

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	11	<b>5.00 pm</b>	Patricia (Pat) and Peter Heath RIP
Sunday	12	<b>11.30 am</b>	Tom Wallis                      RIP <b>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)</b>
Monday	13	12 noon	Jo Wright                      Recently Deceased
Tuesday	14	12 noon	Arthur Labinjo – Hughes, 6 year old who was denied basic necessities
Wednesday	15	12 noon	Michael John Paul Brown      Anniversary
Thursday	16	12 noon	Austin Waldron                      Recently Deceased
Friday	17	12 noon	Christine Mullin      RIP
Saturday	18	12 noon	Vera Jenkins      Anniversary
		<b>5.00 pm</b>	Ellaine Mellor Intentions
Sunday	19	<b>11.30 am</b>	O'Connor, Murphy and Holland families deceased.

**We pray for Our sick:** Marion Williams, Elaine Mellor, Maureen Coyle, Celia Meehan, Gerry and Nius McGettrick, Simon Glenn, Graham Hindson, Terry Kenny, Harry Groarke, Margaret Runcieman, James Hayward, Bernadette Taylor, Alwyn McCann, Teresa Grice, Winifred Leanaghan, Evelyn Neary, Vera Henderson, Margaret Wooley (nee Kenny), Eleanor Mulvey, Robyn Gibbons, Betty McIntosh, Patricia Mounsey, Tina Labella, Maureen McCumesky.

**Lately Dead:** Joe Wright, Patricia Kenny, Leslie Smith.

**Anniversaries:** Michael John Paul Brown, Vera Jenkins

**Leslie Smith RIP**

We extend our sincere condolences to the family of Leslie Smith who died on 29th November, 2021 aged 75 years. Both he and his wife Sheila went to school here at St Joseph's. The family are planning a Funeral Service here in church on Thursday 16th December at 12.45 followed by a committal in the Rowan chapel at Stockport crematorium at 1.45pm. RIP

**McQuillan Boiler Services Ltd** are still awaiting quotes. The Property manager of the Diocese reckons that McQuillans are looking at placing a new boiler in the present location. The Diocese have looked at the possibility of a historic England grant, but the building is not 2 \* so couldn't apply. It will be good to see what the quotes look like. Many thanks to parishioners who are also interested in moving this forward.

**Cordoned Off area around the side of the Church.** The make-safe work (removing the buddleia from the roof and any loose masonry) by the rear of No 21 Fletcher Street, was completed two weeks ago, and the reconstruction on the back wall should have taken place by now. Matthew Cunningham, Site Manager, St Joseph's School, has been informed that the building team are just waiting for a clear weather window to make the necessary repairs. In the meantime, all of the damaged masonry has been removed and should not pose a threat to pedestrians.

**Penitential Service / Confessions** will be celebrated at Our Lady and the Apostles on Thursday 16 December at 7.00 pm. We are especially reaching out to parishes of St Joseph, St Ambrose, St Vincent and Our Lady. All welcome. The address is: Shaw Hearth, Edgeley, SK3 8BQ.

Christmas Masses at St Joseph's: **Christmas Eve at 5 pm and 8 pm.      Christmas Day at 9.30 am.**

Sunday 26th December, **Feast of the Holy Family, Mass at 11.30.**

**Zephaniah 3:14-18** ·

*The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

**Responsorial Psalm - Isaiah 12 R/** *Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R/**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. **R/**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds; make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R/**

**Philippians 4:4-7** ·

*The Lord is very near*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

**Alleluia, alleluia!** The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia! Is 61:1(Lk4:18)

**Luke 3:10-18**

*'Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire'*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

**COVID 19.** We alert you to an announcement made by the Government on Thursday last and that came into effect at midnight on Thursday (9th December) making **face coverings a legal requirement in all churches and places of worship**. It is now important to indicate this is required by law unless a person is exempt or has a reasonable excuse. It is considered a "reasonable excuse" to remove a face covering when it is necessary for a choir to sing or rehearse. When singing in the congregation, you should keep the face covering on." There will be exemptions for those leading worship, public proclamation of scriptural readings or prayers, and those who are unable to wear face coverings and are exempt.

With respect to the current situation with the **omicron variant** it is important to ensure the following: - people displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person; hand sanitiser is available; that there is good ventilation and air throughput in the building; that we encourage people to get vaccinated and have the booster jab when able. There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of **transmission is through breath and nasal aerosols**, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. If these guidance points are supported, then the churches will continue to be safe places for people to gather for acts of public worship, including over the Christmas period.