



St. Joseph's, Stockport

THE ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

SACRED HEART FATHERS

Fr. Jim Matthews, scj, Fr Blaise Nsangou, scj Deacon Terry Simms.

The R.C. Diocese of Shrewsbury is registered charity No 234025

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28 June 2020

**Ss Peter
and Paul**

Public Masses Return

I welcome the statement by the Prime Minister last Tuesday, that places of worship are now able to resume collective acts of worship from 4 July. This is welcome news for members of all religions in England. I thank all who have worked hard to bring this about, not least my fellow religious leaders. As Catholics we now look forward to being able to celebrate Mass together again from 4 July. We have waited with patience and longing for this moment, understanding the importance of protecting the health of people in our society. Now we are full of anticipation that we will be able again to take part together in the Eucharist, which lies at the centre of our faith. It is important that we continue to abide by the guidance, given by the Government, on appropriate social distancing and the other measures to avoid all unnecessary risk. Our own detailed guidance will be distributed around dioceses and parishes so everyone can be confident that they may come to Mass securely and understand the part they are to play in protecting each other from any remaining risk of infection. The past few months have been a time of fashioning new patterns of prayer, new ways of exploring and enriching our faith and vigorous ways of reaching out to those in need. We can build on these, forgetting nothing of the graces we have been given. Yet now, with the experience of opening our churches for individual prayer already gained, this return to the more normal patterns of worship will be of great importance to all Catholics. This time of our 'Eucharistic fast' has made our hearts grow in longing for that moment when we can come together and receive again the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. That moment is now very near and for that we thank God.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Masses streamed live: St Peter's, 12 pm weekdays, 10 am Sunday
www.churchservices.tv/stockport

Our Lady's: 9.30 am weekdays; 11 am Sunday.
www.churchservices.tv/ourladystockport

St Anthony's, Wythenshawe <http://wythcc.co.uk>.
 Macclesfield: stalbanstream.html.

<http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/>
<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>
<https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online>

Of your charity pray for the soul of **James Brady**, a generous benefactor of this parish, who **died 3rd July 1923. RIP**

Private MASSES at St Joseph's 28 June-5 July. **Week 13 Ordinary Time.**
Weekday Readings Cycle 11. Psalter Week 1.

SUN	Ss Peter and Paul	5.00pm Vigil	People of the Parish	11.30	Frances Nolan RIP Mary Matthews MM
MON	Ferial	12 Noon	Raymund Smith Anniversary	7.30 pm	Fr David Marsden, SCJ-Ordained 2002
TUE	Ferial	12 Noon	Agnes Milne Recently Deceased	7.30 pm	Annie McGivney Recently Deceased
WED	St Oliver Plunket	12 Noon	Malachy McCloskey Recently Deceased	7.30 pm	Michael Clinton Recently Deceased
THU	Ferial	12 noon	Bill Shoney Recently Deceased	7.30 pm	Vocations
FRI	St Thomas	12 Noon	Terry, Peter and Tony Deaconate (Ann)	7.30 pm	Ilse Collinge - 2012 James Brady -1923
SAT	Ferial	12 noon			
SUN	14 Sunday (A) Ordinary Time	5.00 pm	Brother Richard Moran Intentions	11.30	People of the Parish

Pray for the Sick of the Parish: Survivors of knife attacks in Glasgow and Reading, Robyn Gibbons, Alan Gell, Martin Harris, Bernadette Taylor, Caroline Reynolds, Elizabeth Beattie, Margaret Slattery, Clare Graham and Margaret Wooley (both nee Kenny), Gerard Kenny, Margaret Edwards, Vera Henderson, Tina Labella, James Hayward, Eleanor Mulvey, Betty McIntosh.
Anniversaries: Raymund Smith, Ilse Collinge, James Brady (1923)
Lately Dead: Victims of knife attacks in Glasgow and Reading.

Part of the Mother of God Local Pastoral Area in Stockport

Stepping Hill Hospital Chaplaincy – phone 419.5889 for request for Holy Communion. *Catholic Chaplaincy In Emergency*: page 483 1010 / ask for Catholic chaplain

MESSAGE FROM THE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOPS

We **attach** a message of encouragement for this Sunday from Cardinal Nichols, together with Archbishops Longley, McMahon and Wilson on behalf of the bishops, which we would be grateful if you could share with other parishioners in every way you can. We are approaching a moment to be celebrated and also to be approached with care and caution. We think this is the note clearly sounded in the Archbishops' note to the Catholic faithful.

PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS RETURNS

Following the PM's announcement on Tuesday that services may resume in church from Saturday 4th July, and further to the announcement from the Archbishops of England and Wales, the clergy also received information from Bishop Mark Davies.

