

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

UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR THE CHURCHES. We must move forward with caution especially mindful of the risks involved in gathering for sustained periods in enclosed spaces.

People displaying symptoms of Covid-19 must stay at home and not participate in acts of worship.

All parishioners **may** continue to **wear a face covering** whilst in the church building, however, this is no longer required (except in Wales). **During congregational singing face covering must be worn, unless exempt.** Formal social distancing is no longer required in church buildings however, we are urged to be sensitive to the needs and concerns of others. Holy Water stoops may be refilled.

The **Sign of Peace** may be offered again if it is felt appropriate. However, **Bishop Mark** advises us to be cautious in any re-introduction of the practice of hand-shaking, as it is very difficult for a person to refuse and he fears this might become a barrier for parishioners who are vulnerable or anxious. He **suggests that the Sign of Peace may be something for us to consider re-introducing later in the year.**

Saturday	29	5.00 pm	Sean Finnigan	Recently Deceased	
Sunday	30	11.30 am	Patricia Osula	- 1st Anniversary. Vincent Collinge – Anniversary	
Monday	31	12 noon	Fr Chris Jenkins	- 35th Ordination Anniversary. Arthur Perrin – see below	
Tuesday	01	12 noon	Claire's intentions		<i>Keep your</i>
Wednesday	02	12 noon	Zena Morris RIP	Candlemas	<i>Christmas Cards</i>
Thursday	03	12 noon	Michael Linnane	- Anniversary	<i>coming in</i>
Friday	04	12 noon	Frances Bellis	- Anniversary	
Saturday	05	5.00 pm	Book of Remembrance.	Deceased Sacred Heart Fathers.	
Sunday	06	11.30 am	George (died this day 1993) & Christina Colley (buried this day 2020)		

Please note there will be no 12 noon Mass on Saturdays until further notice.

We pray for Our sick: Roy Curran, Eithne Cartwright, Teresa Grice, Celia Meehan, Simon Glenn, Graham Hindson, Winifred Leanaghan, Margaret Wooley (nee Kenny), Eleanor Mulvey, Vera Henderson.

Anniversaries: Fr Chris Jenkins, George & Christina Colley, Vincent Collinge, Patricia Osula, Michael Linnane, Frances Bellis, Ron Rowan. **Lately Dead:** John Harris, Derek Ashton (Peter Kane's in law), Patrick Broadhurst, Sean Finnigan **Arthur Perrin RIP.** Our sincere condolences to the family of Arthur Perrin, whose funeral service will take place on Monday at 2.30 at Stockport Crematorium.

RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND - SPECIAL COLLECTION.

Today the annual Collection for the Retired Priests' Fund is being held. With your help, we can build up the Fund to help meet the future needs of our sick and retired priests. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please make your donation Online. To donate Online please go to www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund An electronic version of a leaflet about the Fund is available at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund and this also explains how you can donate to the Fund by Standing Order or Cheque (please make payable to Retired Priests' Fund) and how to Gift Aid donations made using these methods.

DAFFODILS. We invite you to bring daffodils to decorate our church / Parish Hall throughout February.

BAPTISM courses resume this week in the Parish Hall, by invitation. We pray for our families involved.

Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19*'I have appointed you prophet to the nations'*

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations. 'So now brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you. Do not be dismayed at their presence, or in their presence I will make you dismayed. 'I, for my part, today will make you into a fortified city, a pillar of iron, and a wall of bronze to confront all this land: the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests and the country people. They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you – it is the Lord who speaks.'

Psalm 70**R/** *My lips will tell of your help.*

In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

In your justice rescue me, free me: pay heed to me and save me.

R/

Be a rock where I can take refuge, a mighty stronghold to save me;

for you are my rock, my stronghold. Free me from the hand of the wicked.

R/

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope, my trust, O Lord, since my youth.

On you I have leaned from my birth, from my mother's womb you have been my help.

R/

My lips will tell of your justice and day by day of your help.

O God, you have taught me from my youth and I proclaim your wonders still.

R/**1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13***The supremacy of charity*

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever. Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known. In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; No one can come to the Father except through me. Alleluia!

Luke 4:21-30*No prophet is ever accepted in his own country*

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue: 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?' But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside."' And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.