

Attention all Gift Aid Donors: The tax year 2020/21 will end on 5th 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 by 5th 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.

Midday Assistant Vacancies: The governors at Cheadle Catholic Junior School would like to recruit two midday assistants to join our large and supportive mid-day team working with children from across the school. The hours are 1.25hrs each weekday, term time only, paid at £9.25/hr and starting after Easter. Application details can be found on our school website: www.cheadle-jun.stockport.sch. Please contact school if you require any further details. This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant's appointment will be subject to satisfactory pre-employment clearances including a Disclosure & Barring Service check.

Wellspring Donations: please leave in the box at the back of church. Thank you.

Please pray for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember Ronald Pearson, Mary Duffy, John Corcoran, John McNicholas, Elizabeth Cragg, Canon Joseph Howe, Mary Carroll, Leslie Furness, Bernard Walmsley, May Conroy, William Newton, Thomas Turner, Patricia Walsh, Kate Alcock, Christine O'Brien, Kenneth Thorpe, John Dean, Margaret Lobb, Alice Weaver, Anna McNight, Elizabeth Grindrod, Amy Johnson, William Condon, James Killoran, Theresa Brady, Nora Meaney 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

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 14th - 4th Sunday of Lent Year B

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last Sunday I mentioned the right to life of the unborn. Sadly, according to the statistics provider "Worldometers.info" there were 42.6 million abortions carried out in the world in 2020, dwarfing the number of deaths from cancer (8.2 million), Covid19 (1.8 million) and road traffic accidents (1.4 million). To put this horrifying figure in perspective, there were about 20 million deaths during the entire First World War. In pondering these statistics, I am reminded of the words of Pope Francis, "Every child who, rather than being born, is condemned unjustly to being aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who even before he was born, and then just after birth, experienced the world's rejection." The life of all the people we know and love began at the moment of their conception, when their DNA was already present. The genetic information for their unique personal characteristics was there from the very start. Even the staunch atheist, Christopher Hitchens, was honest enough to admit this truth as he famously became pro-life after watching a sonogram. To watch the development of a baby in the womb using 4D ultrasound technology is to watch the unfolding of the amazingly beautiful miracle of life.

We will never know what might have been the contribution to society of those little ones (the word *foetus* comes from the Latin for "little one") who were snatched from life last year. The footballer Cristiano Ronaldo almost became the victim of a home abortion which his mother tried to perform because of poverty, but he somehow survived the attempt on his life. The world might never have witnessed his dazzling skills. (Ronaldo once quipped about the irony of this story, since he now pays all her bills.) Andrea Bocelli also revealed that his mother was advised by a doctor to take his life while in the womb because of a foetal anomaly, but thankfully, she refused to accept the opinion that the life of her child was worthless. The life of the singer Cher was also almost extinguished before the moment of her birth. In a similar scenario to that of the musician Nick Cannon - who told his own teenage mother's story in the song entitled, *Can I Live?* - Cher's mother went as far as the abortion clinic but turned back. Last year, the Catholic News Agency (CNA) revealed that Pope John Paul II's mother

was advised by her doctor to abort him because of a severe danger to her health. The courageous woman decided to find a new doctor! What a tragedy it would have been if one of the most important popes in history had never been permitted to see the light of day.

I encourage you to look up the video of Andrea Bocelli expressing his hope that pregnant women in crisis will make the same brave choice that his mother made. Abortion threatens the life of real people like Andrea and like each one of us. We cannot play God and decide who lives or dies. Once the conception of an immortal human spirit has occurred nobody has the right to try to turn back time and eradicate the little one from history. The Gospel shows that Jesus and John the Baptist were already living members of human history while still in the womb. It was God's plan from all eternity to sanctify the unborn John through the presence of the unborn Jesus. Biblical prophets also spoke of God relating to us in the womb of our mothers. To those people who think that prenatal diagnosis should be used not simply as a means of trying to bring healing to the unborn, but rather as an instrument of eugenics, I would say: "If ever you have the joy of attending an Andrea Bocelli concert; when you see those around you moved to tears as he sings his *Time To Say Goodbye*, try convincing them that his life wasn't worth living..."

May God bless you all.
Fr. Sean

Our EASTER SERVICES will take place as follows:
Holy Thursday 1st April - 7pm,
Good Friday 2nd April – 3pm FULLY BOOKED,
Good Friday Stations of the Cross - 7pm,
Easter Vigil 3rd April – 8pm,
Easter Sunday 4th April – 9am FULLY BOOKED

We will be taking bookings for all of these services and will keep a waiting list when these are booked. To try and accommodate as many people as possible, we are asking that you book for a maximum of 2 services (in the first instance): One of: Holy Thursday and Good Friday and Stations of the Cross, and the other from: Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.
You are now able to book your places for our Easter Service by email.

All the services will be available to watch on the live-stream.

Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 13 th	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	Andrew Sprowson RIP
		St Chad's	7pm	Betty Shea
Sun 14 th	4 th Sunday of Lent Year B	St Chad's	9am	Kitty Curtin
		St Ann's	11am	Isabella Ortiz RIP
Mon 15 th		St Ann's	10am	Maureen Smith
Tues 16 th		St Ann's	10am	Martin Losse RIP
		St Chad's	7.30pm	Margaret Evans
Wed 17 th	St Patrick	No Mass		
Thurs 18 th	St Cyril of Jerusalem	St Chad's	9.30am	Frances Brooks RIP
Fri 19 th	St Joseph	St Ann's	10am	Deceased relatives and friends of the Bradley Family
Sat 20 th	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	Jill Croft RIP
		St Chad's	7pm	Living and deceased members of the Garvin family.
Sun 21 st	5 th Sunday of Lent Year B	St Chad's	9am	Stella Dutton RIP
		St Ann's	11am	Brian Comerford RIP

****Mass Time Change**:** Please note that from Tuesday 23rd March onwards, Mass on Tuesday evenings will be at 6.30pm.

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 June with Mass intentions.

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

Money Matters: In February we received £922.40p through the collection and £1752.70p in standing orders. Thank you very much.