



St Joseph's
140

ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY YEAR OF JUBILEE 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

"In Service to God's Kingdom of love, justice and peace."

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 **SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT** – 7th December 2025

Saturday 6 th December	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Simmons (7 th Ann.)	
Sunday 7 th December SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Brian Moore (RIP) John & Rosaline Fernandes (RIP) Brian, Tom, Bridget & Rita (RIP) Joan Doherty (1 st Ann.)	Tea & coffee at SJ after 11.00am Mas
Monday	12.00 pm 7.00 pm	Brigid Killoran (Ann.) Rhea Nadeem (Recovery)	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	Paddy Power (7 th Ann.) Michael Fogarty (RIP)	Ferial <u>Adoration 10.00am HF</u>
Wednesday	9.15 am (Toy Mass)	Children in need at Christmas	Ferial Toy Mass
Thursday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon 1.30 pm	Des Taylor (30 th Ann.) John Flynn (Ann.) Daniel (Danny) Patton (Funeral Service)	Ferial
Friday	9.30 am	Alfred Boston (41 st Ann.)	Ferial
Saturday 13 th December	12.00 noon 6.00 pm (Vigil)	Gertrude McGrory (RIP) Elizabeth O'Connell (RIP)	St Lucy <u>Confessions & Adoration</u> <u>11.00am – 12 noon</u>
Sunday 14 th December THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Noel Murtagh (1 st Ann.) Mary Cave (RIP) Sofia & Maria (10 th Baptism Ann.) People of the Parish	Tea & coffee at SJ after 11.00am Mas
OUR LADY'S LAMP This week the lamp is lit in loving memory of Joan Doherty (1 st Ann.) & Michael Doherty (RIP)		SACRED HEART LAMP This week the lamp is lit in loving memory of Faye Mooney Rest in Peace	
ST CARLO ACUTIS'S LAMP This week the lamp is lit for Michael Muldoon (Recovery)		OFFERINGS WEEKEND 30th November 2025 SJ £2076.43 HF £371.80 Many Thanks	

CHOOSE A NEW DIRECTION

We embark on a diet and the days of lettuce and low calorie drinks loom gloomily. We embark on a fitness regime and our subconscious whispers, "Fifteen more minutes under a warm duvet versus a jog round a freezing park I know what I'd choose!" In today's gospel, John the Baptist preaches "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The idea of 'repentance' fills us with about as much excitement as a cold shower on a winter's morning, but it doesn't have to be like that. Diets, fitness regimes and repentance all have one thing in common we emerge as new people as a result of choosing a new direction. Repentance doesn't mean throwing ourselves round in fits of Catholic guilt, it simply means having a change of heart, and becoming new and better individuals as a result. There are areas in all our lives that can be improved or turned around. The idea of repentance is actually quite exciting. John's Advent call for a change of heart is for each and every one of us. We might think we are good enough as we are, but that's probably how the Pharisees and Sadducees in today's reading also felt. True enough they turned up for John's baptism, but had they really turned up in a spirit of repentance? John is clearly suspicious of their motivation, and challenges them to prove their commitment. Declaring our intention to change is all well and good, but our commitment must also 'bear fruit' ... show results.

At this time of year, every year, we are asked to change our lives. For the less optimistic amongst us, the idea reminds us of new year resolutions; easily made, easily broken and all a little bit pointless. John's message is a tough one. Changing our lives is far from easy. One of the problems of course is that when we try to change we usually rely solely on our own will power, which is notorious for letting us down. John the Baptist reminds us that when we are baptised in the name of Jesus we will receive the Holy Spirit, a divine power that will help us towards God when our will power fails. All we have to do is ask and keep on asking. Change is not beyond any of us however much you think it probably is. John might have given the Pharisees and Sadducees a hard time but in truth the message is clear. "There is none so lost, they cannot be found, none so helpless that their life cannot be changed."

Entrance Antiphon : *O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

Responsorial Psalm : *In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.*

Gospel Acclamation : *Alleluia, alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.*

Communion Antiphon : *Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

Year A

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalm 71

Romans 15: 4-9

Matthew 3: 1-12

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.

