

**Wanted:** Bedding plants or small flowering bushes for the front of the church hall. New plant donations also welcome. We can collect if needed or you can leave them at the back of the hall – just let Karl know when you do. Contact Karl on 07976 784952. Thank you very much.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)** This weekend (April 10th/11th) there will be a collection for the SVP. If you wish to make an offering, please use one of the SVP envelopes and put it into the normal collection boxes. If you do not pay sufficient UK income tax, please do not fill in the gift-aid slip. The money will be used to help individuals and families in St Chad's parish as well as overseas parishes, twinned with St. Chad's SVP, in India, Sudan & Romania.



**Please pray** for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember Baby: Daniel King, Josephine Scully, Taylor Hogan, Mary Flannery, Kitty Watts, Annie Kelsall, Patricia Bell, Daniel Creamer, Bridget Dolan, Mark Stephenson, Francis Birch, Kath Coleman, Thomas Sheridan, Eric Adshead, Margaret Rennison, Mary Whealing, Eugene Lennon 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 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have recently enjoyed listening to a couple of talks given by Karin Oberg, Professor of Astrochemistry at Harvard University. Although science has never been my thing, she managed to give an in-depth explanation of the Big Bang theory which I found to be both enlightening and relatively easy to follow. She also happens to be a devout Catholic with a strong interest in philosophy, theology, and in sharing her faith with others. Her style of reflection captures the harmony that should exist between faith and science. If something is true it can never contradict something else that is true. We believe in the absolute truth of the revelation of God given to the world in the Person of Jesus Christ, and when it is properly understood, there can be no contradiction between it and any other truth which reason may discover. Revelation and natural science belong to distinct domains of human knowledge, but both can be rigorously investigated by the rational mind without fear of inconsistency. Professor Oberg embodies this kind of intellectual rigour in her approach to both theology and science. She makes clear that the Big Bang theory (first proposed by the Catholic priest, Father George Lemaitre, in 1927) fits in perfectly with belief in a Creator. (As the witty philosopher, Peter Kreeft, is fond of saying: The Big Bang must have been the work of a Big Banger!)

Science deals with things which can be empirically verified, and so by the very nature of its method, it can neither prove nor disprove faith in the God who is above and beyond all categories of finite beings in the universe. It can, however, help us to marvel at the glorious mysteries of creation with all of their delicately balanced laws and complexities. Theological reflection and scientific reflection are like two wings which lift up the human mind, one unlocking the secrets of the Creator, the other unlocking the secrets of His

handiwork. They can both grow and develop harmoniously as two separate branches on the great tree of human wisdom. Conflicts only arise when one tries to illegitimately invade and occupy the space which belongs by right to the other.

As she travelled up the steep ascent of her brilliant scientific musings, I could only follow Professor Oberg so far. After a while she lost me in the foothills. There's only so much scientific subtlety I can take before my eyes begin to glaze over. Elements of her work are not tailored to the uninitiated, but what really interested me was to find out a little more about her spiritual journey to Christ. I could listen to conversion stories and accounts of the workings of God's grace all day! We all have our different passions and interests I suppose. I was not surprised to discover that CS Lewis was instrumental in the story of her soul. At about the age of twenty-three or twenty-four, she went from being an agnostic to being a Christian in one hour while reading his book, *Mere Christianity*. If you haven't done so already, I recommend that you read that book and that you then pass it on to anybody you may know of reflective mind who may be struggling to believe in Christ. Lewis' logical step-by-step demonstration of the reasonableness of faith in a Creator, followed by his equally compelling case for the truth of the Christian faith in particular, have helped to bring countless souls of the intellectual variety to their knees in adoration of the one true God. Karin is just one more in a long and steady stream of great Lewis' converts that has been flowing now for eighty years and shows no sign of drying up any time soon.

May God bless you all.

Fr Sean

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**The Holy Father's Prayer Intention**

**APRIL: Fundamental rights:** We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

**Mass Times & Intentions**

Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	Paddy Bergin RIP
		<b>St Chad's</b>	7pm	John Murphy
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Easter Divine Mercy	<b>St Chad's</b>	9am	John Drummond RIP and Gerald Cohen RIP
		St Ann's	11am	Bill Holt RIP
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>		St Ann's	10am	Marie Ryan
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	St Martin I, Pope, Martyr	St Ann's	10am	Gerald Ball RIP
		<b>St Chad's</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Mary Coyle RIP
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>		<b>No Mass</b>		
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>		<b>St Chad's</b>	9.30am	Edna Southern RIP
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>		St Ann's	10am	Colette Murphy RIP
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	Milena Benton RIP
		<b>St Chad's</b>	7pm	Mgr John Heslin
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>St Chad's</b>	9am	Christiane Saide 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. Please note that we are now into July with Mass intentions.

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