WE WILL RESUME PUBLIC MASSES ON

SATURDAY 4th JULY AT 5.00 pm

SUNDAY 5th JULY AT 11.30 AM

There will be at least 3 stewards on duty to make sure we are kept safe and well.

Please see Instructions below.

SUNDAY AND HOLY DAY OBLIGATION

The faithful continue to be dispensed in this national emergency from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. We have not yet returned to a state of "normality" and there are parishioners who may remain shielded/isolated for many medical reasons. For this reason the Bishops of England and Wales would want to encourage the livestreaming of Mass to be continued wherever possible and the encouragement of prayer in the home and acts of spiritual communion for those unable to attend Mass.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH REOPENS FOR PRIVATE PRAYER ON MONDAY 29th JUNE FROM 11.30 TO 1.00 PM

We're opening St. Joseph's church, after this period of lockdown.

We're opening it just for a limited time.

Here at St Joseph's, we've got all the important social distancing measures in place.

We've got all the signs in place.

We've got sanitisers at the entrance and new exit.

We've got separate doors to come in and out.

We'll have stewards on-hand.

More volunteers needed.

So everything's ready to welcome people.

And I think that's the most important aspect –

we want to offer a sense of welcome –

whoever you are.

How to pray and re-connect with the church as we re-open for private prayer.

If you need to come and first of all just find time and quiet in a sacred place, then the church is open for you. If, perhaps, you want to come and pray – and maybe you've not prayed for a while or you've got out of the habit of praying – then let me offer you just some simple words of encouragement.

The first thing is to imagine your prayer as talking from your heart about the things that matter to you, to your best friend. And when you come into the church, find a quiet space. All the benches have been properly laid out, some of them put together to enable social distancing, but you can find a quiet space to sit or to kneel.

Simply close your eyes and in silence, just say to yourself, Lord God, I believe you are here.

And I open my heart to you now. And then just speak from your heart. Speak to God, tell Him the things that are on your mind. Maybe the things that first are worrying you – the things that have been a real concern during this time of lockdown. Maybe about your family, maybe about your work, maybe about our city, our world. Just speak to Him from your heart, tell him anything that's worrying you. Share it with him. And know that He's listening.

Then perhaps think about the particular people that you want to give thanks for, the particular events that you want to give thanks for during this time of lockdown. Who's been there for you? Who sustained you? Who's really helped you? You want to say, "Lord, thank you that that person was there – that that experience was there". Just let these things tumble out from your heart – don't overthink them, just speak. And know He listens. Because He loves you.

Perhaps if you get to the point where you think you've said everything that you've got to say, just be with your eyes closed. And if you know the Our Father, just pray it quietly, slowly, savouring each word.

If you don't know the Our Father, take a simple phrase. Like "Heavenly Father, give me your love". And repeat it. "Heavenly Father, guide me moving forward". And repeat it. "Heavenly Father, protect those who I love". And repeat it.

Prayer at its best is when it's simple. So speak to your heart, to the God who loves you and allow Him to reassure you with His peace.

Fr Jim.

Adapted version of Archbishop John Wilson, St. George's Cathedral, Southwark. (16/06/2020)

Re-opening of the church for:

Private prayer on Monday 29th June, 11.30am - 1.30 pm

Public Mass on Saturday 4th July at 5.00 pm

Public Mass on Sunday 5th July at 11.30 am

Future Masses will be advertised.

Volunteer stewards needed.

Please maintain these simple rules to ensure we are all kept safe:

1. Please do not enter the church if you feel unwell in any way or you have a temperature or cough.
2. Enter church via the main front door.
3. Use the hand sanitiser at the front door as you enter church.
4. A steward will direct you to a freshly cleaned prayer space.
5. If you wish to light a candle please use the candles placed on the round table for you and light it from the already lit candle.
6. Please do not touch any of the statues.
7. At busy times please limit your visit to 15 minutes or so. **Numbers will have to be limited to 30 for private prayer and 50 for Mass due to social distancing.**
8. On leaving the church please take all of your belongings and any papers you have used with you.
9. Please leave church via the side door, top righthand corner, where hand sanitiser is also available.

John Humphries / Dominic Wells / Fr Jim

The NEW envelopes are ready for collection or delivery by parishioners, who have kindly volunteered to do so.

Online giving to the Parish of St Joseph's, Stockport

For those Parishioners who normally give in the collection at Mass and wish to help the Parish at this time, an online donation page to allow you to donate to the Parish has been created for us.

<https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/stjosephstockportdioceseofshrewsbury2183>

Please be aware that a minimum donation of £5 is requested if giving in this way.

You can also Gift Aid your donation to help the Parish further.

If you want to Gift Aid your donation, please tick the box shown on the screen even if you have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration form in favour of the Parish for regular giving made by Offertory Envelope or Standing Order.

Thank you for your support.

Fr Jim