

St Joseph's RC Church

Tatton Street, St Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EJ

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Parish Priest: Fr Sean Davidson frseandavidson@gmail.com

2nd October 2022 - 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

Mass Times and Intentions:

Saturday 1 st October	5pm	For the parishioners
Sunday 2 nd	11.30am	Celia Meehan Intentions
Monday 3 rd	12 noon	Marie MacDonald
Tuesday 4 th	12 noon	Special Intention (Eddie)
Wednesday 5 th	12 noon	Cathy Sindall
Thursday 6 th	12 noon	Gerard Kenny RIP
Friday 7 th	12 noon	Remembrance Book
Saturday 8 th October	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 9 th	11.30am	Aleksander Kosowski RIP

Mass Intentions: Envelopes are available at the back of the church if you would like to request a Mass said for your intentions. Please post the envelope through the presbytery door once completed. If the date you require is for the following week, please make sure you return your envelope to the presbytery by Thursday morning.

Adoration and Confessions: Monday to Friday at 11.30am.

We pray for our sick: Carmel Mayo, Anthony Healey, Margaret Runcieman, Doreen Rowan, Mary McTigue, Oliver Gilsean, Michael John Ford, Haydan Fletcher, John McCormick, Tina Labella, Sandra Mooney, Roy Curran, Teresa Grice, Marion Williams, Celia Meehan, Alwyn McCann, Winifred Leanaghan, Robyn Gibbons, Betty McIntosh.

Anniversaries: We remember all those who anniversaries occur at this time.

Recently Deceased: We pray Vera Henderson and for all those who have died recently

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I just wanted to give you an update in relation to the repairs and restoration of our beloved church. As you know, the boiler has been out of action since last November and there is rain water coming into the church in several places. (Not to mention all the other things that need to be done such as replastering, painting, replacement of carpets etc.) On Tuesday, I had a productive meeting with Carol Lawrence, the Financial Secretary of the diocese, and Richard Crawford who is the Property Manager. I offer you a summary of where we now stand. Before beginning to repair and restore the interior of the church, we need to first fix the roof to stop the water ingress. We also need to replace the boiler with an upgraded system and complete the necessary works on the boiler house and pipes. This will be more expensive than I imagined and it requires planning permission which has slowed things down a little.

To carry out the full external and internal repairs of the church it will cost an estimated £406,000. Of this total cost, £80,000 is for the boiler. As of September 1st, we had about £12,000 in our bank account, and we have access to a further £5000 to £10,000 from the central fund held by the diocese. However, this money is also needed for the day-to-day running of the church and for the smaller things that need to be done, such as replacing some of the lights etc. We must also bear in mind that the energy costs are tripling this year, so our bills will be high going forward. Thankfully, the diocese will cover the £80,000 cost of the boiler for us. This won't become a parish debt because it will be taken from the Margarita Sherrot fund. This generous woman left a large amount of money to the Catholic Church in her will, precisely for the purpose of heating churches so that people can pray comfortably. Let us pray for the repose of her soul. The church heating should be back in use by November at the latest. I am afraid that we will still have to dress warm in the church for another few weeks until it is ready.

I mentioned last weekend that we need to establish a fundraising committee so that we can get working on the other urgent repairs. Unfortunately, only one new volunteer has come forward to help us. In the coming months, we will

need to try and raise £120,000 to complete the external repairs to the roof, so as to stop the water from coming into the church. Until this is done, we can do nothing about the internal repairs, so the condition of the church will continue to worsen. We can apply for certain grants in due course but we must also work hard to raise funds ourselves. Please do let me know if you are willing to help with this mission, and regardless of whether or not you wish to be part of the fundraising committee, please help in any way you can. At this critical moment, let us try our very best to preserve this beautiful church for future generations. I believe that if we all take responsibility and work hard together as a team, we can not only preserve it, but also turn it into a magnificent shrine of the Blessed Sacrament for the people of Stockport and for the whole diocese. May St Joseph who provided for the needs of Jesus and Mary help us to find a way to provide for the needs of this church which bears his name. May God bless you all. Fr Sean

Habakkuk 1:2-3,2:2-4 How long, O Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear and you will not save? Why do you set injustice before me, why do you look on where there is tyranny? Outrage and violence, this is all I see, all is contention, and discord flourishes. Then the Lord answered and said, 'Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read, since this vision is for its own time only: eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; if it comes slowly, wait, for come it will, without fail. See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights, but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.

Responsorial Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14 I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God. Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. **Alleluia!**

Luke 17:5-10 The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you. "Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."'"

Confirmations: The Confirmation date for St Joseph's, Our Lady's, St Ambrose's and St Vincent's parishes has been scheduled for 7pm on 9th December 2022 at Our Lady's. If you are 12 years or older and would like to be confirmed please give your name to Fr Sean as soon as possible. The preparation will take place at Our Lady's Church and Our Lady's Social Club and the dates are as follows: Sun 9th

Oct: Presentation Mass at Our Lady's at 11am, *Session dates: Thursdays 7pm-8.30pm: 13th 20th Oct, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th Nov, Sun 23rd Oct: Enrollment Mass at Our Lady's at 11am, Sat 3rd Dec 3pm-7pm Penitential Service / Retreat Day, Thurs 8th Dec Rehearsal at Our Lady's at 7pm*

Fundraising Committee: We will meet at 4pm-5pm this Friday 7th October in the Presbytery. We really do need more people to help us to plan and coordinate events to begin raising the much needed funds for repairs. Please let us know if you are able to help and also if you'd like to help, but are unable to come to the meeting.

Bistro San Jose: Come along for Food and Fellowship 10am-1pm in the Parish Hall every Saturday. All welcome.

Remembrance Book: a reminder that the "Remembrance Book" forms are now placed at the back of church on the sideboard next to St Joseph's aisle. Should you wish for your departed loved ones to be entered into the "Remembrance Book" please complete one form in full, for each person to be entered into the book. The completed form together with a small donation (if possible) should then be placed in the sacristy, preferably, in a marked, "Remembrance Book" envelope. May the souls of all our faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Parish Photos / Records: As part of the ongoing development of St Joseph's, we would like to gather information about St Joseph's and its history. If you have any records, photographs of the church or of events eg Weddings, Baptisms, First Communion that you would like to share, please bring them in and give to Fr Sean. Thank you.