

## St Joseph's RC Church

Tatton Street, St Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EJ

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

**17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent Year B**

### Mass Times and Intentions:

Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> Vigil	5pm	Eleanor Mulvey RIP	
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent Year B	11.30am	For all of our parishioners	
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Miriam Henry	
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Anthony Wright & Family	
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	For all of our Benefactors	
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> <i>St Peter Canisius</i>	12 noon	For Karen – in thanksgiving	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	12 noon	Mary Groarke	
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Vigil	5pm	Private Intention	
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Advent Year B	11.30am	Timothy Rattos RIP	
Midnight Mass - beginning with Carols	7.30pm	For the people of the Parish	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> The Nativity of the Lord	10am	Jennifer Dunford RIP	
<b>Daily Schedule</b>	<b>Monday-Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<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

**Please note that on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December, due to the School Christmas Service in church at 2pm, Adoration in the afternoon will not begin until 3pm.**

**The Adoration/Confessions daily schedule will conclude at 7pm on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and restart again at 7am on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**We pray for our sick:** Jacobi Hill, Maddie Makonyola, Maria Sandiford, Jane Coupes, Michael Philbin, Maureen Burke, Linda Abel, 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, Roy Curran, Marion Williams, Celia Meehan, Robyn Gibbons, Nathan Hatfield, Alan Gell, Angela Mullin, Keith Morris, Pat Morris, Lesley Morris, Maria DeSilva.

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

**Recently Deceased:** We pray for 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 behind with Mass Intentions and we are now including Mass Intentions received in April time. 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 £703.42 in the collection last weekend. This weekend we will have a second collection for Caritas. Thank you.

**Sycamore Course:** Last session. All parishioners are welcome to join us in the parish hall at 7pm on Monday evening (18<sup>th</sup> December) for this time of faith formation and fellowship, we are into the last few weeks of the sessions. Duration: an hour or so. The session **is: Mary and True Hope of Heaven**

**Sponsor a Slate:** the scaffolding is almost completed and work on the new roof will begin in the new year. In order to help raise more funds towards the cost of this and future works, we are offering the chance to 'Sponsor a Slate'. For a suggested minimum donation of £20 you can sponsor a slate. Perhaps you would like to:

- Remember a loved one
- Mark a special event eg baptism, confirmation, marriage;
- Celebrate a birthday or anniversary.

If you would like to sponsor a slate, please write your sentiment in block capitals on the paper provided (max 25 words), place it in the envelope together with your donation and return it either in the Offertory collection, in the box provided or through the presbytery door (please complete one sheet per slate). Your sentiment will be written on the slate on your behalf. The names of all slate sponsors will be recorded in a dedicated Book of Thanks and your intentions will also be remembered during our weekly Mass for all our Benefactors. Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity.

**Walsingham 2024:** Update on 2024 Pilgrimage. We have booked for 6 May to 10 May 2023 4 nights. Depending on fundraising the cost will be between £435 and £450 per person. The main change is that Elmham House now require a non refundable deposit of 25 percent so we will also be asking this plus a small deposit for the coach travel. The amount required on booking will be £100 per person which is non refundable. If you wish to book please email [shelaghclarinet@virginmedia.co](mailto:shelaghclarinet@virginmedia.co) advising how many people. Please pay deposits by cheque made payable to SRCDT St Joseph. Deadline for bookings and deposits is 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**St Joseph's Primary School, Proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number:** a consultation is now taking place on the proposed reduction of their school places from 25 to 15 to take effect from September 2025. The consultation runs until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024. All stakeholders are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal to: PAN Consultation, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Etchells Street, Stockport, SK1 1EF or email to [admin@st-josephs-pri.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-josephs-pri.stockport.sch.uk) subject PAN Consultation. There are copies of the letter at the back of church as well as on the noticeboard.

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**Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11:** The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

**Psalm:** My soul rejoices in my God.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24:** Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

**John 1:6-8,19-28:** 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. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.