

## St Joseph's RC Church

Tatton Street, St Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EJ

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[www.stjosephsrcchurchstockport.org.uk](http://www.stjosephsrcchurchstockport.org.uk) / [www.eucharisticshrine.com](http://www.eucharisticshrine.com)

Parish Priest: Fr Sean Davidson [frseandavidson@gmail.com](mailto:frseandavidson@gmail.com)

**26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A**

### Mass Times and Intentions:

Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	5pm	John Seaton RIP
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	For all our parishioners
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	For all our Benefactors
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Clare Lee RIP
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Tom & Ellie Walters
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Anne Connolly
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	12 noon	Requiem Mass Tina Labella
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	5pm	James Connolly
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.30am	Emma Slater

Daily Schedule	Monday-Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Mass</b>	12 noon	5pm	11.30am
<b>Eucharistic Adoration Benediction</b>	7am-7pm 6.45pm		
<b>Confessions</b>	11am-11.45am 6pm-6.30pm	4pm-4.45pm	10.30am-11am
<b>Rosary for Vocations</b>	6.30pm		11am

**Adoration:** You are welcome to come anytime during Adoration to spend time with Jesus. If you would be willing to commit to spending one hour per week please email us: [stockportshrine@gmail.com](mailto:stockportshrine@gmail.com) with your preferred day and time. Please note that due to Church Cleaning, on the last Friday of the month Adoration will be 7am-12noon and 2pm-7pm.

**We pray for our sick:** Maureen Burke, Linda Abel, Patrick O'Neill, Ged Gibbons, Cora Tierney, Mary O'Brien, Laurie Glenn, Carmel Mayo, Anthony Healey, Margaret Runcieman, Doreen Rowan, Mary McTigue, Oliver Gilsean, Michael John Ford, John McCormick,, Sandra Mooney, Roy Curran, Marion Williams, Celia Meehan, Robyn Gibbons, Betty McIntosh.

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

**Recently Deceased:** We pray for and all those who have died recently.

**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. Please note that we are several months ahead with Mass Intentions and our current intentions take us up to June. If you require a specific date we will try our best to do that date or as near it as possible. Thank you.

**Money matters:** We received £635.24 in the collection last week. Thank you very much.

**Fundraising:** Thank you to all those who came to the event last week, it was a great night. We raised £983.40 towards the restoration fund. Thank you very much.

**Lily for the Altar:** If you would like to make a donation towards a Lily for the Altar at Easter, please put your donation in an envelope and place in the offertory baskets or through the presbytery door. Thank you.

**\*\*\*Please do not leave your car in the car park on Sundays after 3pm. The gates are often locked in the early afternoon and your car risks being locked in overnight. Thank you.\*\*\***

**Our Easter Services this year will be as follows:**

Maundy Thursday 7pm, Good Friday 3pm, Easter Vigil 8pm, Easter Sunday 11.30am.

**Offertory Envelopes for 2023/24** are now ready for collection, they are at the back of church and in alphabetical surname order, and run from weekend 8th/9th April 2023. If anyone wishes to join the scheme, a list is at the back of church, please write your details, name, address, contact number and email address, also please indicate if you are a UK Taxpayer and wish to join the Gift Aid scheme, which enables the parish to claim 25% on every UK pound you donate. Anyone wishing to donate via Standing Order, please complete one of the forms, also at the back of church, once completed please give the form to your bank. If anyone has had a change in address, change in circumstances or would like to know more, please contact Rosemary on 07977002396. Thank you.

**Fundraising Walk:** Stephen Gallagher is walking from Stockport to Walsingham to help to raise funds towards the restoration of our roof at St Joseph's. Stephen will begin his walk on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, arriving in Walsingham on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April. His walk will average out at a marathon per day for 7 days. If you would like to support Stephen and help him to raise funds you can donate on his justgiving page. <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stephengallagherstockporttowalsingham>

**Walsingham 2023:** The balance of your Walsingham payment is due on or before 31/3/2023. If payment is by cheque or cash please hand this in to Father Sean or myself at church in an envelope marked for my attention. Cheques should be made payable to SRCDT St Joseph Stockport. Bank transfer should be made into the parish account using the reference Walsingham 2023: Account number: 54672068 Sort code:30-15-52. If paying by bank transfer please email [shelaghclarinet@virginmedia.co](mailto:shelaghclarinet@virginmedia.co) to advise you have paid this way.

**Lent 2023 - A Day for the Eucharist on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 10am-2pm at St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine.** A time of catechesis, fellowship, and prayer. No booking is necessary. Bring a packed lunch and drinks will be available. See poster at the back of Church for the full schedule. All are welcome, and we especially encourage readers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to attend.

**Catholic Mothers group:** Inviting all Mothers, Grandmother's, God Mothers and Spiritual Mothers who would like to deepen their faith in a relaxed environment. Tuesdays in term time 10:30am at St Joseph's Presbytery. Children most welcome. Any queries please contact Laura [laura.wilson448@gmail.com](mailto:laura.wilson448@gmail.com)

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** Bookings are now open for this years Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Overland pilgrimage will depart on 27 July returning on 4 August. By air will depart from Liverpool airport on 28 July returning on 3 August. Details available on the pilgrimage website [www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk). Young pilgrims (aged 16 - 22) who wish to join us in Lourdes, to assist and serve the sick and elderly pilgrims please contact Sandy Fairley at the Youth Mission Team [youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) for more details.

**Online course on Vatican II: Part III The Church.** The first podcast on *Lumen Gentium* is now available at [dioceseofshrewsbury.org](http://dioceseofshrewsbury.org). together with **3 handouts for downloading or printing:** An Introduction to *LG*; A visual presentation of its 8 chapters; An outline of issues addressed in it. A **leaflet** outlining the content of all of the podcasts in the series is available in the parish. Should you have difficulty accessing this material, any questions or reflections, please don't hesitate to call Barbara Davies on 07730 526821.

**Vacancy:** The Diocese is looking to recruit a Youth Mission Team Member to engage with young people in schools and parishes across the Shrewsbury Diocese, based in Stockport. For more information please visit <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies>. Closing date Fri 7 April.

**SVP Membership Support Officer (MSO)** The SVP would like to recruit a MSO for the Shrewsbury Diocese. A part time role (15 hours per week) working as part of the SVP Membership Team, to support member recruitment and development, provide general support for members and be the link between local Conferences and National Office. Home based but requires the ability to travel around the diocese to make recruitment appeals, work with existing groups, attend meetings and meet with interested parties where appropriate. Own transport essential and travel expenses are paid. For further information and details of how to apply, contact Lance Philpott, Head of Membership at [lancep@svp.org.uk](mailto:lancep@svp.org.uk) Closing date for applications is Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

**Concert:** On the evening of Good Friday, April 7th, Manchester-based Charity Manchester Baroque will be playing at Manchester Cathedral to perform Bach's St. John Passion with Manchester Cathedral Choir, one of the most moving pieces of music ever written, performed for the occasion in the Church calendar for which it was originally written. Tickets start at £10 plus booking fees. See [bit.ly/3gX4dGe](http://bit.ly/3gX4dGe) for details.

## Readings 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lent

**Ezekiel 37:12-14:** The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this— it is the Lord who speaks.

**Responsorial Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

**Romans 8:8-11:** People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord whoever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

**John 11:1-45:** There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.' He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.