



# ST JOSEPH'S and HOLY FAMILY

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Parish Priest: Father Stephen Woolley  
and Permanent Deacon, Reverend John Hamilton

## Mass Times and Intentions for -SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	6.00 pm	Kathleen Walker (101 <sup>st</sup> B'day)	
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Aisling Murray Mike Rourke (B'day Rem.) Pete Rider (RIP) People of the Parish	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Tea and Coffee at SJ after 11.00am Mass
Monday	12.00 pm	NO MASS	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
Tuesday	9.30 am HF 12.00 noon	<u>Service of Word &amp; Communion</u> John Delaney	Ferial Adoration 10.00am
Wednesday	9.15 am	NO MASS	Ferial
Thursday	9.30 am 12.00 noon	NO MASS John Flynn (B'day)	St Stanislaus
Friday	9.30 am	NO MASS	Ferial
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	12 noon 6.00pm (Vigil)	Paul Collins (Get Well) Henry Keogh (4 <sup>th</sup> Ann.)	Confessions today will be after 12 noon Mass (not at 11.00am)
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00 am 10.00 am HF 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Flora Dowds (80 <sup>th</sup> B'day 12.4) John & Diana (Golden Wedding) Patrick Sherlock (2 <sup>nd</sup> Ann.) Bridget Murphy (RIP)	Manchester Marathon

<b>SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION</b> 11.00am – 11.50am Saturdays or by appointment	<b>SACRED HEART LAMP</b> This week the lamp is lit in loving memory of Raphael Kene RIP	<b>OFFERINGS WEEKEND</b> Thank you for your generosity in last week's Easter collection. This goes to support Fr. Stephen.
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### Doubt and Disbelief

The story of 'Doubting Thomas' is aimed at all those generations of people who will not see the risen Lord, yet are asked to believe. So, are we really being asked to believe in what we cannot see or hear or touch, when even those closest to Jesus had problems in accepting what was happening?

In today's gospel we see Thomas struggling with a problem that many of us still struggle with today. Thomas desperately wanted to believe in the risen Jesus, but he wasn't the sort of person to pretend he understood something when he didn't. He wasn't the sort of person that could pretend that he didn't have doubts when he did. There are many of us today who desperately want deeper meaning in our lives. There are those amongst us who have become disillusioned with the Church and wish they could embrace what it once meant. There are many of us who would like to find a deeper faith but have found only stumbling blocks.

Like Thomas, we find that the gap between faith and doubt too big a leap.

For those who find belief elusive, there is an uncomfortable beatitude in today's gospel. "Blessed are those who have not seen and have belie

ved." This can feel like a reproach to those of us who harbour doubts, but the important thing to remember is that doubt isn't the same thing as disbelief. Doubt can be a good thing even. Doubt means that we are still questioning something that we care about. Doubt means that we are still looking for answers . . . . . that we are still learning and growing. Doubt is a tool that we can use to carve a mature faith. Belief isn't something we either have or haven't got . . . belief is a process, and the end product of that process, is one's own spiritual self.

Entrance Antiphon :	<i>Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.</i>			
Responsorial Psalm :	<i>Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.</i>			
Gospel Acclamation :	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!</i>			
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.</i>			
Year B	Acts 4: 32-35	Psalm 117	First letter of St John 5: 1-6	John: 20: 19-31

## MONDAYS TOGETHER

The next Mondays Together is tomorrow Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2.00pm – 4.00pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre.

Come and enjoy a Sing-along to 40's, 50's and 60's music.

Refreshments will be available afterwards.

All welcome!

## 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:

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

## 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.

## CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome **Nick Ordsmith** to the Church and parish. Nick was baptised and confirmed at the Easter Vigil.

## COMMENDED TO GOD

We hold in loving memory and prayers **Anne Wardle** and **Mary Ryan** 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.

*Death is not extinguishing the light.*

*It is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.*

## BITESIZE

Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it by the handle of anxiety, or by the handle of faith.

*Author Unknown*

## MISSIO APPEAL

This weekend we welcome Fr. Emmanuel Mbeh to St Joseph's to give a Red Box Appeal at all Masses. Thank you to parishioners who already give to Missio, the Pope's charity for World Mission. Your generous donations, either through the Red Box or Direct Debit support the Church around the World where it is young or in need. There will not be a second collection as the appeal is for membership to the Red Box scheme.

Please keep the work of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries in your prayers. To find out more visit [www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk).

Please make Father Emmanuel very welcome and do consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing up to give via Direct Debit. Thank you.

For those parishioners who already have Red Boxes, these are due to be emptied over the next couple of weeks. Last quarter we raised a total of £623.36. If you have any queries or need more information, please contact Mick Ryan on 0161 905 3468.

## DAY OF DIVINE MERCY

This special celebration will be held today Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at St Hugh and St John Church, Timperley, WA14 5HL. The church will be open from 1.30pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 2.00pm and Confessions from 2.00pm. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be read at 3.00pm and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated at 3.30pm.

## ANNUAL DIOCESAN MASS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

This year the Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Mark at noon on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June at St. Columba's church,

Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA

All married couples and families are welcome but, if you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year (25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>), please email / let Father Stephen know as soon as possible and he will arrange for you to receive a special letter of invitation. He will need names, date and address.

## MANCHESTER MARATHON

is next Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April and, once again, access to St. Joseph's and Holy Family will be affected by road closures.

To see route maps and how this will affect you visit <https://www.manchestermarathon.co.uk/route/road-closure-info/>

## THE ANNUNCIATION – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April Saying Yes to Jesus

At the Annunciation, Mary's consent was one of the most important moments in the history of salvation and in the unfolding of the Eucharistic mystery. We call that moment her 'fiat', the first word in a Latin phrase that means "Be it done unto me according to your word." When we say yes to God, we allow his grace to be fruitful. When we say no, we are missing big opportunities to be part God's picture.