



ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY – HANDS – FACE – SPACE - AIR

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

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

Mass Times and Intentions for – TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 3rd October 2021

Saturday 2 nd October	6.00pm	Lisa Evans	
Sunday 3 rd October TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Paddy Donnelly People of the Parish Kieron Walsh (SI) Val & Sean (Special Intention)	Tea and coffee served after 11 am Mass in the PC garden
Monday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Amy Morris (Get Well) Toni Sainsbury	St. Francis of Assisi
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12 noon	Priest's Intention Margaret Barrett	St. Maria Faustine (Helena) Kowalska
Wednesday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Maura Lonnellan Sheila Mather (Sick)	Ferial
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon 7.00 pm	Priest's Intention Andrew Killoran (Ann.) NO MASS	Our Lady of the Rosary
Friday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Bernard Logue Margaret Granger	St. Teresa of Avila
Saturday	12.00 noon	Special Intention (KD)	Ferial
Saturday 9 th October	6.00 pm	Rita Hibbitts	St. John Henry Newman
Sunday 10 th October TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Catherine Culliney (B'day Rem.) People of the Parish Jimmy McNabb Carole Travis	

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

Collection over week /weekend
ending 19th September 2021
SJ £1403.60 HF £217.35

What God Has Joined Together

Today the Pharisees ask Jesus in their usual barbed fashion, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Jesus' answer is a resounding 'no!' "What God has joined together, let no one separate." At a time when divorce was rife, this must have been a difficult thing for Jesus' audience to digest. It isn't much easier for our twenty first century ears.

What should we take from this gospel? What should church goers who have been through painful divorces make of these words? What should church goers who have suffered unhappy first marriages and then re-married make of Jesus' teaching?

One thing is for sure. Any interpretation of this gospel should err on the side of compassion rather than condemnation. Another thing is for sure, without twisting Jesus' words to suit our own modern lifestyle, we have to look at why Jesus spoke these words in the first place and the spirit in which they were spoken. At the time Jesus spoke these words marriage was very one sided. It was the man's prerogative to choose divorce and he could choose this option for little or no good reason. At a time where women were financially dependant on their husbands, divorce could leave them pretty much destitute. Marriage was something easily entered into and easily broken. When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees in today's gospel he was doing something ground breaking. He was elevating the importance of marriage and raising the status of women.

So were Jesus' words relevant then but not now? Well no! Marriage is still something that many don't take seriously. Many go into marriage without really considering their vows. Many go into marriage not thinking much beyond the big white dress or the fabulous reception. There are far too many who are ready to give up on marriage at the first hint of hard times or at the onset of boredom. There are far too many quick to bury a marriage that is only sick or injured. It is to these people that Jesus is speaking in today's gospel.

On the other hand, if Jesus was here today could he really condemn people to stay put in marriages where physical or mental abuse threatens the wellbeing of a spouse or a child? Would Jesus insist on people soldiering on in loveless or deeply unhappy marriages? Some people choose divorce as an easy option, but for the majority divorce is rarely embarked upon happily. It is nearly always painful for all involved. Could Jesus really condemn these people?

"What God has joined together, let no one separate." It has the ring of law, yet as with all laws, it is the spirit of the law that is all important. We find the clue to Jesus' words in his declaration that Moses permitted divorce "...because of the hardness in man's heart."

The answer to the debate is held in our own heart. If we make decisions based on our own self gratification or self interest we become hard hearted and are in real danger of making poor decisions. If we make decisions grounded in love and compassion, God will surely be there to help us through.

Entrance Antiphon : *Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.*

Responsorial Psalm : *May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.*

Gospel Acclamation : *Alleluia, alleluia! Your world is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon : *The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.*

Year B Genesis 2: 18-24 Psalm 127 Hebrews 2: 9-11 Mark 10: 2-16

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Deirdre Peden

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ST. JOSEPH'S & HOLY FAMILY WALKERS

Please join us on Sunday 17th October 2021 1.30pm - 4.45pm for our 6 mile walk around Mersey Valley taking in parts of Bridgewater Way / NCN62 (Trans Pennine Trail).

Approx 6 miles on reasonable paths/riverbank some short inclines, could be muddy! Toilets start and finish with a tea/coffee break half way.

Meet in The Boathouse Car Park, Rifle Road, M33 2LX at 1.15pm for a 1.30pm prompt departure. Check our website www.stjosephswalkers.org.uk for more information or phone Kieron 07785 344102

LONDON MARATHON

Today, parishioner, Angela Donlan, and her sister Helen (Jude's mum) are running for Bone Cancer Research Fund in memory of Jude Anderton. And Deacon John & Diana's daughter, Harriet, is running for Marriage Care. Should you wish to sponsor them for these worthwhile causes, forms for each are available at the back of church.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER - EVANGELISATION

We are reminded this month that proclaiming the Gospel is the main task of the Church. On World Mission Sunday (24th October 2021) we are asked to renew our commitment to evangelisation.

Evangelisation has become an increasingly complex activity in our modern world and unsurprisingly many of us feel deterred. For those of us feeling not up to the task, St. Peter speaks directly to us in his first letter. "Now who is going to harm you if you are enthusiastic for what is good? But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear". This month we are asked to join in Pope Benedict's prayer "... *We pray that every baptised person may be engaged in evangelisation, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.*"

YOUTH 2 LOURDES

After a two year gap due to Covid, the Diocese are planning next year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The dates are 27th July – 5th August 2022. Father Stephen would like to ask any of our young parishioners (16 years or older) if they would like to join him as a pilgrim to Our Lady of Lourdes. If you are interested, please fill in an enquiry which can be found in the sacristy. Also, if there are adults who are interested in helping or going on the Pilgrimage, please contact Father Stephen.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Lisa Maguire and Christopher Clarke who were married at St. Joseph's last Saturday. We extend our best wishes to Lisa and Christopher. May God bless them with long lives together, good health and much happiness.

CAFOD HARVEST COLLECTION

CAFOD Fast Day envelopes will be collected after all Masses this weekend. Don't forget to fill out the Gift Aid section if you are a UK taxpayer.

Over the next few days, donations can also be posted through the presbytery door, clearly marked for CAFOD.

You can support people around the world who are dedicating their lives to protecting God's creation. CAFOD's local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. By donating to CAFOD this Family Fast Day you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

HOLIDAY

If you would like to catch up with Father Stephen's travels, he is posting photos regularly (where Wi-Fi allows) on his Facebook page.

FIRST FORGIVENESS AND HOLY COMMUNION 2021-2022

After a very difficult year, we are now planning the programme for parish children in non-catholic schools to begin later this year.

We need some idea of numbers. If your child is at a Non-Catholic School and is 7 years old (Year 3) or above and would like to celebrate their First Forgiveness and Holy Communion, please collect an enrolment form from the Sacristy. This is for both Holy Family and St Joseph's.

MANCHESTER HALF MARATHON

Next Sunday, 10th October, is the Manchester Half Marathon and, once again access to St. Joseph's and to Holy Family will be affected.

Road closures include:

A56 7.30am – 4.30pm

Brooklands 7.00am – 6.15pm

Marsland Road. 6.00am – 6.15pm

Ashfield Road – 7.00am – 6.30pm

Tatton Place, Chapel Road, Northenden Road (to junction with Derbyshire Road) 7.30am – 6.30pm

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers **William Boyd Grierson** and **Alan Buckland** who have died recently. May they rest in peace. We extend to their families and friends our deepest sympathy at this sad and extremely difficult time.

PRAY FOR PRIESTS

The Pray for Priests leaflets for October are now available in church.