

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.

Wellspring: Thank you for all your donations, Wellspring are very grateful. We are planning to return to our monthly collections, with our next collection being the weekend of 29/30 May. The Wellspring are well stocked with pot noodles and the like, but are in need of other groceries. Nearer the collection we will get a list of items they require and share in the newsletter. Thank you.

CAFOD Fast Day Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

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.

Please pray for all those who are sick and all those who have died recently. We remember Herbert Oldfield, Mary Scowcroft, Elizabeth Lloyd, Mary Coll, Gerald Delaney, Margaret Todd, Jenny Forrest, Winifred Fern, Ety Redmond, Sidney Childs, Ann Booth, Ronald Bentley, Janet Cosgrove, Maureen Sallman, Anna Barrese, Patrick Pelling, Bernard Barrans, Elizabeth Donlan, Winnie Duffy, May Cartwright, Mary Williams, Francis Stonely, William Tracey, Bishop Joseph Gray, Bill Harford, James Cartwright, Margaret Pilling, Joseph Vassallo 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

The Catholic Parish of St Chad, Cheadle

Priest: Fr. Sean Davidson



Sunday 2nd May 2021 – 5th Sunday of Easter Year B

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last week we began to look at the motives of credibility which support our belief that Christ really rose from the dead. We saw how Lee Strobel's investigations convinced him that the Resurrection alone made sense of the historical facts surrounding the death of Jesus Christ and the spread of Christianity. We will now look at some of the key steps he took in his investigations.

The inexplicable empty tomb:

The first crucial historical factor which points to the truth of the Resurrection is the fact of the mysterious empty tomb. However, before even discussing this fact, Strobel had to first deal with the question of whether or not Christ actually existed and whether or not he really died on the Cross. According to Gary Habermas - whom he met in person and who has been studying the Resurrection for decades - it would be difficult to find a historian today who seriously doubts that Jesus Christ existed. Habermas shows in his book, *The Case for the Resurrection*, that within the 150 years following on from Christ's death we have manuscripts from forty-two different writers which speak of the life of Jesus Christ. Nine of these are non-Christian sources. Compare this to the life of Julius Caesar for which there are about five manuscripts, and that of Tiberius Caesar for which there are about ten manuscripts, which date from the 150 years following on from their deaths. Nobody doubts their existence. It is clear that Jesus Christ certainly existed, but what of his death? In addition to all of the biblical and extra-biblical Christian sources, there are non-Christian historians who also confirm the manner in which Jesus died. The Jewish historian Josephus and the Roman historian Tacitus who were both born in the first century confirm that Jesus was killed by crucifixion.

The body of Jesus was then buried by two very well-known men in the city of Jerusalem, after Pontius Pilate himself had given them permission to do so. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea were members of the Sanhedrin, a kind of Supreme Court in Israel, which had been responsible for condemning Christ to death. (They must have disagreed with the verdict of the other members of the Sanhedrin and decided to bury Christ out of charity.) Christians would never in a million years have invented the idea that two members of the Sanhedrin itself had decided to give

Jesus a worthy burial. Since these men were so well-known, anybody in the city could have made enquiries of them about the place of the burial. When the disciples began to proclaim that the tomb of Jesus was empty, nobody ever denied it. Rather, those in the city, who desired at all costs to suppress Christianity before ever it had a chance to spread, had to come up with another explanation, namely, that the body must have been stolen by Christ's disciples.

There can be no doubt that the tomb would have been carefully inspected and all those involved with it questioned. The truth of the empty tomb is not only confirmed by the ancient biblical sources, but also by sources outside the Bible. The second century debate between the Christian Justin Martyr and the Jewish Trypho takes for granted that the story still told by the Jerusalem authorities down to their own day was that the body of Jesus had been stolen from the tomb. Needless to say, the dead body of Jesus Christ has never been found! Next week, we will show how the indisputable fact of the mysterious empty tomb lays the foundation for some strong arguments in favour of the Resurrection.

May God bless you all.
Fr Sean

An Appeal from Pope Francis: Catholics across the globe are encouraged to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic. It takes place under the theme "The whole Church was fervently praying to God," which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5). Pope Francis is calling for the praying of the Rosary across the world during the month of May.

In the Holy Father's vision this worldwide chain of prayer will proceed from the Marian shrines of the world. Pope Francis will open the Marian month of prayer on 1 May with a Rosary broadcast across Vatican Media's platforms and he will also close the initiative on 31 May with another specially-broadcast Rosary. Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6pm Rome time (5pm UK time) from the various Shrines taking part in the initiative. Our own national shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham has been given a pre-eminent place following the Vatican on the first day of May.

As well as asking us all to pray the Rosary daily at home (or join in on a live stream), we will come together as a parish to support the Pope's request, by praying the Rosary together before each of the weekend Masses throughout the month. The Rosary will start 20 minutes before Mass (6:40pm on Saturdays and 08:40am on Sundays).

Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 1 st May	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	William Holt RIP
		St Chad's	7pm	Amanda Sanedrin RIP
Sun 2 nd	5 th Sunday of Easter	St Chad's	9am	Mary Wilkins RIP
		St Ann's	11am	In memory of Bill & Annie Maloney
Mon 3 rd	Ss Philip & James	St Ann's	10am	Frank Murphy RIP
Tues 4 th	The English Martyrs	St Ann's	10am	Neville Harrop RIP
		St Chad's	6.30pm	The Nolan Family RIP
Wed 5 th		No Mass		
Thurs 6 th		St Chad's	9.30am	Peter McCaul RIP
Fri 7 th		St Ann's	10am	Edith & Penny Maher RIP
Sat 8 th	Vigil	St Ann's	5pm	For Tommy & Bernie Hilton
		St Chad's	7pm	Amelia S. Alcazar RIP
Sun 9 th	6 th Sunday of Easter	St Chad's	9am	Kathleen Curtin
		St Ann's	11am	Rosaleen Finnigan 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 September with Mass intentions.

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

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