

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	01	5.00 pm	Eugene O'Reilly RIP	2nd SUNDAY OF THE NATIVITY
Sunday	02	11.30 am	Ann Rose 1st Anniversary Thanksgiving - Yvonne Mellor 60th Birthday	
Monday	03	12 noon	People of the Parish	
Tuesday	04	12 noon	Nichola Thomas - Anniversary	
Wednesday	05	12 noon	Margaret and Mike Dolan intentions	
Holyday of Obligation - Thursday 6th, January - Vigil at 7.00 pm. On the day itself: 12 noon and 7.				
Thursday	06	12 noon	Fr John Gaul, scj – Birthday Remembrance. Mary Russell – Anniversary.	
Friday	07	12 noon	Book of Remembrance and Deceased SCJs	
Saturday	08	5.00	We pray for the deceased members of the following families: Durkin, Claythn, Graham, Harkin, Hodson, Kenny, Maguire, Smith, Toner, Wright and Walden.	
Sunday	09	11.30 am	Bernadette and Alastair Taylor intentions	Baptism of Our Lord.

Please note there will be no 12 noon Mass on Saturdays for the rest of January, as Frs Blaise and Jim are helping out in other parishes. 12 noon Mass as usual on other weekdays at St Joseph's. Apologies for the announcement on New Year's day (Fr Jim).

The Sacred Heart Fathers and Deacon Terry wish you a safer and healthier New Year in 2022.

We thank you for your understanding and patience with us in our celebrations in church of the Birthday of Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for your Christmas greetings, gifts and contribution to the clergy.

We pray for Our sick: Marion Williams, Elaine Mellor, Terry Kenny, Maureen McCumesky, Celia Meehan, Simon Glenn, Graham Hindson, Harry Groarke, 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

Latently Dead: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Margaret Sproson (nee Swindells), Dominique Davies, Naomi Bayne, Peter Xenophontos, Val Morris. **Anniversaries:** Ann Rose, Nichola Thomas, Mary Russell

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. We open ourselves to the needs of others at this time; let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

Congratulations to Kirstie Wheeler and Nathan Cotto who got married here on Wednesday last. May your joys be as bright as the morning, your years of happiness as numerous as the stars in heaven and your troubles but shadows that fade in the sunlight of love. Changes to marriage registrations came into effect on 4 May 2021. The newlyweds, witnesses and registrar (Fr Jim on this occasion) signed a Marriage Schedule. The Registry Office will Issue a marriage certificate later.

Church Heating. The temporary heater worked out well in the lead up to Christmas and Christmas itself. We pretty much mastered the condensation, leaving it safe to walk in church. We left the heater off on 27 and 28. It was back on for the wedding on 29 and a funeral on 30. But by 31, as we go to print, the condensation has got really bad. We have just acquired our own "out of hours" fuel for the weekend.

Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12*From eternity, in the beginning, God created wisdom*

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself. She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One; 'Then the creator of all things instructed me, and he who created me fixed a place for my tent. He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance." From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain. I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle, and thus was I established on Zion. In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority. I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

Psalm 147:*R/ The Word was made flesh and lived among us. Or Alleluia!*

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Zion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates he has blessed the children within you.

R/

He established peace on your borders, he feeds you with finest wheat.

He sends out his word to the earth and swiftly runs his command.

R/

He makes his word known to Jacob, to Israel his laws and decrees.

He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his decrees.

R/**Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18***Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved. That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans. Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia! 1Tim3:16

John 1:1-18 *The Word was made flesh, and lived among us*

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

A New Year Prayer

Lord, You make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our Spirits to be born again. Thank you for this new year for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen.

Face coverings are a legal requirement in all churches and places of worship, unless a person is exempt or has a reasonable excuse. Please be cautious for the next week or two.