

Hymn Numbers: 478 (verses 1, 4 & 5), 450, 637 (verses 1 & 2).

Please pray for all those who are sick and for all those who have died recently. We remember: Rose Bennet, Emily Dunne, Thomas Bell, Kenneth Taylor, Ernest Lavelle, Susan McGuinness, Anne Walsh, Frederick Hopkinson, Geraldine Stevenson, John Stevenson, Hannah Stevenson, Rachael Stevenson, Patrick Brennan, Joseph Booth, William McCarthy, Ted Seddon, Peter Schofield, Gertrude Walker, Bernard Haynes, John O'Shea, Joan Gannon, Marcella Johnson, Elizabeth Wood, Patrick Williams and all those who anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

Christmas Tree and Flowers: If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Christmas Tree and Christmas Flowers, then please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Christmas Flowers' and place in the collection box. Thank you.

Piety Stall: There are now Christmas cards available on the piety stall in the Hall foyer, along with cards for other occasions, books of children's bible stories and rosary beads. All items are priced and there is a box on the wall for your money.

Knit and Knatter: The knitters will be selling knitted Christmas Decorations for £1 and knitted chocolate orange covers (including chocolate orange) for £2.50. Cash only. Raising funds for The Little Sisters of the Poor.

Christmas Raffle: The raffle, in aid of parish funds, will be drawn after Sunday Mass this weekend (19th December).

Thursday Coffee Morning: Last week raised £47 for the Leprosy Mission.

The Wellspring: Owing to the way Christmas falls this year, the monthly Wellspring collection will be one weekend early and will be this weekend (December 18th/19th). The items which Wellspring are particularly needing at the moment are jars of curry sauce, milk, eggs, cheese, tins of ham, multipack bags of crisps and multipack chocolate bars. Thank you.

Christmas Cards: The SVP Prisons group were very grateful for all the cards we collected last year. The from St Chad's were refashioned in 7 schools and will be taken to the Chaplains at HMP Berwyn (Wrexham) which houses 1800 men so that they have something to give to their families. We will be having a collection once again so after Christmas we will set up a box so you can bring in your used cards. Thank you

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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The Catholic Parish of St Chad, Cheadle

Priest: Fr. Sean Davidson

Sunday 19th December 2021 – 4th Sunday of Advent Year C



Dear brothers and sisters,

As we begin to feel the joy of Christmas approaching, I share with you some recent words from Pope Francis. He was commenting upon the preaching of St John the Baptist which we have been studying for the past few weeks, and the people's response to his preaching, as they asked him what they should do to prepare to meet Christ:

What should we do? This is the question they asked. Let's reflect a little on this question. It is the enthusiasm for His coming that leads them to ask: what should we do? Let's give an example: let's think of a dear one who is coming to visit us. We joyfully and even impatiently await the person. To welcome the person, we will do what needs to be done: we will clean the house, we will prepare the best dinner possible, perhaps a gift... It is the same with the Lord. The joy of His coming makes us ask: what should we do? But God elevates this question to a higher level: what should I do with my life? What am I called to? What will I become?

By suggesting this question, the Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us. Life is not meaningless; it is not left up to chance. No! It is a gift the Lord grants us, saying to us: discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true! Each of us – let's not forget this – has a mission to accomplish. So, let's not be afraid to ask the Lord: what should I do? Let us ask him this question repeatedly. What would be good for me to do for myself and for my brothers and sisters? How can I contribute to this? How can I contribute to the good of the Church, to the good of society? The Advent Season is meant for this: to stop and ask ourselves how to prepare for Christmas. We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass. But let us ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others!

Let's choose something concrete, even if it is small, to prepare us for this Christmas. For example: I can call a person who is alone, visit that elderly person or that person who is ill, do something to serve a poor person, someone in need. Even still: maybe I need to ask forgiveness, grant forgiveness, clarify a situation, pay a debt. Perhaps I have neglected prayer and after so much time has elapsed, it's time to ask the Lord for forgiveness. Brothers and sisters, let's find something concrete and do it! May the Madonna help us, in whose womb God took on flesh.

May God bless you all.
Fr Sean

Parish Meeting: We had a good discussion about the synod questionnaire on Monday evening. Thank you to all those who completed it. An email was sent out on Wednesday providing some feedback about the discussion and the questionnaire. If you did not receive the email, or if you do not use email, please let us know and we can provide you with a copy of it. It was clear from the responses that some people had trouble understanding the theme of synodality and hopefully as this two-year process unfolds the Church will do more to clarify its expectations and hopes for this particular synod.

At the meeting we also gave an overview of the current finances and a comparison from the last few years.

Closing Balance Year end 31.03.19 = £39,070

Closing Balance Year End 31.03.20 = £37,702

Closing Balance Year End 31.03.21 = £56,850 – this increase was due to a Legacy, our Gift Aid Claim and other donations.

There has been a decrease in the loose plate collection and a small decrease in giving overall, however there has been an increase in those giving by Standing Order. In the year ending 31.03.20 we received £15,066 in standing orders and in the year ending 31.03.21 we received £21,321. As mentioned, due to the generosity of donations and legacies, we are in a good position and the current parish account is approx £54,000. A full financial update/comparison will be given in May 2022 once the accounts for 2021/2022 have been finalised and submitted to the Diocese.

Christmas Services: Please note that our Mass on Friday 24th December at 8pm is now fully booked for sitting in Church. However, we are now able to accommodate people sitting in the hall to join the service, watching via the livestream and you would be able to receive Communion.

There are still spaces available on Christmas Day (Saturday 25th) at 9am and on Sunday 26th December: 9am Feast of the Holy Family. Please email to book your space. Church will open 30minutes before each service and the Welcomers will show you to your place.

Mass Times & Intentions

Sat 18 th		St Ann's St Chad's	5pm 7pm	Jim Foley RIP For the parishioners of St Chad's and St Ann's
Sun 19 th	4 th Sunday Advent Year C	St Chad's St Ann's	9am 11am	Elizabeth Taylor RIP Kevin Hayward RIP
Mon 20 th		St Ann's	10am	DRF McNicholl Family
Tues 21 st		St Ann's St Chad's	10am 6.30pm	Tom Davies RIP Sheilagh Tynan RIP
Wed 22 nd		No Mass		
Thurs 23 rd	St John of Kanty	St Chad's	9.30am	Desmond Flanagan RIP
Fri 24 th	Christmas Eve (Midnight Mass)	St Ann's St Chad's	10am 8pm	Brendan Tynan RIP Celia Cusack RIP
Sat 25 th	Christmas Day	St Chad's	9am	Eamonn Cusack RIP
Sun 26 th	Feast of the Holy Family	St Chad's St Ann's	9am 11am	Melissa Patterson RIP Tony & Brenda Hall

Change to Mass Times: Please note that from Saturday 1st January, our weekend Mass Times will be as follows: Saturday evenings at 6.30pm and Sunday mornings at 9.30am.

Confessions: Available 5.30pm – 6.15pm on Tuesday evenings in the sacristy. Available at other times on request by phoning the presbytery a minimum of 24 hours in advance to arrange.

Perpetual Adoration: Every Thursday 9am-6pm. There is a sign up sheet at the back of church. You are welcome to come along at any time during the day.

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 up to April 2022 with Mass Intentions. Thank you.