

**Attention all Gift Aid Donors:** The tax year 2020/21 will end on 5<sup>th</sup> April and the Parish will then undertake the process of claiming back the Gift Aid refunds on donations made in the tax year. If your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay income tax (or if for any other reason you do not wish to remain in the Gift Aid Scheme) please contact Mary McPeake on 0161 432 3284 or by e-mail: [m.mcpeake@btinternet.com](mailto:m.mcpeake@btinternet.com) by 5<sup>th</sup> April, otherwise it will be assumed you have paid sufficient income tax for the Parish to reclaim Gift Aid on donations made in the tax year.

As an *indication* for each £1 per week that you donate through Gift Aid, you must have paid £13 per year in income tax; for each £5 per month that you donate through Gift Aid you must have paid £15 in income tax. Additionally, if you are in the Gift Aid scheme and have moved house in the last year, please will you contact Mary McPeake.

**World Day of Prayer:** takes place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. It is not possible to gather together for this, this year, but there are some prayer resources at the back of Church and further information will be available at [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk).

**Wellspring Food Collection:** There is a box at the back of church for you to leave any food donations for Wellspring. In particular, they have requested Pot Noodles or similar items. Thank you.

*Please pray for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember Elizabeth Ward, Catherine Yielding, Matthew Humphries, Raymond Strong, Yvette Telford, James Hall, Mary Tiernan Brennan, Kathleen Maxwell, Ellen Reid, Violet McDonough, Gladys Harrison, Margaret Lea, Andrew McBride, Cornelius Curry, Bill Kennedy, Bernard Coulson, David Thompson, Peter Wragg, Betty Piggott, George Bingham, Catherine Lynch, Anne Turner, Francis Dunne, Joseph Fabich, Kathleen Hayes and all those who anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.*

**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

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



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

**Priest: Fr. Sean Davidson**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Happy feast-day of St. Valentine! So how did the feast of a celibate martyred priest become the day on which we celebrate all things romantic? Valentine's Day is brought to you by the same people who turned a holy man called Bishop Nicholas into a jolly bearded rider of flying sleighs who somehow manages to squeeze his plump frame down the narrowest of chimneys, laughing all the way. (Not sure how he finally became so jolly; they say that at the Council of Nicaea he became so angry with the heretic Arius for corrupting true faith in Christ that it came to blows.) In any case, the Catholic imagination running wild has given the world some of its most joyful traditions. Back to St. Valentine. So, who was he? Tradition says that he was a priest in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, living in a time of persecution under Claudius the Cruel. The Roman Emperor had put a ban on all weddings, under pain of death, because marriage was making soldiers too attached to their homes and less eager to go and conquer the world. No Catholic marriages = no Catholic babies = no Catholic future. So, Father Valentine ignored the ungodly ban and travelled around the city celebrating covert marriages, whispering the words of the wedding ceremony, just as Christians in this land would one day have to whisper the words of the Mass under a different form of persecution.

One young man at whose wedding he had officiated was arrested, but the saintly Valentine somehow convinced the soldiers to take him instead and let the young man go free. While he was in jail awaiting execution, it is said that young Roman couples would throw roses through the bars of his prison window, no doubt to seek out his prayers. He died a martyr of the sacrament of marriage - proving by his sacrifice how absolutely

indispensable it is for us - and it is easy to see how his intercession would soon be invoked by those longing to be married. There was a pagan Roman feast of fertility (a pretty obscene one too) held around the *ides* of February. With the advent of Christendom, this gave way to the holy feast of St. Valentine who had died on February 14th. It eventually evolved into what it is today, but for Catholics it has always been a celebration linked to a saint. So, if you are looking for a spouse or seeking blessings for your marriage, then you might wish to do a novena to St. Valentine. Someday, you might even go on pilgrimage to the church where his relics are kept in Rome. (Or, if that is too far, you can visit Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin where one of his bones is also reserved.)

On a related subject, for those who have undergone the sorrow of separation from a spouse or the painful heartbreak of unrequited love, there is a saint closer to home who might be able to help. St. Dwynwen was a fifth century Welsh saint who as a young lady had been “head over heels” in love with a young man called Maelon. I have come across multiple different stories of what happened in her life and they generally seem to suggest that she was a model of purity while Maelon, sadly, was not. As is often regrettably the case with the saints of old, the legends that have sprung up around her story only serve to obscure the kernel of truth that was at their origin. Whatever it was that actually happened, it seems safe enough to say that the marriage never took place and their relationship came to a painful end. She eventually became known as a patron saint for those suffering from all forms of heartbreak. Pray a little novena through her intercession if your heart has been pierced by that kind of wound and is still in need of healing. Once Covid restrictions are someday lifted, you might even be able to make a pilgrimage to what remains of St. Dwynwen’s shrine in Ynys Llanddwyn. (With a tongue twisting string of consonants like that, I hope you don’t have to ask for directions on the way!)

May God bless you all.  
Fr Sean

### Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Vigil	St Ann’s	5pm	Lilly & Frank Murphy RIP
		St Chad’s	7pm	Kathleen Maxwell RIP
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Ordinary Time Year B	St Chad’s	9am	Anne Ainsley RIP
		St Ann’s	11am	David & Grace Potter RIP
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>		St Ann’s	10am	Mike Hallows RIP
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>		St Ann’s	10am	Harry Nixon RIP
		St Chad’s	7.30pm	November List RIP
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday	St Ann’s	10am	Fr Vincent Tobin RIP
		St Chad’s	7.30pm	Tony Byrne RIP
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>		St Chad’s	9.30am	Tommy Joe Griffin RIP
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>		St Ann’s	10am	Pat Lynch RIP
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Vigil	St Ann’s	5pm	DRF McNicholl Family RIP
		St Chad’s	7pm	Living and Deceased Members of the Garvin family
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent Year B	St Chad’s	9am	Dermot & Betty McNamara
		St Ann’s	11am	Barbara Depledge

**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 May with Mass intentions.

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

**Ash Wednesday** Mass will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Due to the limited spaces we will be taking bookings for this Mass, please email us to book your space. There will also be a morning Mass at St Ann’s at 10am for which you do not need to book.