

Confirmation: Will take place on Friday 3rd 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 3rd 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.

Money Matters: This weekend there will be a second collection for World Communications Day.

SVP: There is still a need for donations (joggers, t-shirts and sweatshirts) so we will have another collection at the beginning of June. Please no hats or garments with hoods. Please leave in the bag at the back of church. Thank you. **Also, assistance needed:** The SVP nationally are exploring the possibility of having a centre in Birkenhead. Negotiations for the grant of the lease are ongoing and it will be necessary to make a planning application for change of use. The team who are working to get the project off the ground are seeking someone with experience of CAD who may be able to draw plans of the existing building to assist in submitting a planning application for change of use so the building can offer the provision of food and training. Anyone who could assist in drawing up the building plans please contact Rose Mullarkey on 07905 952798 or any SVP Member.

***Please pray** for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember Neil Gallagher, Bernard Mallalieu, Edith Hurst, Winifred McDonald, Raymond Manning, Millie Courtney, Norman Dursley, Nora Madden, Gerry Keogh, William Shorrocks, Mary Hislop, Mary Hillier, Marion York, Harold Milne, Flo Barker and all those whose 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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Email: stchadsheadle@gmail.com **Website:** www.stchadsheadle.com

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 16th May 2021 – 7th Sunday of Easter Year B

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

One final reflection on the historicity of the Resurrection. We can never insist too much upon the importance of this particular truth of our faith. It is heaven's vindication of the entire revelation of Jesus Christ. He was rejected by the world, accused by some of having been a false messiah, but by means of the Resurrection, God the Father responded to the world and confirmed that Jesus really was his truth-bearing Son. The Resurrection confirms not only that Jesus is the authentic Son of God, but consequently, the full truth of the message which he had given to the world. As St Paul once taught, if the Resurrection were not true, then our faith would be in vain and our sins would not have been forgiven in Christ's name. In a word, it is upon the truth of the Resurrection that our faith and our salvation stand or fall.

One last argument in support of it: The great Anglican scholar N.T. Wright points out that in ancient Israel other potential candidates for Messiah had also come upon the scene. Even though they garnered much support during their lifetimes, as soon as they were put to death by Rome, their movements immediately died. If you had told their supporters - who were hiding out in caves and cellars after the death of their leader - that he had in fact been the Messiah they would have thought you mad. The Messiah was not expected to be humiliated and executed. Yet, Jesus was also rejected as a false messiah and subjected to the most violent and horrifying form of execution in all the ancient world. His closest disciples also scattered in fear for the lives. This is a similar scenario to that of the other messianic movements. That should have been the end of the story, but historically speaking, a strange phenomenon took place in this one instance. It is a matter of historical certainty that those terrified disciples underwent a most dramatic, instantaneous, and humanly inexplicable transformation, causing them to begin to proclaim in the face of fierce and deadly pressure to be silent that Jesus was truly the Messiah and that he was risen from the dead. Rather than fizzle out like those other messianic movements whose founders had undergone violent deaths, a Christian movement burst into human history with dynamic and unstoppable energy behind it. A few poor, uneducated country-folk who would never have taught anybody anything - and with no worldly power to back them up - sparked off a process that would ultimately convert the whole Roman Empire. Some religions may manage to

spread rapidly without divine assistance by terrorising the inhabitants of a region, but here, the reverse was the case. It was the Christians who were being terrorised in those centuries in which their expansion was the most rapid. Not by the sword, nor by means of great human talents or eloquence, but by means of a testimony so convincing that thousands freely gave their lives to Christ immediately upon hearing it, these simple messengers of peace changed the entire course of human history. The force of that historical earthquake which shook the entire ancient world makes no sense unless they really did see the Risen Lord and were clothed in the power of his Holy Spirit.

As this happy Easter season draws to a close, let us renew our faith in the truth of Christ's Resurrection, the event which gives meaning, hope, and joy to our lives. I leave you with a few words from St John Chrysostom on the stunning feat accomplished by the first disciples of Christ:

How could twelve uneducated men, who lived on lakes and rivers and wastelands, get the idea for such an immense enterprise? How could men like that think of setting out to do battle with the whole world? That they were fearful, timid men, the evangelist makes clear; he did not try to hide their weaknesses. Indeed he turned these into a proof of the truth. What did he say of them? That when Christ was arrested, the others fled, despite all the miracles they had seen, while he who was the leader of the others denied him! How then account for the fact that these men, who in Christ's lifetime did not stand up to the attacks of his enemies, set forth to do battle with the whole world once Christ was dead – if, as you claim, Christ did not rise and speak to them and rouse their courage? Did they perhaps say to themselves: "What is this? He could not save himself but he will protect us. He did not help himself when he was alive, but now that he is dead he will extend a helping hand to us. In his lifetime he brought no nation under his banner, but by uttering his name we will win over the whole world." Would it not be wholly irrational for them to even think such thoughts, much less to act upon them?

May God bless you all.
Fr Sean

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for May: The world of finance: Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 15 th	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	Reg Thornberry RIP
		St Chad's	7pm	Mary Friel RIP
Sun 16 th	7 th Sunday of Easter	St Chad's	9am	Margaret Dennehy
		St Ann's	11am	In Thanksgiving (AMB)
Mon 17 th		St Ann's	10am	Peter Clarke & family
Tues 18 th		St Ann's	10am	Tim Murray RIP
		St Chad's	6.30pm	Leo Donnelly RIP
Wed 19 th	St Milburga	No Mass		
Thurs 20 th		St Chad's	9.30am	Marian York RIP
Fri 21 st	The Dedication of the Cathedral	St Ann's	10am	Joan Kelly
Sat 22 nd	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	Win Morrissey RIP
		St Chad's	7pm	Roy & Marian York RIP
Sun 23 rd	Pentecost	St Chad's	9am	Kathleen Hamilton
		St Ann's	11am	John Rodgers RIP & his family

Rosary: Throughout May we will come together as a parish to pray the Rosary before each of the weekend Mass. The Rosary will start 20 minutes before Mass (6:40pm on Saturdays and 08:40am on Sundays).

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 September with Mass intentions.

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