

Fr. Jim Matthews,scj Fr Blaise Nsangou, scj Deacon Terry Simms

St Joseph's R.C. Church, Tatton Street, St. Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EJ 0161 480 3164

The R.C. Diocese of Shrewsbury is registered charity No 234025

Edited Statement from the President and the Vice-President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on the **National Lockdown** (04/11/2020)

Parliament has passed into law the Regulations governing many aspects of activity in the whole of England until 2nd December. These Regulations prohibit the gathering of people for communal worship in churches and other religious buildings.

Churches remain open and in use for activities other than communal worship, including personal prayer and support for those in need. Funeral Masses and funeral services may be held.

Please refer to the Regulations (for places of worship see paragraph 18) and associated Guidance. Despite profound misgivings it is important that we, as responsible citizens, observe these Regulations, which have the force of law: *'Remind them to be obedient to the officials in authority; to be ready to do good at every opportunity'* (Titus 3:1). We do this in solidarity with so many others on whom are being imposed restrictions which impact severely on their lives and livelihoods.

It is also important to recognise that these Regulations are not an attack on religious belief. However, they do demonstrate a fundamental lack of understanding of the essential contribution made by faith communities to the well-being, resilience and health of our society.

At this difficult moment, we ask that, as a Catholic community, we make full use of our churches as places of individual prayer and sources of solace and help.

We must sustain each other in our patterns of prayer, joining a national shared moment of prayer each day at 6pm, and observing the Vigil of Christ the King (21st November) as a day of prayer for the ending of this pandemic.

And we encourage you all in your practical service and support of each other and those around you in need. This pathway of prayer and service is the royal road we are to take as a gracious witness in our society today.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP.

The **Eucharistic Congress**, scheduled to take place in Bucharest in 2020, has been deferred to **September, 2021**. As part of the preparation for this event, the International Organising Committee is inviting all Catholics to mark the Feast of Christ the King by joining in a time of adoration and prayer on Saturday, November 21st 2020. All the information needed to do so can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.iec2020.hu/en/news-press/7th-worldwide-adoration-and-prayer-21st-november>

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN

Since Thursday 5 November national COVID-19 restrictions apply in England. These restrictions require people to stay at home, except for specific purposes and prevent people gathering with those they do not live with, except for specific purposes. Parishioners are allowed to leave home for private prayer in church.

PRIVATE PRAYER AT ST JOSEPH'S: During the National Lockdown there will be no Public Masses. **We will be open for Private Prayer on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11.30 am - 12.30 pm.** **We are indebted to our stewards, two of whom will be on duty to keep us safe and well.**

Website / Facebook / Zoom: When you visit our Website you will find we are on Facebook, and find details of how to join our parish coffee zoom on Sundays at 1.30 pm

11.30am Mass on Sundays during this 2nd Lockdown will be live streamed on the Facebook page. You can join by clicking this link <https://fb.me/e/223wf3Shb> or by clicking through the link on the home page of the website

Mass Intentions for Private Masses celebrated by your clergy this coming week

Sunday 8 th	NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS	Kumba Families
Monday	NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS	Peggy & Keith Ronald Donne RIP
Tuesday	NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS	Thomas Green RIP
Wednesday	NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS	Katherine Williams – Cremation Service today RIP
Thursday	NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS	Elizabeth Hennessy RIP
Friday	NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS	John Ferguson (Anniversary)
Saturday	NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS	John White (1 st Anniversary)
Sunday 15 th	NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS	Anne Rose intentions - now resident of Appleton Lodge

NOVEMBER DEAD LISTS

November Dead lists, enclosed in an envelope, are available as you leave church. Kindly place your completed list and offering in the envelope and place it in the collection basket or post it through the Presbytery letter box. The 5.00 pm / 11.30 am / 12 noon (in presbytery oratory on Monday & Thursday) throughout November will be offered for the deceased persons specified on the lists. Anniversaries/Recently Deceased will be added.

CLERGY EDUCATION & TRAINING FUND - SPECIAL COLLECTION

This week the annual Collection for the Clergy Education & Training Fund is being held.

On the training and formation of Priests, the future of our Diocese so much depends.

If you are visiting Church for private prayer, please leave your donation in the basket / bucket provided near the exit.

If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please make your donation Online. To donate Online please go to

www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/clergy-education-and-training-fund

An electronic version of a leaflet about the Fund is now available at

www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/clergyeducation-and-training-fund This explains how you can also donate to the Fund by Standing Order or Cheque and how to Gift Aid donations made using these methods

We continue to pray for the families affected by the Kuma massacre of children in Cameroon. Also Sam Runcieman, John Jenkins, Margaret Edwards (Stepping Hill), Ann Rose, Tom Wallis, Alan Gell, Gaye Howcroft-Jones, Clare Graham and Margaret Wooley (both nee Kenny), Gerard Kenny, Tina Labella, Vera Henderson, James Hayward, Eleanor Mulvey, Robyn Gibbons, Betty McIntosh, Patricia Mounsey, Maureen McCumesky, Bernadette Taylor

Lately Dead: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Katherine Williams, whose cremation service will take place at Stockport on Wednesday at 12 noon. We extend our sincere condolences to her four children and extended family. RIP

SUNDAY OBLIGATION – The faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays. The Bishops encourage the use of livestreamed Mass, the encouragement of prayer in the home and acts of spiritual communion for those unable to attend.

Part of the Mother of God Local Pastoral Area in Stockport

Stepping Hill Hospital Chaplaincy – phone 419.5889 for request for Holy Communion. *Catholic Chaplaincy In Emergency*: page 483 1010 / ask for Catholic chaplain

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED. Being deprived of Mass once again is unusual for us - whereas for many fellow Catholics the persecution they suffer makes it a regular occurrence. Please help A C N to support them by buying Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, etc from our website www.acnuk.org