

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.

SVP Prison Group: Supply clothes to the prisons through the Chaplains. They are in need of clothing, particularly jumpers/sweatshirts, joggers and T-shirts. Colours other than blue or black preferable. There is a bag at the back of church to leave your donations. Thank you.

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 Charles Lister, Stewart Horrocks, Gordon Harrop, Christine Harrod, Kathleen Drummond, Nellie Sargent, Olive O'Rourke, Agnes Curtis, Dominic McGough, Michael McDonnell, Molly Neill, Andrea Lobb, Marion Carroll, Eileen Keane, Jesse Pearson, Margaret Davis, Johanna Reardon, Mary Baccas, Mary Carrigher, Agnes Cox, Sabina Bains, Fr. Andrew Laverty, Ernest Jones, Maud Williamson, Jean Magrath 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 7th March - 3rd Sunday of Lent Year B

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In this Sunday's readings we hear about the most fundamental principles of the moral life: the Ten Commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Although the spirit of the commandments had been impressed into the human conscience at the dawn of creation, with the original fall from grace, they became at least partially obscured in people's hearts. We needed to be reminded of them clearly by the Lord because they will form the basis for our final judgment. We have an obligation to teach the Ten Commandments to our children, so that they may know them off by heart and be guided by them in their actions all through life. In the teaching of the Church, the only way that a baby can be baptised is if the parents commit to forming the child in Catholic faith and morality later on. This is considered to be a grave commitment undertaken before God on the day that the child is baptised. If all hope of Christian formation is lacking the baptism is to be deferred. (CIC no.868)

Although the Ten Commandments are expressed in negative form, "thou shalt not...", they do not lead to a negative or sorrowful mode of existence but rather to a joyful one. What person who cheats, lies, steals, blasphemes, etc. could ever be described as truly happy? His interior is in a tormented and pitiable state. But those who live holy and upright lives have inner peace. There is no happiness without peace of conscience, and even though people may try to stifle conscience and deafen their ears to its reproaches, it will always catch up with them in the end in one way or another. Different forms of neurosis can even be caused by guilt that hasn't been dealt with. GK Chesterton describes why the prohibitions of the Ten Commandments are so concise:

The truth is, of course, that the curtness of the Ten Commandments is an evidence, not of the gloom and narrowness of a religion, but, on the contrary, of its liberality and humanity. It is shorter to state the things forbidden than the things permitted: precisely because most things are permitted, and only a few things are forbidden.

During this season of Lent, we are called to examine our conscience against the Ten Commandments to see where we might have deviated from them and then

bring this to the sacrament of Confession. In this sacrament our soul is washed clean and we return to serenity of conscience before God. It also does us the world of good to simply take responsibility for our actions rather than try to make excuses for them. Mercy is always given to one who knows his need for mercy and asks for it. There are people who seek to find ways of denying the reality of their guilt or of always trying to blame their failings on others. While it is true that we are all victims of other people's failings to some degree or another, yet, we are also free, and with freedom there is always personal responsibility. It is better to simply confess our guilt to the Lord, rather than seek to point the finger at others all the time. I find these words from GK Chesterton in which he describes his own sense of personal responsibility with characteristic wit and humour to be a breath of fresh air:

I regret that I have no gloomy and savage father to offer to the public gaze as the true cause of all my tragic heritage; no pale-faced and partially poisoned mother whose instincts have cursed me with the temptations of the artistic temperament. I regret that I cannot do my duty as a true modern, by cursing everybody who made me whatever I am. I am not clear about what that is; but I am pretty sure that most of it is my own fault.

May God bless you all.

Fr Sean

Our EASTER SERVICES (1st-4th April) will take place as follows:

Holy Thursday - 7pm, Good Friday – 3pm, Good Friday Stations of the Cross - 7pm, Easter Vigil – 8pm, Easter Sunday – 9am.

We will be taking bookings for all of these services. 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 will be able to book in person when you are here for Mass on Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th March. From Friday 12th March, you will be able to book by email. Please note that due to limited numbers you will only be able to book for yourselves. The idea is to ensure that those who come to Mass regularly have the opportunity to book their place. All the services will be available to watch on the live-stream.

Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 6 th	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	Liz Smith RIP
		St Chad's	7pm	Nick Standing RIP
Sun 7 th	3 rd Sunday of Lent Year B	St Chad's	9am	People of the Parish
		St Ann's	11am	John Rodgers RIP
Mon 8 th	St John of God	St Ann's	10am	Barbara Thornberry RIP
Tues 9 th	St Frances of Rome	St Ann's	10am	John O'Regan RIP
		St Chad's	7.30pm	November List RIP
Wed 10 th		No Mass		
Thurs 11 th		St Chad's	9.30am	Tony RIP
Fri 12 th		St Ann's	10am	Edith Whelan RIP
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

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 June with Mass intentions.

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

CAFOD Fast Day: Please leave your donations in the baskets at the back of church.