

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

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

0161 480 / 3164 Website www.stjosephsrcchurchstockport.org.uk / Facebook / Zoom

SACRED HEART FATHERS

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

20 – 27 December 2020

4th Sunday of Advent (B)

Saturday 19th 5 pm People of the Parish. **Sunday 20th 11.30 am** Frank Ferguson – Anniversary

Tuesday 22nd 12 pm Margaret Edwards RIP **Wednesday 23rd 12 pm** Timothy Rattos - Anniversary

CHRISTMAS EVE: MASSES at 5.00 pm and 8.00 pm are fully booked.

CHRISTMAS DAY: MASS AT 9.30 am ONLY. Seats may still be available, via our Website or Fr Jim

CHRISTMAS MASSES: On this unprecedented occasion please be advised that the church will open less than half an hour before each Mass. John and Shelagh Humphries will have worked out beforehand where people will be seated. As usual during this pandemic, you will be greeted at the main entrance, invited to sanitise your hands and then be taken to your place. Please refrain from chatting to people around you. At the end of Mass you will be directed out through two exits. Once outside please refrain from talking to others / respect others – that would be the best Christmas blessing they could wish for. **REMEMBER to stay 2 metres away from anyone not in your household.**

NO CONGREGATION SINGING AT ANY OF THE CHRISTMAS MASSES.

A few of our Music Ministry Team will take care of music on their own, observing the rules and regulations of the 'Resumption of Group Music and Choirs in Church'.

SATURDAY 26th 5.00 pm Parishioners No need to pre book.

SUNDAY 27th 11.30 am St Joseph's teachers and staff intentions. No need to pre book.

Please be advised that if you decide, for health reasons, not to attend church on Christmas Eve / Day, **remember that the celebration of Christmas continues for eight days.** Everyday of the octave is treated the same as Christmas Day. So you can celebrate your Christmas Mass with us on Saturday, Boxing Day at 5 pm, on Sunday Feast of the Holy Family at 11.30. Same applies to Tuesday (29th) Wednesday (30th) and Friday, New Year's Day, Feast of Mary Mother God - all at 12 noon.

St Joseph's Primary School

Mrs Anne Hamilton has just finished as our Headteacher at the end of term and we thank her for her years of service to Stockport and surrounding areas and wish her health and happiness in her future endeavours in other educational fields. Claire Spinks has taken over as Interim Headteacher this week and we thank her for the support she is offering the school in this interim period.

School Holidays: Our children started their holidays on Friday. We thank our teachers and staff for all the sacrifices they have made since the summer to keep our children and their families safe and well.

CAROL SERVICE will be celebrated from St Joseph's this Sunday 20th December from 7 to 9 pm. This will be online with our Facebook Live. **Website** www.stjosephsrcchurchstockport.org.uk

4th Sunday of Advent 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 ·

Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me

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 88(89):2-5,27,29

R. *I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.*

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

R.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.

R.

'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me."

I will keep my love for him always; with him my covenant shall last.'

R.

Romans 16:25-27 ·

The mystery is revealed that was kept secret for endless ages

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.

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia! Lk1:38

Luke 1:26-38

'I am the handmaid of the Lord'

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.