

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

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

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**SACRED HEART FATHERS**

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

Saturday 18 5.00 pm Ellaine Mellor Intentions

**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)**

Sunday 19 11.30 am O'Connor/Murphy/Holland families RIP. Steve Henderson-Birthday Remembrance

12 noon Masses: Monday - Patricia Kenny. Tuesday – Christine Maxwell. Wednesday – Frank Wilson.

Thursday – Mary & Michael O'Grady. Friday – Timothy Rattos.

**Christmas Eve Vigil Masses**

**5.00 pm and 8.00 pm**

**Christmas Day**

**9.30 am**

Sunday 26th 11.30 am **Feast of the Holy Family**



God of hope be with us in our Advent journey to the stable and beyond, be with us in our meeting and in our travelling together, be with us in our worship and our praying together, be with us in our Advent journey to the stable and beyond, our God of hope. Amen

**The Sacred Heart Fathers and Deacon Terry wish you a blessed and peace filled Christmas.**

**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, 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. **Anniversaries:** Steve Henderson, Timothy Rattos

**CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal.** In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: [cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](http://cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

**Confirmation - Congratulations** to the following who were amongst 4 dozen young people who were confirmed by Bishop Mark Davies at Our Lady & the Apostles on Thursday 9th November: Kimberley Camille Alviar, Justine Mae Dacoco, Ella Ferguson and Madeline Idehen. Thank you Holy Spirit.

**Micah 5:1-4***He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord*

The Lord says this: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

**Psalm 79***R/ God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

**R/**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

**R/**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name.

**R/****Hebrews 10:5-10***God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: *You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'* Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

**Alleluia, alleluia!** I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia! Lk1:38

**Luke 1:39-45***Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

**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 Funeral Service here in church will take place on Thursday 30th December at 1.45 followed by a committal in the Rowan chapel at Stockport crematorium at 2.30pm. RIP

**CHURCH HEATING**

We are grateful to Mike Mason who continues to engage with the Diocesan Property Manager on the long term, more permanent solution to replace the church boiler and heating system. This is going to take some months. Meanwhile Mike, together with Dominic Wells, John Humphries (H&S) and Fr Jim have managed to cost and sign up for a temporary heating system, for Christmas and weekends. Over the past three weeks condensation has become a major problem in the unheated church. We are intent on looking after the fabric of our hidden gem.

**No 21 Fletcher Street.** Also, during the past week, with good weather conditions, the new owners of No 21 Fletcher Street, managed to repair their damaged wall alongside our Boiler chute. We can once access our church and parish Hall safely via the walkway around the outside of the Church.

**Face coverings are a legal requirement in all churches and places of worship**, unless a person is exempt or has a reasonable excuse. Let us look out for each other!