

**Confirmation:** Will take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 7pm at Our Lady's Shaw Heath. Confirmation is open to those in Year 9 and above and the programme will be run jointly with St Ann's. The meetings will take place on Friday evenings, with the first meeting on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, remaining dates to be confirmed. If you would like to join this year's confirmation programme or would like more information, please email us [stchadsheadle@gmail.com](mailto:stchadsheadle@gmail.com).

**Wellspring:** As well as items like pot noodles and mug shots, we are collecting tinned veg and meat, pasta, rice, dried foods and other snack foods. The Wellspring will use these items in food parcels as well as to prepare hot meals for the homeless. Please leave your donations in the box at the back of church. Thank you.

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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.

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*Please pray for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember James Brady, Norah Kennedy, Elizabeth McCreanor, Belle Bingham, Evelyn Dewhurst, John Hennon, Antoine Sant, John Powell, Ralph Bradshaw, Elizabeth Pringle, Bernard Gerighty, Charlotte Brook, Philip Masterson, Mary Pearson, Joan Burke, A.A.McDonald, Margaret Crawley 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: Thursdays 11am – 1pm**

*Please note that Church is monitored by CCTV Cameras 24/7 and by Live streaming Cameras during services.*



## **The Catholic Parish of St Chad, Cheadle**

**Priest: Fr. Sean Davidson**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In this joyful Easter Season, I wanted to take the opportunity to write for the next couple of weeks about the historicity of the Resurrection of the Lord from the dead. I spoke about this subject in the homily at St Ann's last week, but I thought it might be helpful to add a few written notes for reflection. An act of faith is required for true belief in the Resurrection. We need the Holy Spirit who gives us the deep conviction that it is true. So, while we cannot become overly rationalistic in trying to prove with mathematical precision elements of our faith, we can identify certain historically verifiable factors which support what we believe about the life of Christ. We call these factors, "motives of credibility." Our faith is not irrational, even if it does ultimately require the assistance of the Holy Spirit in order to become the true theological virtue of faith. We have no photos or video footage for ancient events such as those in Scripture. (Although some have said that the Shroud of Turin has something of the quality of a snapshot of the moment of the Resurrection, but we can consider that claim at some other time.) We tend to accept the historicity of all ancient events as long as there are sufficient motives for believing that they occurred and no clear proof to the contrary. Much history that we take for granted actually depends upon probability rather than clear detailed proof.

As we will see, there are grounds for suggesting to the sceptic that he or she consider at least the probability that something completely out of the ordinary happened in relation to the death of Jesus Christ. It would take a full book to go through all of these historical factors in depth, but I will try to provide a summary of at least a few details which support our faith. If you do wish to read a book on the subject, then you could read the excellent one written by the

Anglican scholar, N.T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. It runs to about 800 pages and he leaves no stone unturned in his quest to analyse the historicity of this central mystery of our faith.

For those of you who don't like to study 800-page books, you can watch a nice film to help you ponder the historical truth of the Resurrection of Jesus. It is called *The Case for Christ* and was released in 2017. I watched it a few days ago for the first time and enjoyed it. The film tells the true story of a man called Lee Strobel, a journalist for the *Chicago Tribune*. An award-winning investigative journalist, his expertise was the study of crimes, conspiracies, and cover-ups. In the early 1980s his wife converted to Christianity. Being a radical atheist himself, her conversion provoked a crisis that almost broke up their marriage. So, he decides to investigate the Resurrection of Jesus as he would any other event. His goal is to disprove it and draw his wife back to atheism. He interviews experts in all areas relating to the subject, studies all the texts available in the Bible and outside the Bible. He also interviews Gary Habermas and William Lane Craig, two of the main Protestant apologists for the Resurrection. Craig's work is especially interesting and his debating skills are second to none. His arguments for the existence of God are so strong that they make him one of the only debaters whom the atheists try to avoid.

After all of his painstaking research, Strobel begins to see that the evidence points to the fact that something wholly inexplicable happened around the death of Jesus Christ. The historical events which occurred following on from that death make no sense unless Jesus really did rise from the dead. He now spends his life preaching and writing on this mystery. His books have sold over 5 million copies. He went from not wanting to believe in it with all of his heart, to finally being convinced with all of his heart that it is true. Next week and the week after, I will provide you with a few of the key details which have persuaded people like Strobel that the wonderful news of the Resurrection is worthy of belief.

May God bless you all.  
Fr Sean

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### Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	Thomas Roy Howard RIP
		St Chad's	7pm	Catherine Coffey RIP
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	St Chad's	9am	The Burns Family RIP
		St Ann's	11am	For the parishioners
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>		St Ann's	10am	Pat Lynch RIP
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>		St Ann's	10am	John Henshall RIP
		St Chad's	6.30pm	Mira de Souza
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>		<b>No Mass</b>		
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>	St Catherine of Siena	St Chad's	9.30am	Living & Deceased Members of the Garvin Family
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>		St Ann's	10am	Rosetta
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	William Holt RIP
		St Chad's	7pm	Amanda Sanedrin RIP
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	St Chad's	9am	Mary Wilkins RIP
		St Ann's	11am	In memory of Bill & Annie Maloney

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