

First Holy Communion Preparation for children not at Catholic School: The programme for those children who started their preparation last year, will hopefully be completed in September 2021, with their celebration towards the end of the month. If your child is CURRENTLY in Year 3 or above, we hope to commence their preparation in September 2021, with their celebration planned for the end of November 2021. The programme will run jointly with St Ann's. Please email stchadsheadle@gmail.com if you wish to enrol your child/children. Enrolment for next year's Year 3s for preparation in 2022, will be invited nearer the end of this year.

Vacancy: The Institute of Our Lady of Mercy, Leeds is looking for a Safeguarding Trustee Committee Member. This is a voluntary (unpaid), part time role with expenses paid. It is Home based with occasional meetings in Leeds. Closing Date: 1st June 2021 Interview Date: 7th/8th June 2021. For full details and more information: Email: tracey.rogers-thomas@iolmercy.

Wellspring: Next weekend (May 29th/30th) we are able to resume the monthly collections, on the final weekend of each month, of food items for the homeless at the Wellspring. The particular items currently needed are as follows: multipacks of crisps, biscuits, multipacks of chocolate, tins/cartons of custard, brown sauce, ketchup, mayonnaise, gravy granules, meat balls, jars of curry sauce, tinned peas / carrots, mixed veg. Thank you very much.

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.

Please pray for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember Paul Ward, William Ryan, Francis Mooney, Lilian Whelan, Kathleen Bell, William Duffy, Charles Meehan, Francis Evans, Elfrieda Walsingham, Hugh Meaney, Catherine Yarwood, Martin Kelly, Wilfred Jackson, Gladys Bland, James Adams, Ethel Berry, Stephen Usher 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.

Address: Stockport Road, Cheadle, SK8 2AF **Tel:** 0161 428 2480

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 23rd May 2021 – Pentecost Sunday

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today we celebrate the glorious feast of Pentecost - God's remedy after the ancient division of Babel - as all nations began to be united once again by the Holy Spirit through the Church. The Church is meant to be *the* place on earth where unity in charity is exhibited. As we approached this feast, I was thinking of how far from the unity that God desires for all peoples are those who hold on to racist attitudes and those cultural prejudices which never cease to divide humanity. In light of that, I share with you a few words on the theological nature of the sin of racism from a recent talk by the theologian Fr Hugh Barbour. (It was part of an interview on Catholic Answers (see Youtube) for which I managed to find a rough transcript.) Interestingly, he classifies the sin of racism as firstly a sin against the virtue of faith (IE: a rejection of what is clearly revealed in the Bible), and secondly, as a sin against the virtue of justice. In trying to analyse the precise species of sin against justice out of which racism springs, he connects it to what medieval theologians called, "rash judgment" of others, which then turns into a fixed unjust opinion about them, and which ultimately leads to unjust behaviour. We can do this in relation to an individual, but also in a general way, in relation to a whole group of people whom we perceive as different from ourselves. The correction of this injustice in the world begins with a deeper correction of those thought processes which tend towards passing superficial and erroneous judgment on other human beings made in God's image.

God created human nature from a common origin. So, there's an absolute human solidarity and equality. We have a common origin and a common destiny - made in God's image in the beginning, having fallen and been redeemed by God in the end - so that we might finally reach union with him in heaven. (Racism is) contrary to the unity of the human race and therefore it's

an error against faith. (The word race here is used as a generic term that includes all.) If you're a Catholic and you actually buy into race theories, where you hold that certain persons by reason of their race or ethnicity are naturally inferior to you, or are not endowed with the same rights or don't have the same destiny that you have, well then that's contrary to revealed faith. The apostles made it very clear that the gospel was to be preached to all nations and they went to all nations.

First of all (racism is) an error against the virtue of faith, but then, secondly, it's an error contrary to the virtue of justice. Justice is that virtue whereby (we) give to each one what is his due; to be fair to all. So, when you deny someone his due because of ethnic or racial identity then that's the sin of racism, (a sin) against justice. The type of injustice which is involved with racism is the sin or error of "judgment by suspicion", or what's called rash judgment. Now, remember that a person has the right to your good opinion. St Thomas (Aquinas) defines judgment by suspicion as evil thinking based on slight indications; what we would now call projection, where we're prone to think evil of others. This flows forth into a certain conviction or judgment - based on your passions of course not based upon reason - and then leads almost inevitably to unjust action if the occasion permits. This is a grave sin, it's a mortal sin. The third stage is when those particular convictions become enshrined in actual legal activity... (For example), when a judge deprives someone of what is that person's due because of their race or ethnicity. There are examples of institutionalized racism which are real.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will descend anew upon the Church and upon the whole world and help us to appreciate the dignity and equality of every human being, that we might give to each person the respect which is their right in justice.

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 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
Mon 24 th	Our Lady Help of Christians	St Ann's	10am	Sr Alphonsus RIP
Tues 25 th	Mary, Mother of the Church	St Ann's	10am	Wedding Anniversary (J&T)
		St Chad's	6.30pm	Deceased members of the Corrigan family
Wed 26 th	St Philip Neri	No Mass		
Thurs 27 th	Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest	St Chad's	9.30am	November List
Fri 28 th		St Ann's	10am	Mary Buckley RIP
Sat 29 th	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	Irene Darcy RIP
		St Chad's	7pm	Janie Foster RIP
Sun 30 th	The Most Holy Trinity	St Chad's	9am	Eusebio Vida Jr RIP & April Matito RIP
		St Ann's	11am	Fr Vincent Tobin RIP

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