

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** Please note that the Christmas Eve Mass is now fully booked. There are still spaces for the following Masses:

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December: 9am (Morning Mass)

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December: 7pm (Feast of the Holy Family- Vigil Mass)

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 – bookings are now open and you can book in person or by email.

**If you have booked a place and can no longer attend, please let us know as soon as possible (even on the day of the Mass you were due to attend). Thank you.**

**Money Matters:** During November Lock-down we received £463.09 in collection, and £1862.70 through Standing Orders. Thank you very much for your generosity.

**Foundation Governor Vacancies:** Our Catholic schools are a vital part of our parish communities, and by law diocesan schools have governing bodies made up of various categories of governor - the majority of which are Foundation Governors. Foundation Governors are practising Catholics who are appointed by the Bishop to help support him in ensuring the ‘Catholicity’ of a school amid all the other objectives that are required by Law. If you feel able to offer your services please contact Sue Blackwell, Governance Support Officer for the Diocese, via [sue.blackwell@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:sue.blackwell@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) or telephone 0151 652 9855.

**Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality** next meeting will be held on Sunday 13th December 2020 at 2pm via Zoom. Meeting ID: 931 4203 0517 <https://zoom.us/j/93142030517?> You can also call in if you don't have access to zoom, on +44 203 901 7895. Please send any requests for the password, apologies or items for the agenda to [secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk](mailto:secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk) or text/call 07441 456534. Please pass on the details to any hospitality members who may be interested in attending.

**Thank you Message:** Vera Campbell would like to say a big thank you to all at St Chad's for their prayers for her and John. John has now gone into a nursing home.

**Volunteers Needed:** Caritas urgently require ESOL volunteers for our Tuesdays' session to teach refugees and asylum seekers. Please email [mona.moussa@caritasshrewsbury](mailto:mona.moussa@caritasshrewsbury) or phone 07387019610 if you can help.

**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](mailto:stchadsheadle@gmail.com)

**Office Hours:** Thursday 11am-1pm

**The Catholic Parish of St Chad, Cheadle**

**Priest: Fr. Sean Davidson**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent Year B**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On Tuesday last, Pope Francis surprised us with the proclamation of a “Year of St Joseph” which runs from December 8th 2020 to December 8th 2021. (Here in the Shrewsbury diocese we had already beaten him to it by a couple of months...) A year during which we invoke in a special way the Patron and Protector of the Universal Church is a beautiful way for us to move forward through this time of pandemic. The intercession of St Joseph will help us to renew Christ’s Church. The pope also presents Joseph as an example of healthy and authentic masculinity, and a model father figure to whom we can look for guidance. In his courage, his attentiveness to his family, as well as in his gentle strength and discreet life of prayer and hard work he is a model for us all. Here are some excerpts from the papal proclamation, as well as a beautiful prayer with which it concludes:

*After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. Thanks to his role in salvation history, Saint Joseph has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people. Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. He employed his legal authority over the Holy Family to devote himself completely to them in his life and work. Today, in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident, Joseph appears as the figure of a respectful and sensitive man.*

*God acts through events and people. Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true “miracle” by which God saves the child and his mother. God acted by trusting in Joseph’s creative courage. Arriving in Bethlehem and finding no lodging where Mary could give birth, Joseph took a stable and, as best he could, turned it into a*

welcoming home for the Son of God come into the world (cf. Lk 2:6-7). Faced with imminent danger from Herod, who wanted to kill the child, Joseph was warned once again in a dream to protect the child, and rose in the middle of the night to prepare the flight into Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-14). Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. I consider Saint Joseph the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.

Joseph is traditionally called a “most chaste” father. That title is not simply a sign of affection, but the summation of an attitude that is the opposite of possessiveness. Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one’s life. Only when love is chaste, is it truly love. A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous: it imprisons, constricts and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love; he left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him. The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

May God bless you all!  
Fr Sean

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**SVP:** 1. This weekend (Dec. 12th/13th) there will be a collection for the SVP. If you wish to make an offering, please use one of the SVP envelopes and put it into the normal collection boxes. If you do not pay sufficient UK income tax, please do not fill in the gift-aid slip. 2. For information about joining the SVP group in St. Chad's parish please ring Henry McDaid on 07966 784138.

### Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	Vigil	St Ann’s	5pm	Paddy Bergin
		<b>St Chad’s</b>	7pm	Florence McCarron
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent Year B	<b>St Chad’s</b>	9am	People of the Parish
		St Ann’s	11am	John Rodgers
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	St John of the Cross	St Ann’s	10am	Andrew & Connor Glazier
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>		St Ann’s	10am	Special Intention (KG)
		<b>St Chad’s</b>	7.30pm	Pat McCarron RIP
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>		No Mass		
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>		<b>St Chad’s</b>	9.30am	Deceased Members of the Fanning, Reddy, Stapleton and Noonan families. RIP
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>		St Ann’s	10am	John Whelan
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup>	Vigil	St Ann’s	5pm	For the Parishioners
		<b>St Chad’s</b>	7pm	Jim Tynan RIP
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Advent Year B	<b>St Chad’s</b>	9am	Joseph Leonard RIP
		St Ann’s	11am	James Foley

**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. Please post the envelope through the presbytery door once completed. Please note that we are now into February with Mass intentions.

**Please pray** for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember Barbara Andrew, John Forrest, Philip Skelly, Ada Scott, Maurice Moores, Maureen Wilkinson, Mick Kelly, John Dolan, John Redmond, James O’Gara, Elizabeth McVeigh, Beatrice Griffin, Winifred Gerighty, Catherine Smith, Catherine Brookes, Terry Broadhurst, Frances Kingsley, Constance Allen, Fr. Danny, Rose Bennet, Emily Dunne and all those who anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

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

