

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.

Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality The next meeting of the Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality will be held next Saturday 5th June at 10.30am via Zoom. Please send any requests for the password, apologies or items for the agenda to secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk or text/call 07451 249267. Please pass on these details to any hospitality members who may be interested in attending.

Wellspring: This weekend (May 29th/30th) we are able to resume the monthly collections. Please leave any items for donation in the box at the back of church. 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 Mark Dillon, Ann Tasker, Susan Crudden, Betti Agostini, James Walsh, John Cummings, Anne Allmark, Frank Rayson, Mary Durant, Margaret Usher, Margaret Hill, Brendan Howe, Arthur Roche, Bridget McVeigh, Anne Stewart, John Philbin, Helen Williams, John Higgins, Jack Horne, William Smith, Delia Collins, Lucy Taylor, Veronica Emery 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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Email: stchadsheadle@gmail.com **Website:** www.stchadsheadle.com

Office Hours: Thursdays 11am – 1pm



The Catholic Parish of St Chad, Cheadle

Priest: Fr. Sean Davidson

Sunday 30th May 2021 – Trinity Sunday

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I think that often when people reject the Christian faith, they do not actually reject the Christian faith. They reject, rather, some childish caricature of it that they have picked up somewhere along the way. They reject not the God who is by nature pure beauty, pure truth, pure goodness itself, but rather, some narrow little idea in their own heads that they call, “god.” There may be a few philosophers who understand a little more and who still choose to harden their hearts towards the God of Love. (An honest analysis of their deeper motivation for doing so would often be quite revealing.) But, in general, the average atheist whom we observe in a rant on YouTube has a radically impoverished idea of God. If their intellects had been stretched by a bit of authentic Catholic theology in their youth, they might have realised that the Creator God - whose all-powerful Word unleashed the Big Bang - has nothing to do with the grandfather in the clouds that they pictured when they were six years old. When the veil is finally removed from their eyes after death, they will learn that compared to the transcendent light of His glory, the very sun itself is dim.

The Old Testament proclaimed that no mortal could ever see that unfathomable mystery of light which we call God and survive the experience. We would die of sheer love and ecstatic amazement. Imagine the intensity of the human experience known as “love at first sight” multiplied to infinity, and you will have some pale glimpse of what it would be like to look into the Source of all love. The fragile human heart still chained to the earth could not bear the weight of that much love. There are saints who have felt that they would actually die of love after reaching the highest states of contemplation in the mystical marriage of the soul to God. In that final prelude to the bliss of heaven, the soul is often given a momentary glimpse of the Godhead, although still not yet anything like the intensity of the direct beatific vision that we will have in heaven, but enough, nonetheless, to shake them out of their very selves. St Teresa of Avila details much of this in her works from her own personal experience.

What a pity that so many poor creatures dismiss their wondrous Creator before ever they have even understood the first thing about who He is. (They are like a lovely

ornate pot that defiantly denies the existence of a potter.) A few months before his death in 1963, C.S. Lewis wrote the following about the atheistic cosmonaut just back from outer space and boasting of not having seen any sign of God up there:

Looking for God—or Heaven—by exploring space is like reading all Shakespeare’s plays in the hope that you will find Shakespeare as one of the characters. Shakespeare is in one sense present at every moment in every play. But he is never present in the same way as Falstaff or Lady Macbeth. If there were an idiot who thought plays exist on their own, without an author, our belief in Shakespeare would not be much affected by his saying, quite truly, that he had studied all the plays and never found Shakespeare in them. (God) is related to the universe more as an author is related to a play than as one object in the universe is related to another. He created space-time, which is to the universe as the metre is to a poem or the key is to music. To look for Him as one item within the framework which He Himself invented is nonsensical. To some, God is discoverable everywhere; to others, nowhere. Those who do not find Him on earth are unlikely to find Him in space. (Hang it all, we’re in space already; every year we go a huge circular tour in space.) But send a saint up in a spaceship and he’ll find God in space as he found God on earth. Much depends on the seeing eye.

May God bless you all.
Fr Sean

Recommended Reading

The Bible is a Catholic Book by Jimmy Akin (Everything you need to know about how and when the books of the Bible were written, as well as a summary of its essential teachings. The book is also available in audio format.)

Next Sunday we celebrate the feast of *The Most Holy Body & Blood of the Lord*. There will be a short period of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction after Mass on Sunday.

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

Mass Times & Intentions

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
Mon 31 st	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	St Ann’s	10am	Private Intention (Rose)
Tues 1 st June	St Justin	St Ann’s	10am	Pat & George Bristow RIP
		St Chad’s	6.30pm	Mary Kate O’Neill RIP
Wed 2 nd		No Mass		
Thurs 3 rd	Ss Charles Lwanga & Companions	St Chad’s	9.30am	Celia Cusack RIP
Fri 4 th		St Ann’s	10am	Deceased members of the Stephenson & Farrell Families
Sat 5 th	Vigil	St Ann’s	5pm	Deceased members of the Duffy Families
		St Chad’s	7pm	John & Janie Foster RIP
Sun 6 th	The Most Holy Body & Blood of the Lord	St Chad’s	9am	Canon John Gordon
		St Ann’s	11am	Joan Wadcock

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 October with Mass intentions.

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place before Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday Masses.