



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

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 – EASTER SUNDAY – 4th April 2021

Saturday 3rd April	<u>8.00 pm</u>	Kathleen Tobin (Sick)	
Sunday 4th April EASTER SUNDAY	8.00 am 9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	People of the Parish Martin Forde Kitty McCaul John Rodney Barlow Father Keith Brigham (7th Ann.)	ALLELUIA THE LORD IS RISEN!
Monday	<u>10.00 am</u> HF <u>10.00 am</u>	Rena Nixon Martin O'Hara	Monday of the Easter Octave
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12 noon	Priest's Intention Joseph Lavin (Requiem)	Tuesday of the Easter Octave
Wednesday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Vincent Fitzgerald Mr Malone	Wednesday of the Easter Octave
Thursday	9.30 pm HF 12 noon 7.00 pm	Priest's Intention Peter Nawn (1st Ann.) Agnes Chadwick (30th Ann.)	Thursday of the Easter Octave
Friday	9.30 am HF 9.30 am	Warren Francis Lena Mullrennan	Friday of the Easter Octave
Saturday	12 noon	Mary Lutteral (5th Ann.)	Saturday of the Easter Octave
Saturday 10th April	6.00 pm	Henry Keogh (1st Ann.)	
Sunday 11th April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Ella Feeney (32nd Ann.) Angela Pope (B'day Rem.) Charlie and Mary Roper People of the Parish	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

### 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 21st March 2021  
SJ £1760.47 HF £299.10

## Never Give Up

Winston Churchill was invited to speak to a boys' school in England during the most difficult days of World War II. He simply said these words, "Never give up, never give up, never, never, never." After this he sat down. When it was reported in the papers, it became the mantra for the British people during the darkest days of the war. This would make a good Christian mantra too. It's a mantra that reminds us, that however dark our lives might feel, we are never abandoned. However defeated we might feel, the resurrection is there to show us that we have a future.

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. The Resurrection reminds us that God can lift up what is cast down, mend what is broken and raise what is dead. The Resurrection didn't of course make everything all right for us. We still have a world full of pain, sickness and sin, but now we have a hope that we didn't have before. The empty tomb points to God working in our world. At whatever stage we are in our journey of faith, the Resurrection means that nothing can be the same again.

But what if our journey in faith has faltered or even stopped? What if the account of the empty tomb leaves us with more questions than answers? In our twenty first century, 'belief' sits side by side with lots of other words like 'evidence' and 'measurable or tangible outcomes'. But if we are going to treat the resurrection as though it were some sort of detective story then we are travelling along the wrong path. Our journey of faith needs to rely firstly on a trust that God is working in our world. Trust is a decision and we decide to trust in all sorts of things in life from insurance to wrinkle cream and a million other inconsequential. Yet a decision to trust in God is the most important thing any of us will ever do. A trust in God will lead to observations day by day and those observations will lead to a spiritual relationship. That's an exciting belief. Our spiritual journey leads us to know that God loves us. It might take a long time to know it, so today's advice is 'never give up'.

Entrance Antiphon : *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.*

Responsorial Psalm : *This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.*

Gospel Acclamation : *Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.*

Year B

Acts 10: 34.37-43

Psalms 117

Colossians 3: 1-4

John 20: 1-9

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Deirdre Peden

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### FATHER STEPHEN WRITES

The year we have just experienced what will long be remembered in our hearts and minds! On this day of the Lord's Resurrection we are strengthened and supported in these difficult days by our faith. Thanks to all who have sent cards, emails, phone calls of good wishes for Easter and my continued good health – each and everyone is greatly appreciated. Normally at this time we would be gathering with our families and friends and all whom we love. Unlike last year, we give thanks for the limited relaxation of the 'lockdown' rules which allows limited gatherings of six people in our gardens, and so in the Masses at Easter I will especially remember all who are still unable to gather together. I wish you and all your families good health and strength of mind. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Let us pray we will soon all be back together.

Easter 2021 we are able to have music and I especially would like to thank our parish musicians and singers who have helped us in our celebration of Mass over these past months.

The presbytery front garden has been looking wonderful over the last few weeks with the daffodils and tulips, all of which were donated by your good selves. Enjoy the colour and beauty of this spring garden.

We continue to keep in our prayers all involved with the vaccine roll out. I am especially grateful that I was called by my GP and given my second vaccination last Wednesday. If you are offered the vaccination, please accept – by doing so you are helping the whole community.

Although we have now increased our capacity in church, please continue to sanitise your hands as you enter and leave, wear face coverings at all times unless you are medically exempt, and please keep social distancing of six feet at all times.

The main thing will always be to

### **STAY SAFE – STAY WELL!**

Thank you to everyone who supported my CAFOD bike ride. If you have sponsored me or would still like to sponsor me, there are baskets at the back of church for your donations. If you are able to gift aid your donation please contact Fran Grubert ([cafod.sjhf@gmail.com](mailto:cafod.sjhf@gmail.com)) so that she can ensure you are 'ticked off' the list of sponsors and we have the necessary details.

### 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.

### COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers **Joseph Lavin** and **Philomena (Phil) McGinity** 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

Prayer leaflets for April are now available at the back of church and at the side exit.

### BITESIZE

In the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit.

– Pope Francis

### PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

The Heavenly Father chose you, St. Joseph, to be the husband of the Holy Mother of God, and to watch over His only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

In times of joy and trial, pray for us so that we too can recognise the loving plan of the Eternal Father, who always works for the good of those who love Him. Teach us, Guardian of the Holy Family, to be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit; and to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in all the circumstances of our lives and above all, in the mystery of the Holy Eucharist.

At the last, pray for us that we may happily join you, the just and faithful servant, to praise God forever in the company of Our Lady and all the saints.

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION APRIL

All over the world, people are working to uphold the rights of others against oppression, prejudice and neglect. Many of those who risk their lives under authoritarian dictatorships, for the sake of fundamental rights, are killed. They know the risks yet are not prepared to keep quiet.

This month we are invited to join Pope Francis' prayer intention, "... for those who risk their lives while fighting to uphold rights under authoritarian regimes and in democracies in crisis."

### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The new envelope boxes for 2021-22 which begin next week are now available for collection in the narthex.

Where parishioners have been unable to use their envelopes during the pandemic, it is suggested that you may prefer to set up a standing order.

Please contact the parish planned giving organisers for standing order forms or help with joining the scheme/gift aid – Anne Stanley on 973 9159 for St. Joseph's and Veronica Saunders on 973 3773 for Holy Family. Alternatively, email the parish office – [info@sjhf.co.uk](mailto:info@sjhf.co.uk)

### 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:

**"May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ the Morning Star, who came back from the dead and shed His peaceful light on all people."**  
Thanks be to God!