

St Joseph's RC Church

Tatton Street, St Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EJ

Tel: 0161 480 3164 Parish Email: stockportshrine@gmail.com

www.stjosephsrcchurchstockport.org.uk / www.eucharisticshrine.com

Parish Priest: Fr Sean Davidson frseandavidson@gmail.com

31st December 2023 – The Holy Family

Mass Times and Intentions:

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
Monday 1 st January <i>Mary the Holy Mother of God</i>	12 noon	Eileen & Gerald Smalley
Tuesday 2 nd <i>Ss Basil the Great And Gregory Nazianzen</i>	12 noon	Heather & Herbert Gaskell RIP
Wednesday 3 rd <i>Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	12 noon	Jason Walker
Thursday 4 th	12 noon	For all of our Benefactors
Friday 5 th	12 noon	For all those in our Remembrance Book
Saturday 6 th Vigil	5pm	Michael Joseph Martin
Sunday 7 th <i>Epiphany</i>	11.30am	Rick Wilson

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.

Children's Liturgy: will restart again on Sunday 21/01/2024. Thank you to everyone that has donated items for the Children's window display, The Lantern Crib, we invite you all to visit our crib and look as the first Shepherds did.

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.

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

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.

Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3: The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Responsorial Psalm: O blessed are those who fear the Lord

Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19: It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: *It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on.* He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Luke 2:22-40: When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord,— observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord*— and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected — and a sword will pierce your own soul too — so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.