

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Christmas Masses at St Chad's this year will be as follows: Thursday 24th December: 8pm (Midnight Mass)
Friday 25th December: 9am (Morning Mass)
Saturday 26th December: 7pm (Feast of the Holy Family- Vigil Mass)
Sunday 27th December: 9am (Feast of the Holy Family)

As with all our Masses, places will need to be booked in advance on a first come first served basis. The Bishops have reminded us that with the lifting of the Holy Day of obligation at this time, attending Mass at any time during the Christmas Octave (which runs until January 1st) might be an option to consider, since each day is another 'little Christmas'. You will be able to book in person for one of the above 4 services when you are here for Mass starting from Thursday 3rd December. Just let the stewards know when you sign in which Christmas Mass you would like to attend and how many will be in your household/bubble. Bookings by email will then be possible from Wednesday 9th December. (The idea is to ensure that those who come to Mass regularly have sufficient opportunity to book their place.)

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. For details of when/where to drop your donations, please see poster on our church website for more details www.stchadsheadle.com

Prayer for healing for all who suffered abuse: The Bishop will lead an Hour of Prayer to be livestreamed from the Cathedral on the evening of the First Sunday of Advent, 29th November from 4.30pm to 5.30pm to pray for the healing of all who have suffered abuse in the Church and society. If you wish to join the bishop in this prayer you can follow the link from the Diocesan website or from Church Services.

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 / **NEW EMAIL:** stchadsheadle@gmail.com

Office Hours: Thursday 11am-1pm

The Catholic Parish of St Chad, Cheadle
Priest: Fr. Sean Davidson

Sunday 29th November 2020 – 1st Sunday Advent Year B

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Advent is a Marian season during which we await with Mary the birth of Her Son. She was the royal gateway through which the Heavenly King entered our world. All throughout Advent the Church will honour Mary, Gate of Heaven, in a special way. I thought I would share with you a few words on Our Lady as a model of prayer for us from a recent general audience of Pope Francis:

Mary was praying when the Archangel Gabriel came to bring his message to her in Nazareth. Her small yet immense "Here I am", which made all of creation jump for joy in that moment, had been preceded throughout salvation history by many other "Here I am"s, by many trusting obediences, by many who were open to God's will. There is no better way to pray than to place oneself like Mary in an attitude of openness, with a heart open to God: "Lord, what you want, when you want, and how you want". That is, a heart open to God's will... "Promise me only that you will be present every step of my way."

Mary's prayer was silent. In the Virgin Mary, natural feminine intuition is exalted by her most singular union with God in prayer. This is why, reading the Gospel, we note that she seems to disappear at times, only to reappear in crucial moments: Mary was open to God's voice that guided her heart, that guided her steps where her presence was needed. "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk2:19). This is how the evangelist Luke depicts the Mother of the Lord in the infancy Gospel. Everything that happened around her ended up being reflected on in the depths of her heart. Everything ended up in her heart so that it might pass through the sieve of prayer and be transfigured by it. Someone has compared Mary's heart to a pearl of incomparable splendour, formed

and smoothed by patient acceptance of God's will through the mysteries of Jesus meditated in prayer. How beautiful it would be if we too could be a bit like our Mother! With a heart open to God's Word, with a silent heart, with an obedient heart, with a heart that knows how to receive God's Word...

May God bless you all.
Fr Sean

New Parish Email: Please note that we have a new parish email address: stchadsheadle@gmail.com and this will be used from now on – please can you add this to your contact lists so you receive emails as we know a few have gone into the spam folder . The emails will be checked on a daily basis. The old email account will remain active for a few months and will be checked regularly, so don't worry if you send something there.

Please pray for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember Francis Fife, Thomas Simpson Arthur Droege, Mary Davenport, James Dolan, Thomas Duffy, Catherine Spencer, Joan Skerrett, William Hampson, William Millin, Amy Scanlon, Ellen Turner, Molly Leslie, Marion Smith, Josephine Booth, Teresa Killoran, George Jones, Margaret McGrevy, Ethel Buchanan, Betty Wilson, Joseph Moore, Francis Tarbuck, Wyn Frith, James Coyle, Alice Doane, Edmund Salter, Norman Roles, Frank Magrath and all those who anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

Mass bookings: Please remember to book your places for the weekend Masses at St Chad's by emailing stchadsheadle@gmail.com Monday-Friday of the week you wish to attend. You do not need to book for the weekday Masses or for any Masses at St Ann's. You will not receive a reply unless there is a problem with your booking.

SVP: We are having the following two collections at the moment please:
1) 2nd hand clothes, books and dvds (with a guidance of age 15 or under) for the men of HM Prison Manchester and for the Young Offenders at Forest Bank Prison.
2) Donations of Lego / Duplo for the local charity Pure Innovations to do projects with people with learning disabilities.
Please place any contributions in a (labelled) bag, place it in the box as you come into church.

Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 28 th	Vigil		7pm Livestream	Marie
Sun 29 th	1 st Sunday Advent Year B		9am Livestream	People of the Parish
Mon 30 th			No streamed Mass	Peter Lucas
Tues 1 st			7.30pm Livestream	Sandra Thorne
Wed 2 nd		No Mass		
Thurs 3 rd		St Chad's	9.30am	Cora Tierney
Fri 4 th		St Ann's	10am	John Banks
Sat 5 th	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	Joseph Ruine
		St Chad's	7pm	People of the Parish
Sun 6 th	2 nd Sunday Advent Year B	St Chad's	9am	Aina & PJ Wims
		St Ann's	11am	For Dominic Miskelly

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

Advent Prayer Service: Every Thursday during Advent at 7.15pm. The Church will be open beforehand from 6.30pm for private prayer.

Mass Intentions: Envelopes are available at the back of the church. Mass will be celebrated privately on days where there are no public Masses, for your intentions. Please post the envelope through the presbytery door once completed. Please note that we are now into February with Mass intentions.

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