

Retired Priests' Fund – Special Collection: It is still possible to make your donation to the Retired Priests' Fund over the next couple of weeks. There is a basket at the back of church or if you prefer you can make your donation online at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund. An electronic version of a leaflet about the fund is available on our website under 'News and Information'.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Stockport : Governors are advertising for a new Headteacher. The closing date for applications is 25th January 2021. For further information please visit one of the following websites – School: www.st-josephs-pri.stockport.sch.uk, Diocese: www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/education/vacancies/primary, Local Authority: www.stockport.gov.uk/job-vacancies.

Bookings: Please ensure that you book your space to attend Mass at the weekend. Bookings are taken Monday-Friday of the week that you wish to attend. Please note you will not receive a reply unless there is a problem with your booking.

Attendance at Mass: We ask that you do not arrive more than 15mins earlier to weekend masses. For weekday masses the church will be open half an hour before the start of mass to allow for private prayer.

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 / **EMAIL:** stchadsheadle@gmail.com
Office Hours: Thursday 11am-1pm



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

Sunday 24th January 2021 - 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This Sunday is dedicated in a special way to the Word of God. It is also the penultimate day of the week dedicated to prayer for Christian Unity. At the end of the Masses over the past few days we have been praying for our non-Catholic brothers and sisters in Christ, for unity in charity among us all. It is good that both dedications coincide today. Unity among Christians is deepened when we all fan the flame of our love for the Word of God. Conversation about Scripture and our love for the Person of Jesus Christ provide a way of entering into fraternal dialogue with other Christians. My own father only became Catholic three months before his death in 2018; for most of my lifetime he was a Pentecostal Christian. I am so grateful for all the blessings he received through that community, and above all for his unshakeable faith in Jesus and his love for the Word of God. Thanks to that, we were able to have fruitful spiritual conversations, as well as times of prayer and praise together.

Interestingly, I have just heard that internet searches and hits for lines of Scripture underwent a massive increase in 2020. The pandemic caused a fear for the health of the mortal body to the benefit of the health of the immortal soul. The latter is even more important than the former. The God of Love always knows how to extract eternal good from temporal evil! The most widely read and forwarded line of Scripture in 2020 was not John 3:16 - as in previous years - but rather Isaiah 41:10: "*Do not be afraid, for I am with you; do not be alarmed, for I am your God. I give you strength, truly I help you, truly I hold you firm with my saving right hand.*"

Let us renew our love for Scripture today and recommit ourselves to spending time with the Bible every day. I love reading other books as much as anybody, but the Bible should always rank ahead of all other reading material. How sad it would be if Jesus were to someday reproach us for having had so little interest in those words inspired by the Holy Spirit, and for devoting almost all of our reading time to words inspired by mere human minds instead, however great those minds may have been. Scripture reveals to us the very secrets of God. Just as appetite is the sign of a healthy body, hunger for the Lord and his Word is the sign of a healthy soul. May we all come to know the truth of those words with which the Saviour repelled the temptation in the desert: *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”* (Matt 4:4)

May God bless you all.
Fr Sean

Stewards: A big thank you to all of our stewards, who give so much time to St Chad’s and without whom, we would not be able to open our Church.

Some of our stewards have had to step back from the role and whilst we have been able to make alternative arrangements for the short-term, we need some more volunteers to help us remain open.

If you are under 70 and not in a vulnerable group, then please consider helping out. We have been operating on a rota system to ensure that the commitment is not too onerous, so even if you are only able to help out once or twice a month we would be grateful. We need two stewards per Mass and it involves being at church at least 15 minutes before the start of Mass and staying for about 30 minutes afterwards to clean.

Please get in touch via the parish email and let us know which Mass/Masses you would be able to steward at. Thank you.

Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 23rd	Vigil	St Ann’s	5pm	Michael Crowley RIP
		St Chad’s	7pm	Sian Bowcott
Sun 24 th	3 rd Sun of Ordinary Time Year B	St Chad’s	9am	The People of the Parish
		St Ann’s	11am	John Rodgers RIP
Mon 25 th	The Conversion of St Paul	St Ann’s	10am	Judith Gill RIP
Tues 26 th	Ss Timothy & Titus	St Ann’s	10am	Pat Lynch RIP
		St Chad’s	7.30pm	Bernard Brooks RIP
Wed 27 th	St Angela Merici	No Mass		
Thurs 28 th	St Thomas Aquinas	St Chad’s	9.30am	Damien Byrne RIP
Fri 29 th		St Ann’s	10am	Rose
Sat 30 th	Vigil	St Ann’s	5pm	The Price Family
		St Chad’s	7pm	Carmel & Bernard Howell
Sun 31 st	4 th Sun of Ordinary Time Year B	St Chad’s	9am	John Garvin RIP
		St Ann’s	11am	Timothy Duffy RIP

Mass Intentions: Envelopes are available at the back of the church. Please post the envelope through the presbytery door once completed. If you would like a specific date, please write that on the envelope. Please note that we are now into April with Mass intentions.

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

Please pray for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember John Kenny, Ella Horne, Margaret West, James Whelan, Elizabeth Lamb, Mary Rigby, Kathy Maiden, James Cox, Michael Potts, Elizabeth Chester, George Montanini, Olive Powell, Albert Turner, Pat Arber, Elizabeth Jennings, Margaret Watts, Cecilia Baccas, John Garvin and all those who anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.