

St Joseph's RC Church

Tatton Street, St Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EJ

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Parish Priest: Fr Sean Davidson frseandavidson@gmail.com

24th December 2023 – 4th Sunday Advent Year B

Mass Times and Intentions:

Saturday 23 rd Vigil	5pm	Private Intention
Sunday 24 th 4 th Sunday Advent Year B	11.30am	Timothy Rattos RIP
Midnight Mass - beginning with Carols	7.30pm	For the people of the Parish
Monday 25 th The Nativity of the Lord	10am	Jennifer Dunford RIP
Tuesday 26 th <i>St Stephen</i>	12 noon	Paul McHugh RIP
Wednesday 27 th <i>St John</i>	12 noon	For all of our Benefactors
Thursday 28 th <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	12 noon	David Christopher Whelan RIP
Friday 29 th <i>St Thomas a Becket</i>	12 noon	Alwyn McCann RIP
Saturday 30 th Vigil	5pm	For the people of the parish
Sunday 31 st <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>	11.30am	Tina La Bella RIP

The Adoration/Confessions daily schedule will conclude at 7pm on December 22nd and restart again at 7am on 8th 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 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.

Christmas Concert - thank you everyone who came along to the Christmas Concert held by Stockport Male Voice Choir - we raised £1000. Everyone had a wonderful evening and really appreciate all the help we received to make this evening such a success. Thank you.

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 advising how many people. Please pay deposits by cheque made payable to SRCDT St Joseph. Deadline for bookings and deposits is 20th 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 6th 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 subject PAN Consultation. There are copies of the letter at the back of church as well as on the noticeboard.

Used Christmas Cards: the SVP will collect used Christmas Cards for remaking by Mini Vinnies into new Christmas Cards to go to families of prisoners next December. Please put your used cards into the black bag at the back of church. Thank you

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16: Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'"

Responsorial Psalm: I will sing forever of your love O Lord.

Romans 16:25-27: Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Luke 1:26-38: The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.