

Money Matters: Collection baskets will be available during private prayer if you wish to leave a donation for St Chad's, the Clergy Education and Training Fund or the Caritas Christmas appeal.

National Day of Prayer for the ending of the global pandemic will take place on Saturday 21st November, the eve of the Solemnity of Christ the King. There is a diocesan prayer resource available on our website that you may wish to use.

Mass by Phone: If you are unable to access Mass through the internet, you are able to listen to Sunday Mass from St Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough by phone on 01642 130120. The Mass is recorded on Sunday and is repeated throughout the week.

The Eucharistic Congress, scheduled to take place in Bucharest in 2020, has been deferred to September, 2021. As part of the preparation for this event, the International Organising Committee is inviting all Catholics to mark the Feast of Christ the King by joining in a time of adoration and prayer on Saturday, November 21st 2020. All the information needed to do so can be accessed via this link: <https://www.iec2020.hu/en/news-press/7th-worldwide-adoration-and-prayer-21st-november>

Gatley Food Bank – are requesting donations so they can make Christmas bags for children, eg arts and crafts, selection boxes, advent calendars, small gifts. Along with mince pies and chocolate treats for the adults. Donations can be taken to Bethany Community Church, Church Road Gatley Monday and Wednesdays 2pm-3pm and Saturdays 9.30am-12noon.

Stockport Food Bank: Reverse Advent calendar appeal. We welcome donations of a variety of long-life food items. Please no Christmas puddings or Christmas fayre containing alcohol. At present we have an excess of pasta, baked beans, soup and pasta sauce so we don't need any donations of these items. Drop your bag or parcel at our Hazel Grove foodbank warehouse during December or at St Martin's Heaton Norris on 19 December. Please see poster on our church website for more details www.stchadsheadle.com

Parish Safeguarding Reps: Noel Russell and Bernadette McCrory. If you have any concerns about safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults, please speak to them or contact them via the presbytery, in the strictest confidence.

Address: Stockport Road, Cheadle, SK8 2AF

Tel: / Email: 0161 428 2480 / theadlestchad@outlook.com

The Catholic Parish of St Chad, Cheadle

Priest: Fr. Sean Davidson

Sunday 15th November 2020 – 33rd Sunday Year A

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

All throughout this month of November we are encouraged to intercede for the faithful departed. The teaching of the Church is that only those holy souls who are truly ready may enter into the beatific vision of God's essence at the moment of death. For others, the "particular judgment" of their lives will reveal that some further purification is necessary. One of the clearest explanations of the mystery of purgatory is found in the document entitled *Spe Salvi* (Saved in Hope) by Pope Benedict XVI. He bases his teaching upon a text from St Paul which speaks of how ministers of Christ will be judged "as through fire." The pope broadens this teaching and shows how it applies to all the faithful. For those who have done the Will of God, and who were purified on earth, the fruit of their labours will be proven like gold and obtain for them an immediate eternal reward. For others it will be as though they had built with mere straw or wood which will be unable to stand against the searching flame of pure Truth. St Paul explains: "If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire." (1 Cor 3:15) Pope Benedict comments upon what happens to those who leave this world in a state of grace but not yet fully prepared for heaven:

Before (Christ's) gaze all falsehood melts away. This encounter with him, as it burns us, transforms and frees us, allowing us to become truly ourselves. All that we build during our lives can prove to be mere straw, pure bluster, and it collapses. Yet in the pain of this encounter, when the impurity and sickness of our lives become evident to us, there lies salvation. His gaze, the touch of his heart heals us through an undeniably painful transformation "as through fire". But it is a blessed pain, in which the holy power of his love sears through us like a flame, enabling us to become totally ourselves and thus totally of God. (...) It is clear that we cannot calculate the "duration" of this transforming burning in terms of the chronological measurements of this world. The transforming "moment" of this encounter eludes earthly time-reckoning — it is the heart's time, it is the time of "passage" to communion with God in the Body of Christ. (Spe Salvi, No. 47)

Following the teaching of St Catherine of Genoa the pope does not present purgatory so much as a place but rather as a state. The fire is an interior spiritual fire, coupled with a burning thirst for that union with God – the fulfilment of all desire - from which we have excluded ourselves. He also responds to the question about whether or not our prayers and the Masses that we offer can really come to the aid of our departed loved ones and hasten their entry into heaven:

When we ask such a question, we should recall that no man is an island, entire of itself. Our lives are involved with one another, through innumerable interactions they are linked together. No one lives alone. No one sins alone. No one is saved alone. The lives of others continually spill over into mine: in what I think, say, do and achieve. And conversely, my life spills over into that of others: for better and for worse. So my prayer for another is not something extraneous to that person, something external, not even after death. In the interconnectedness of Being, my gratitude to the other—my prayer for him—can play a small part in his purification. (Spe Salvi No. 48)

Although what happens in the afterlife is mysterious and difficult to explain according to our own limited concepts, we would be wise to listen to the wisdom of the Scriptures and the perennial teaching of the Church and her saints. Let us continue to do all that we can to show our love for the souls of our friends and family members, many of whom may still be in need of our prayers...

May God bless you all!
Fr Sean

An Act of Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus, although I cannot receive Holy Communion right now, I wish to unite myself to you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, and with the spirit and fervour of the saints. Amen

Please pray for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember George McManus, William Clarke, Mary McDonald, Mary Kilgarriff, John Burns, Baby Harry Sinclair, Matilda Watt, Margaret Campbell, Thomas Flannery, Monica Robb, Harry Court, Mary Whealing, William Hampson, Edward Hitchen, Mary Waterhouse, Eileen Jeffries, Josiah Lynch, Philomena Smith, Catherine Clarke, Harold Snelgrove, James Walsh, Juliana Parry, Pat Hutchinson and all those who anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 14 th	Vigil	7pm Livestream	Janie Foster
Sun 15 th	33 rd Sunday Ordinary Time	9am Livestream	People of the Parish
Mon 16 th		No streamed Mass	Sheilagh Tynan
Tues 17 th		7.30pm Livestream	Ann Waring RIP
Wed 18 th	The Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter and Paul	No streamed Mass	
Thurs 19 th		9.30am Livestream	Luis B. Torres RIP
Fri 20 th		No streamed Mass	Vivienne Lewis
Sat 21 st	Vigil	7pm Livestream	People of the Parish
Sun 22 nd	Our Lord Jesus, Christ the King	9am Livestream	Larry Tierney & Neri Children

Livestream: Watch at: www.churchservices.tv/cheadle or there is a link on our website.

Private Prayer:

At St Chad's:

- 6.30pm – 8pm on Thursdays

At St Ann's:

- 9.45am – 10.45am Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays
- 4.45pm – 5.45pm on Saturdays
- 10.45am-11.45am on Sundays

Confessions: Available on on request. Please telephone the presbytery a minimum of 24 hours in advance to arrange.