

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Please note that the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses are now fully booked. **Please do not attend either of these Masses unless you have booked a space.** We will have a seating plan for these Masses, and the Stewards will take you to your seats. Church will be open 30 minutes before the start of Mass.

There are still spaces for the following Masses: Saturday 26th December: 7pm and Sunday 27th December: 9am (Feast of the Holy Family) and these are open to anyone who wishes to attend. 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 by email or by phone. **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.**

Feast of the Epiphany Wednesday 6th January: Mass will be at 7.30pm. Places need to be booked in advance by email. Booking opens from Monday 21st December on a first come first served basis. There will also be Mass at St Ann's at 10am (no booking required at St Ann's).

St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Are collecting 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. Please place any contributions in a (labelled) bag, place it in under the table as you come into church. Thank you.

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 or telephone 0151 652 9855.

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 20th December 2020 – 4th Sunday Advent Year B

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Over the past few days, some people have commented upon the beautiful pastoral letter from Bishop Mark that we read at Mass last Sunday. After a very difficult year, both the bishop and now Pope Francis have urged us to turn to St Joseph and spend one full year invoking his assistance. Over the past fifteen or so years I personally have received a few extraordinary favours through the intercession of St Joseph to whom I now pray daily. In seminary, I once entrusted a painful situation to his care by praying a novena called "The Holy Cloak of St Joseph" for thirty days. The manner in which the situation was ultimately resolved was quite astonishing and the way in which it all happened left me with no doubt that it was the result of St Joseph's intervention. On another occasion, while living in the US, I sacrificed a potential skiing trip in order to drive up to the magnificent Oratory of St Joseph which towers above the city of Montreal to entrust an equally difficult and complicated situation to his intercession. I was accompanied by a priest friend and to our utter amazement on the very day that we left the shrine, the wheels were set in motion and a seemingly impossible, drawn-out situation began to move towards a resolution. (It still took time for this all to get fully worked out, but a resolution had unmistakably begun.) I will never forget our stunned joy and subsequent laughter as we heard the news while drinking coffee in a service station just outside Quebec City. About a two-hour drive from the shrine! Although things don't often happen in such dramatic fashion immediately after we pray, there are occasions when Heaven chooses to show that it is indeed listening to our every word, perhaps so as to encourage us to persevere in our daily fidelity to prayer.

Let me share with you a few words from St Teresa of Avila - one of the greatest doctors of the spiritual life in the history of the Catholic Church - in which she also speaks with wonder about all that she received through the powerful intercession of St Joseph:

"I do not remember even now that I have ever asked anything of him which he has failed to grant. I am astonished at the great favours which God has bestowed on me through this blessed saint, and at the perils from which He has freed me, both in body and in soul. To other saints the Lord seems to have given grace to succour us in some of our necessities but of this glorious saint my experience is that he succours us in them all and that the Lord wishes to teach us that as He was Himself subject to him on earth (for, being His guardian and being called His father, he could command Him) just so in Heaven He still does all that he asks. I only beg, for the love of God, that anyone who does not believe me will put what I say to the test, and he will see by experience what great advantages come from his commending himself to this glorious patriarch and having devotion to him. If anyone cannot find a master to teach him how to pray, let him take this glorious saint as his master and he will not go astray."

I write these things not only because I have such a love for this great saint but also to encourage you to trust this initiative of the Church and try your best to draw near to the fatherly heart of St Joseph during this year of grace. He will certainly be most willing to help us in our needs and also to teach us how to love Jesus faithfully. As the bishop mentioned in his pastoral letter, we have the privilege of living close to Jesus in the Eucharist, the same Jesus who lived under Joseph's care in Nazareth. Who better than St Joseph to teach us how to love and serve our gentle and humble Saviour.

May God bless and protect you all.
Fr Sean

Please pray for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember Thomas Bell, Kenneth Taylor, Ernest Lavelle, Susan McGuinness, Anne Walsh, Frederick Hopkinson, Geraldine Stevenson, John Stevenson, Hannah Stevenson, Rachael Stevenson, Patrick Brennan, Joseph Booth, William McCarthy, Ted Seddon, Peter Schofield, Gertrude Walker, Bernard Haynes, John O'Shea, Joan Gannon, Marcella Johnson, Elizabeth Wood, Patrick Williams, William Lacking, Monica Furnace and all those who anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

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

Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 19 th	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	For the Parishioners
		St Chad's	7pm	Jim Tynan RIP
Sun 20 th	4 th Sunday Advent Year B	St Chad's	9am	Joseph Leonard RIP
		St Ann's	11am	James Foley
Mon 21 st	St Peter Canisius	St Ann's	10am	Michael Lohan
Tues 22 nd		St Ann's	10am	Pat Freebody
		St Chad's	7.30pm	Desmond Flanagan RIP
Wed 23 rd	St John of Kanty	No Mass		
Thurs 24 th	Weekday of Advent	St Chad's	9.30am	Teresa Guerin RIP
	The Nativity of the Lord	St Ann's	5.30pm	James Corrigan
		St Chad's	8pm	Maureen Mitchell
		St Ann's	Midnight	Special Intention (AMB)
Fri 25 th	The Nativity of the Lord	St Chad's	9am	Enrique Jimenez RIP & Manuel Montiel RIP
		St Ann's	11am	Marie Pannell
Sat 26 th	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	Mr Parr
		St Chad's	7pm	Hugh Gilronan RIP
Sun 27 th	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	St Chad's	9am	Living & Deceased members of the Garvin Family
		St Ann's	11am	For the Parishioners

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 March with Mass intentions.