

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

St Joseph's R.C. Church Tatton Street, St. Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EJ

**0161 480 / 3164 Website** [www.stjosephsrcchurchstockport.org.uk](http://www.stjosephsrcchurchstockport.org.uk) / Facebook / Zoom

**SACRED HEART FATHERS**

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

**SATURDAY 20 5.00 pm** John Ferguson and Mary Matthews – both Birthday Remembrances  
**SUNDAY 21 11.30 am** People of the Parish.

**TUESDAY 23 12.00** Joseph Patrick Slattery - funeral service/committal now in Rowan chapel.

**WEDNESDAY 12.00 noon** Maureen Ratford (nee Clarke) Recently Deceased

**FRIDAY 26 12.00 noon** Jessie Land - Recently Deceased. Sr Pauline Briody -1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

**SATURDAY 27 5.00 pm** Alan Gell intentions

**SUNDAY 28 11.30 am** Frances Bellis and Cecilia Walsh 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversaries

**We pray for our sick:** John Jenkins, Alan Gell, Tom Wallis, Eleanor Mulvey, Robyn Gibbons, Betty McIntosh, Patricia Mounsey, Clare Graham and Margaret Wooley (both nee Kenny), Gerard Kenny, Tina Labella, Vera Henderson, Maureen McCumesky

**Anniversaries:** Sr Pauline Briody, John Ferguson, Mary Matthews, Frances Bellis

**Lately Dead:** Anthony Idehen, Joseph Patrick Slattery, Maureen Ratford, Kenneth Yates (father of Paul)

**Lenten Retreat** - Mgr. John Armitage, Master of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, will be leading a Lenten Retreat on all the Mondays of Lent. Retreat Talk will be at 7pm and be followed either by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament or Holy Mass which will be announced in advance. You attend the Retreat by going to the parish utube channel - St. Margaret and All Saints

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5ckD0a-Up9-FZcqs7QDXQ>

**NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH.** On December 8<sup>th</sup> 2020, Pope Francis proclaimed a Year of St. Joseph, to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Pope Pius IX of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. In his Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis acknowledges that during this pandemic we have experienced how "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked... men and women working to provide essential services and public safety... How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all." He adds, "Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play *an incomparable role in the history of salvation*. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all." *Patris Corde* forms the basis this year for the St Joseph's Missionary Society Novena reflections on the life of Jesus' earthly father. Here in Stockport may the praying of this Novena guide and inspire us into a closer relationship with this model of all earthly parenthood. May this model be, as Pope Francis puts it, a "sign" pointing to a greater fatherhood, that of the "heavenly Father". May this Novena be a means of grace and consolation to all who have suffered bereavement and loss during this pandemic. More details next week. **Novena Prayer Leaflets for 10 – 18 March** are available by St Joseph's shrine. We have had some uplifting displays in the shrine over the years. Any temporary ideas for the shrine linking 18<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> May, mindful that people should not touch anything therein during the pandemic? Watch this space.

**Genesis 9:8-15** · *'There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again*      **1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (B)**

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

**Psalm 24**      **R.** *Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.*

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

**R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.

In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

**R.**

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray,

He guides the humble in the right path, He teaches his way to the poor.

**R.**

**1 Peter 3:18-22** · *The water on which the Ark floated is a type of the baptism which saves you now.*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

Mt4:4

**Mark 1:12-15**      *Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

**Presently St Joseph's remains open for Masses as on the front page.** However, you should not mix with anyone outside of your household or support bubble, and should maintain social distancing at all times, inside and outside the church.

**THE VACCINE** The Bishops Conferences of England, Wales and Scotland have issued statements indicating the moral acceptability of receiving the vaccine. Receiving a vaccine accords with Catholic teaching and morality; and we encourage you to follow the example of our Holy Father and indeed of Emeritus Pope Benedict who have both received the vaccine.

**Prayer over the People:** May bountiful blessing, O Lord, we pray, come down upon your people, that hope may grow in tribulation, virtue be strengthened in temptation, and eternal redemption be assured. Through Christ our Lord.