

Please pray for all those who are sick and for all those who have died recently. We remember: Bernard Haynes, John O'Shea, Joan Gannon, Marcella Johnson, Elizabeth Wood, Patrick Williams, William Lacking, Monica Furnace, Margaret Broadhurst, Emma Gannon, Bishop Eric Grasar, Neville Coupe, Oliver Kirk, Margaret Frith, Mary Burke, Martin Fury, Winifred Richardson, Peggy Ast, Catherine Connor, Frances Minshall, James Ollerenshaw, William Dixon, Kevin Bancroft, Marjorie Slattery, James Abberton, Doreen West, Desmond Ward, Mary Nicholls, Jack Calderbank, Edith Curran Elizabeth Sutton, Arthur Hogan, Margaret Turner, George Chilton, Charles Lowey, Wilfred Andrews, Margaret Appleby, Joseph Healey, John Gill, Kathleen Britland, Edward Bettley, Ellen Gilmore, Ellen Newton, Joseph Woodman, Florence McGuire, Mary Ahearne, Edward Telford, Eric Chaisty, Stephen Sheeran, Elizabeth Mallalieu, Mary Hannan, Helena Duffy, Reginald Skerrett, John Grant, Edward Mulliner, Anne Burgon, Rose Jackson, William Robb, Vera Connor, Mary Brumby those who anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

Knit & Knatter: Thank you to all those who bought our knitted items. We raised £350 for the Little Sisters of the Poor. Thank you very much.

Christmas Raffle: Thank you to all those who bought tickets, we have raised £330 for Parish Funds. Thank you to: Parishioners who donated prizes, Mary McPeake for organising, Victoria for selling tickets and Chris Hall and Charlie and Francis for helping with the draw. A full list of winners is available at the back of church. Thank you very much.

Christmas Cards: The SVP Prisons group were very grateful for 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.

Children's Liturgy: breaks for the holidays and will resume on Sunday 9th January.300

Club winners for December £20.00 Each:128 Elizabeth Riebold, 72 Stephen Hall, 12 Patrick Duffy AND Christmas Bonus winners £50.00 Each: 30 Bernard Crichton, 31 Catherine Standing

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

Friday 24th December 2021 – The Nativity of the Lord



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a blessed 2022! I like the custom at this time of year of discussing the best books read during the past twelve months. Here is my own tuppence-worth. If I hadn't become a priest, I think I would have liked to become an etymologist, if such a job could even be found. Boredom would have been impossible for me in that line of work. Words and their origins have always fascinated me. The ideas cloaked in sound which we call words have been on a journey for centuries, taking many twists and turns, before finally emerging from our mouths in the forms we now take for granted. I suppose the Lord has always been preparing me for the study of the endless layers of meaning hidden in the etymologies of the Hebrew and Greek words of the Bible. The Gospel's word for sin (*hamartia*), for example, is a word that comes from archery, meaning: to miss the target. Sinful actions are always off the mark for which God made us. I realise that not everybody may share this passion to know the evolution of words, but this year, some of the books I enjoyed most were etymological studies. There are some good ones out there, but there are also websites like etymonline.com which provide much of the same material for free. Here's an example of something I learned this week: Last Sunday, I said that Our Lady went in holy haste to help Elizabeth, teaching us not to *procrastinate* when it comes to good works. Of course, I couldn't possibly use a word like that without pondering its roots. It comes from the Latin words *pro* (forward) and *cras* (tomorrow). It describes the mindset of one who constantly pushes the fulfilment of duties forward into tomorrow. Thus, important things – like visiting the sick, going to Confession etc. - often remain undone.

As regards religious books, the recently published second part of Peter Seewald's biography of Pope Benedict XVI was a good read. Never was a man more misunderstood by the media! The most profitable spiritual book I read this year was *Introduction to the Spiritual Life* by Brant Pitre who is one of the finest biblical scholars the Church has ever produced. Rooted in Scripture and the wisdom of the saints, it provides an easy-to-follow explanation of all the essentials of the spiritual life. The author gives concrete practical advice, not only for cultivating a deeper prayer life, but also on how to uproot our sins and faults. I think if we were to study what he writes carefully - and with God's help put it into practice - we would take giant strides on the path to holiness. If your resolution for 2022 is to become holy, then this is the book for you. If that isn't your resolution, then it really ought to be...

May God bless you all. Fr Sean

Mass Times & Intentions

Fri 24 th	Midnight Mass	St Chad's	8pm	Celia Cusack RIP
Sat 25 th	Christmas Day	St Chad's	9am	Eamonn Cusack RIP
Sun 26 th	Holy Family	St Chad's	9am	Melissa Patterson RIP
Mon 27 th	St John	St Ann's	10am	Grace Kemp
Tues 28 th	The Holy Innocents	St Ann's St Chad's	10am 6.30pm	Des Saddington RIP Sheilagh Tynan RIP
Wed 29 th		No Mass		
Thurs 30 th		St Chad's	9.30am	Florence McCarron RIP
Fri 31 st		St Ann's	10am	Maire & Roy Hatton
Sat 1 st		St Ann's St Chad's	5pm *6.30pm*	Private Intention (J.G.) For the parishioners of St Chad's and St Ann's
Sun 2 nd	2 nd Sunday after Christmas	St Chad's St Ann's	*9.30am* 11am	Anne & Liam MacMahon Arlene & Frank Norris & Family
Mon 3 rd		St Ann's	10am	Private Intention (P.C)
Tues 4 th		St Ann's St Chad's	10am 6.30pm	Shelagh & Tom Hulse Cathal Clooney RIP
Wed 5 th		No Mass		
Thurs 6 th	The Epiphany of the Lord	St Chad's St Ann's	9.30am 11am	Sheilagh & James Tynan RIP Freda Kirk RIP
Fri 7 th		St Ann's	10am	John McMahon
Sat 8 th		St Ann's St Chad's	5pm *6.30pm*	Timothy Duffy RIP The Hince Family
Sun 9 th	The Baptism of the Lord	St Chad's St Ann's	*9.30am* 11am	Judith Gill RIP & David Gill RIP For the parishioners of St Ann & St Chad's

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place before Sunday and Tuesday Masses and from 9am-9pm on Thursday.

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.

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 with Mass Intentions. If you do require a specific date, please give as much notice as possible.

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

Confirmation 2022: Congratulations again to the 2020 and 2021 candidates who have just been confirmed. In the New Year (starting in February), we will be running a new Confirmation programme. This will be open to anyone in Year 9 (and above) who has not yet been confirmed. Those who missed Confirmation for whatever reason are particularly welcome. If you would like to register for the new programme, please email the parish to let us know. The sessions will be on Friday evenings, from 7 – 8:30pm. The sessions will be run jointly with St Ann's.

First Holy Communion 2022: Any children in year 3 and above who are not at Cheadle Catholic but who would like to prepare to receive their first Holy Communion in 2022 please contact us as soon as possible. The dates for preparation and celebration have not yet been finalised but we hope to start with a family meeting in February/March time. The sessions will be run jointly with St Ann's.

Pilgrimage to the Medjugorje Youth Festival from 2nd to 9th August 2022 – Fr Tony is holding a meeting at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 19th January** at Christ Church, Heald Green, for those who want to hear more about this pilgrimage for 18-35 year olds. Under 18's are also welcome on the pilgrimage, if accompanied by a parent(s). Parents of all the young people are welcome to the meeting. You can register your interest by emailing Fr Tony at christchurchhg@yahoo.co.uk