

**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)** You are still able to contribute to the SVP Collection. 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.

**Wellspring:** Please leave your donations in the box at the back of church. Thank you.

**Money Matters:** In March we received: £887.33 in the General Collection and £1967.70p in Standing Orders. The collection for the Holy Places raised £160.00p. Thank you very much.

**Please pray** for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember Josephine Mairs, Donald Mackay, Mary Foster, Mary McMullin, Jules Liotard, Elsie Copeland, Lilian Sandiforth, Frederick Murtagh, James Crewdson, Sheila Cliff, Mary Slingsby, Ged Parkinson, Connie Jennings, Mary Smith, Wilf Golding, Michael Collins, Barbara Hart, Pauline Gannon, Kathleen Kirk, John Mullen 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 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

After the beautiful feast of the Divine Mercy last Sunday, I thought I might share with you some words from the homily of Pope Francis for that occasion:

*The risen Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions. He patiently soothed their troubled hearts. He tells them “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, even so I send you” (Jn 20:21). It is as if to say, “I am sending you because I believe in you”. Those disheartened disciples were put at peace with themselves. The peace of Jesus frees from the self-absorption that paralyzes; it shatters the bonds that keep the heart imprisoned. The disciples realized that they had been shown mercy: they realized that God did not condemn or demean them, but instead believed in them. God, in fact, believes in us even more than we believe in ourselves. “He loves us better than we love ourselves” (cf. Saint John Henry Newman, Meditations and Devotions, III, 12, 2). As far as God is concerned, no one is useless, discredited or a castaway. Today Jesus also tells us, “Peace be with you! You are precious in my eyes. Peace be with you! You are important for me. Peace be with you! You have a mission. No one can take your place. You are irreplaceable. And I believe in you”.*

*Second, Jesus showed mercy to his disciples by granting them the Holy Spirit. He bestowed the Spirit for the forgiveness of sins (cf. vv. 22-23). The disciples were guilty; they had run away, they had abandoned the Master. Sin brings torment; evil has its price. Our sin, as the Psalmist says (cf. 51:5), is always before us. Of ourselves, we cannot remove it. Only God takes it away, only he by his mercy can make us emerge from the depths of our misery. Like those disciples, we need to let ourselves be forgiven, to ask heartfelt pardon of the*

Lord. We need to open our hearts to being forgiven. Forgiveness in the Holy Spirit is the Easter gift that enables our interior resurrection. Let us ask for the grace to accept that gift, to embrace the Sacrament of forgiveness. And to understand that Confession is not about ourselves and our sins, but about God and his mercy. Like little children who, whenever they fall, need to be picked up by their fathers, we need this. We too fall frequently. And the hand of our Father is ready to set us on our feet again and to make us keep walking. That sure and trustworthy hand is Confession. Confession is the sacrament that lifts us up; it does not leave us on the ground, weeping on the hard stones where we have fallen. Confession is the Sacrament of resurrection, pure mercy.

Together with the peace that rehabilitates us and the forgiveness that lifts us up, Jesus gave his disciples a third gift: he showed them his wounds. By those wounds we were healed (cf. 1 Pet2:24; Is 53:5). But how can wounds heal us? By mercy. In those wounds, like Thomas, we can literally touch the fact that God has loved us to the end. He has made our wounds his own and borne our weaknesses in his own body. His wounds are open channels between him and us, shedding mercy upon our misery. His wounds are the pathways that God has opened up for us to enter into his tender love and actually “touch” who he is. Let us never again doubt his mercy. In adoring and kissing his wounds, we come to realize that in his tender love all our weaknesses are accepted. This happens at every Mass, where Jesus offers us his wounded and risen Body. We touch him and he touches our lives. He makes heaven come down to us. His radiant wounds dispel the darkness we carry within.

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 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
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>		St Ann’s	10am	Deceased Members of the Stephenson & Farrell families.
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>		St Ann’s	10am	Rachael Leeman
		<b>St Chad’s</b>	6.30pm	Joe & Jose Webster
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>		<b>No Mass</b>		
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	St Anselm	<b>St Chad’s</b>	9.30am	Rose-Anne & Joseph McGinn RIP
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	St George	St Ann’s	10am	Private Intention
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Vigil	St Ann’s	5pm	Thomas Roy Howard RIP
		<b>St Chad’s</b>	7pm	Catherine Coffey RIP
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>St Chad’s</b>	9am	The Burns Family RIP
		St Ann’s	11am	For the parishioners

**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 August with Mass intentions.

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