

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

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

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**SACRED HEART FATHERS**

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

27 December 2020 – 3 January 2021

THE HOLY FAMILY

**NO CONGREGATION SINGING AT ANY MASS**

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

<b>SATURDAY</b>	26	5.00 pm	Parishioners
<b>SUNDAY</b>	27	11.30 am	St Joseph's teachers and staff intentions
<b>TUESDAY</b>	29	12.00 noon	Steve Henderson Birthday Remembrance
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	30	12.00 noon	Alan Gell intentions
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>NEW YEARS DAY</b>	12.00 noon	Liam Gibbons Recently Deceased
<b>SATURDAY</b>	2	5.00 pm	Bernard Wild Birthday Remembrance
<b>SUNDAY</b>	3	11.30 am	St Joseph's School.

Please be advised that if you were unable to attend church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, **that the celebration of Christmas continues until New Year's Day, 2021**. 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 (29<sup>th</sup>) Wednesday (30<sup>th</sup>) and Friday, New Year's Day, Feast of Mary Mother God - all at 12 noon.

**Coronavirus - reflection**

The Coronavirus has come as a huge shock to us, and within a very short time, it has challenged our attitudes and behaviours radically. In one sense, life continues as normal – and yet it's not normal at all. Should I take the bus? Can I go safely out for a walk? Should I visit my neighbour or my friend? That cough I notice, could it be the virus? What of the children's education? What if I lose my job? Are we going to have a recession? How long will this last? Will we ever get back to real normality again?

We thank God for a vaccine for this disease which will be made widely available for everyone who needs it, rich or poor. But in the meantime we can reflect on our shock. It's a reminder to us that we are never in total control of our lives, that we can never eliminate every misfortune or heal every illness. Ultimately, our trust has to be in something more solid than we can ever find here on earth. Ultimately, God alone is our security. 'God is our refuge and our strength, a helper close at hand in times of distress' (Ps.46:1). Trust Him.

**Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3** *Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood*

**Mass Readings**

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.

**Psalm 127(128):1-5** R. *O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!*

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper.

R.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.

R.

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

R.

**Colossians 3:12-21** *Family life in the Lord*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

**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!  
Heb1:1-2

**Luke 2:22-40** *My eyes have seen your salvation*

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.