Human Fraternity

It's a sad truth that religion through the centuries has actually contributed to world conflict as much as it has striven to create peace. But it is also true that all religions have common foundations, and people all over the world whatever their religion and whatever their background want the same things. Everyone needs love, respect, work, food, shelter and freedom. Because we all want the same things, it makes sense that we should look for ways to work together. This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention for January 2021, "....*May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.*"

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers **Ciarain Patrick O'Hare** 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 **Eilidh Margaret Merriman** who was baptised at St. Joseph's last Sunday. We welcome Eilidh into the Church and commend her parents for passing on to her the Faith of the Apostles

BITESIZE

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

Edith Lovejoy Pierce