

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 your donations 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 Arthur Moorhouse, Angela Grindrod, Audrey Doyle, Harry Frith, William Counter, John Hughes, Edith Sweeney, Wilfrid Shaw, Ernesto Granelli, Margaret Kennedy, Leo McEwan, Ellen Hogg, Patrick Gibbons, Kathleen Moore, Mary Jones, Mary Locke, Winifred Eckett, Sidney Felton, Annie Leyman, Colleen Collins 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.

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Office Hours: Thursday 11am-1pm

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



Sunday 21st March - 5th Sunday of Lent Year B

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Pope Francis gave a beautiful homily at the start of Lent and I have included a few sections of it here for your meditation. Among other things, the pope reminds us that during Lent we ponder the Passion of Jesus. We look into Christ's wounds which heal our souls, which show us the truth about our sins, but above all, which show us the truth about his merciful love. To what lengths he was willing to go in order to bring us to salvation! What kind of heart would go to such lengths?

Lent is not just about the little sacrifices we make, but about discerning where our hearts are directed. This is the core of Lent: asking where our hearts are directed. Let us ask: Where is my life's navigation system taking me – towards God or towards myself? Do I live to please the Lord, or to be noticed, praised, put at the head of line...? Do I have a “wobbly” heart, which takes a step forwards and then one backwards? Do I love the Lord a bit and the world a bit, or is my heart steadfast in God? Am I content with my hypocrisies, or do I work to free my heart from the duplicity and falsehood that tie it down?

The journey of Lent is an exodus, an exodus from slavery to freedom. These forty days correspond to the forty years that God's people trekked through the desert to return to their homeland. How difficult it was to leave Egypt! It was more difficult for God's people to leave the Egypt of the heart, that Egypt they carried within them, than to leave the land of Egypt. During their journey, there was an ever-present temptation (...) to turn back, to cling to memories of the past or to this or that idol. So it is with us: our journey back to God is blocked by our unhealthy attachments, held back by the seductive snares of our sins, by the false security of money and appearances, by the paralysis of our discontents. To embark on this journey, we have to unmask these illusions.

Lest we go astray on our journey, let us stand before the cross of Jesus: the silent throne of God. Let us daily contemplate his wounds, the wounds that he brought to heaven and shows daily to the Father in his prayer of intercession. Let us daily contemplate those wounds. In them, we recognize our emptiness, our shortcomings, the wounds of our sin and all the hurt we have experienced. Yet there too, we see clearly that God points his finger at no one, but rather opens his arms to embrace us. His wounds were inflicted for our sake, and by those wounds we have been healed (cf. 1 Pet 2:25; Is 53:5). By kissing those wounds, we will come to realize that there, in life's most painful wounds, God awaits us with his infinite mercy. Because there, where we are most vulnerable, where we feel the most shame, he came to meet us. And having come to meet us, he now invites us to return to him, to rediscover the joy of being loved.

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 (only a few spaces remaining),
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.**

National Day of Reflection: Tuesday 23rd March has been designated as a National Day of Reflection to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown. The Bishops of England and Wales are asking that we also make this a Day of Prayer to reflect and pray that this pandemic comes to an end and that the gift of God's Holy Spirit will carry us all forward to a new and better life, both here and in the world to come. **Church will be open from 5.30pm on Tuesday 23rd March** (before the 6.30pm Mass) for you to come and pray.

Mass Times & Intentions

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
Mon 22 nd		St Ann's	10am	Des Saddington RIP
Tues 23 rd	St Turibius de Mogrovejo	St Ann's	10am	Timothy Duffy RIP
		St Chad's	6.30pm	Pat McCarron RIP
Wed 24 th		No Mass		
Thurs 25 th	The Annunciation of the Lord	St Chad's	9.30am	Bill & Annie Maloney RIP
Fri 26 th		St Ann's	10am	Jean & Grace RIP
Sat 27 th	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	Chris Dinnage RIP
		St Chad's	7pm	Barbara Lee RIP & Tony Lee
Sun 28 th	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	St Chad's	9am	The Whalley & Morrissey Families
		St Ann's	11am	Fr Vincent Tobin RIP

****Mass Time Change**:** Please note that from this Tuesday (23rd March) 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: Cafod Fast Day collection raised: £371.10p with a further £60 raised through gift aid. Thank you.