FOUR BIBLE STUDIES ON THE ADVENT SUNDAY GOSPELS

Mauro Lannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Advent Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. The Holy Mass will come alive in a new way! The third of four is this Wednesday 10 December and then 17 Dec. 7.00pm – 8.00pm. **Free of Charge / LIVE** on YouTube. Registration: comeandsee.org/advent25. Please see notice in narthex for full details.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' DAY OF RECOLLECTION

next **Saturday 13th December** in St Joseph's Parish Centre. Led by Natalie Orefice, Diocesan Director of Evangelisation & Catechesis, the day will begin at 10.00am, with registration and tea & coffee, and will finish at 2.00pm. Mass at 12 noon. Please bring your own lunch. Please would all Ministers make every effort to come to this important day.

ST JOSEPH'S AND HOLY FAMILY WALKERS

Winter walking: Priory Woods and Sale Water Park
Today (Sunday) Meet at St Joseph's 1.15pm for 1.30pm start **or at the car park by the boathouse at 2.00pm**. 5 miles or 2.5 miles (shorter route suitable for hardy pushchairs). Led by: Fran & Jeff
Back at St. Joseph's 4.00pm and hot drinks on offer afterwards. It could be a bit muddy. Reasonably rugged footwear and appropriate weather gear required

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026

Tuesday 9th June – Tuesday 16th June 2026, staying at the Hotel Padoue which is central to the Domain. Full board. The cost is £949, sharing a room or £1119 for single occupancy. Full liturgical programme, including Holy Mass, every day. Completed forms (available in the sacristy at St Joseph's) to be sent as soon as possible direct to Northern Star with a deposit of £300 per person.

COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers **Ann Kirrane** and **Daniel (Danny) Patton** who have died recently. May they rest in peace.
We extend to their families and friends our deepest sympathy at this sad and difficult time.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome to the Church and Parish Community **Rose Alexandra Conville** who was baptised at St. Joseph's last weekend. We welcome Rose into the Church and commend her parents for passing on to her the Faith of the Apostles.

ST JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS REPOSITORY

We have a number of 2026 catholic diaries and 2026 religious calendars. Also, boxed and individual Christmas cards; snow globes; children's nativity story / colouring books; advent calendars; candles; nativity sets - and much more.

ADVENT 2025

Green 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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

This weekend there will be a retiring collection at all Masses at Holy Family and St Joseph's towards the cost of the Christmas flowers. We have a wonderful team of people who arrange the altar flowers each week and the Christmas flowers will undoubtedly be very special.
Thank you, in anticipation, for your generosity.

HOLY FAMILY CAFOD GROUP

The Holy Family Cafod Group will be serving mulled wine and mince pies after 10.00am Mass next **Sunday 14th December**. Everyone is welcome to join the group at this annual event.

SERVICE OF CAROLS & NINE READINGS

Monday 15th December at 7.00pm. Come and hear once again the beautiful story of Christmas. After the service, join Father Stephen in the parish centre for Christmas drinks and mince pies.

ALTAR SERVERS' CHRISTMAS 'THANK YOU'

Father Stephen would like to invite all the altar servers at St Joseph's & Holy Family to an evening out at the Christmas Pantomime - Cinderella

Thursday 15th January 7.30pm at Robert Bolt Theatre

If you would like to go and have permission of your parents/guardians then please sign the list in the sacristy. Parents/guardians do not need to attend. Meet at the theatre at 7.00pm.

BOILER RENEWAL

Unfortunately on Wednesday 26th November there was a serious flood in the presbytery during the work to replace the boiler. Three to four rooms were affected. Work is continuing to replace the boiler and a number of people have been in the presbytery to assess the damage.

NEW YEAR FISH 'N CHIP SUPPER & FILM NIGHT

Enjoy an evening out with parishioners and friends with good British food and a great film.

Friday 9th January 6.30pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre. £12 with fish and chips, mushy peas, tea, bread & butter.
Booking forms in the sacristy.

CAFOD 41st CHRISTMAS FUN RUN/WALK

Saturday 27th December at "The Mystery" Wavertree Liverpool at 11.00am – If interested see the poster in narthex/Parish Centre – lifts can be provided. All Walkers/Runners welcome. For further info contact Kieron Walsh 07785 344102 - **sponsors will be collected the week before after ALL Masses.**
Help CAFOD help the poorest in communities around the world.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION

for December is for Christians living amidst war or conflict, especially in the Middle East: This prayer is a way of saying to the Christians of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and so many other countries that they are not forgotten, that the universal Church walks with them; but also to remind us all that faith grows even in the midst of trials, and that seeds of reconciliation and peace can be born from wounded communities.
This month we are invited to join in Pope Leo's prayer intention "... *that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.*"

DIOCESAN YEAR BOOKS 2026

are now available in the repository, priced £9