

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*

**Please note that the 12 noon Mass in church will resume just for Saturdays 19 and 26 March.  
19th: Our Patronal Feastday.                      26th: First Holy Communion for our Year 4 children.**

Saturday	26	<b>5.00 pm</b>	Alice Twomey - Anniversary	<b>8th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C</b>
Sunday	27	<b>11.30 am</b>	Francis Meehan 5th Anniversary	
Monday	28	12 noon	Remembrance Book and Deceased Sacred Heart Fathers	
Tuesday	01	12 noon	Ursula Dziedzinska - anniversary	
<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>		12 noon	Frank Wilson RIP.	<b>7.00 pm in the Hall</b> Parishioners intentions.
Thursday	03	12 noon	Bronislaw Szal - anniversary	
Friday	04	12 noon	Fr David Craig - (Requiem in Nantwich at 11.00 am) RIP	
Saturday	05	<b>5.00 pm</b>	Claire Angela Tomlinson MM	
Sunday	06	<b>11.30 am</b>	Dominique Davies RIP	<b>1st Sunday in Lent Year C</b>

**ASH WEDNESDAY, 2nd of March. Parish masses at 12 noon in church and 7.00pm in the Hall, with distribution of ashes at each mass.** Ashes will be distributed to children in classrooms in school. You are welcome to join our Women of St Joseph group who will have their regular Adoration, in the Parish Hall, from 6 to 7 on Wednesday evening, before the mass.

**We pray for our sick:** Tina Labella, Margaret Runcieman, Sandra Mooney, Roy Curran, Eithne Cartwright, Teresa Grice, Marion Williams, Celia Meehan, Simon Glenn, Graham Hindson, Harry Groarke, Alwyn McCann, Winifred Leanaghan, Vera Henderson.

**Anniversaries:** Alice Twomey, Francis Meehan, Ursula Dziedzinska, Bronislaw Szal

**Lately dead:** Fr David Craig (Nantwich), Cliff Marsh, Mavis Rice, Leonard Jones, Sean Cotter.

**World Day of Prayer "I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU" (Jeremiah)** A women led ecumenical service for the World Day of Prayer on Friday 4 March at 2pm. Venue: St Saviours Church, Great Moor, St Saviour's Road, Great Moor, Stockport SK2 7QE. Be part of a 24-hour continuous wave of prayer from Samoa and back again!! Everyone is welcome. Please bring your friends and family to come to this year's covid safe service which has been prepared by England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It's a prayerful celebration of diversity and a reflection on poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other. Covid permitting, refreshments will be served after the service.

**BAPTISMS** On Saturday 19th February we welcomed the following children into the Christian family: Harry Clegg, Rosita and Dominic Farjam, Dexter Higson, Isabella Steadman. We congratulate their families and assure them of our continued prayers.

We are indebted to our catechists who are gradually catching up with the backlog of requests for christenings.

**FIRST FORGIVENESS.** We celebrated First Forgiveness last Tuesday evening, in church, with 14 children from Year 4. And two more of their classmates also joined in the celebrations, taking part in retelling one of Jesus' famous stories, as well as in the singing and prayers.

Year 4 will now continue their preparations, with their teacher, Mr Timothy Russell, to celebrate First Holy Communion on Saturday 26th March at 12 noon

**Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8***The test of a man is in his conversation*

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where a tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

**Psalm 91***R/ It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.*

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night.

**R/**

The just will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

**R/**

Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **R/**

**1 Corinthians 15:54-58***Death is swallowed up in victory*

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: *Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?* Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia! Ac16:14

**Luke 6:39-45***Can the blind lead the blind?*

Jesus told a parable to his disciples: 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher.

Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit.

For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

**UKRAINE:** Pope Francis has asked that Ash Wednesday be a universal day of prayer and fasting for peace. The tragedy unfolding in the Ukraine is on all of our minds as we prepare for Lent. Let us join the Holy Father in asking the help of the prayers of Our Lady, Queen of Peace to "preserve the world from the madness of war." Attached with this message is a link to the Holy Father's words at the General Audience on Wednesday and also the appeal made by Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Eparchial Bishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in the United Kingdom.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-announces-2-march-as-day-of-prayer-and-fasting-for-ukraine/>

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/ukrainian-bishop-calls-on-government-to-support-ukraine-as-russia-invades/>

**FOOTSTEPS EVENT**

Footsteps is a series of presentations by invited speakers who can help us as we journey in our Christian faith. **Thursday 3 March**, at **7.30pm** in the **large parish centre of St Peter's**, Green Lane, Hazel Grove, SK7 4EA, **Canon John Rafferty** will be reflecting on "**Lent, a time of self discovery and catching a hint of God**".

**Clifford (Cliff) Marsh RIP.** Our sincere condolences to Bernadette, on the sudden death of her husband Cliff, and to their three children, Geraldine, Daniel and Elizabeth. His Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 7th March at 10.am, prior to interment at the Cypress chapel at 11.15 am. May he rest in peace.