

**St Joseph's RC Church, Reddish,
SK5 6AZ**

April Monthly Newsletter

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Office Hours: 10 – 1pm Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri



Parish Mass Times and Reconciliation

Sat 5 pm Sunday Vigil Sunday 9am & 10am

Reconciliation Sat 11.30am – 12noon; and anytime on appointment.

Weekday Masses as announced each week.

Would you like to be more involved in St Joseph's Parish?

An important thing that we must realise about parishes today is that they can not manage without lots of people being involved with the running of them. Years ago there would be about two or three priests in a parish with one church building. Now many parishes have amalgamated with one priest looking after several churches. In this parish, for the moment we have one parish, which is small in area, with one priest. This is unlikely to remain as it is. There are many priests due to retire in the next few years and there have been very few ordinations. The diocese is already drawing up plans for 2030. It is important that we start looking at how are we going to prepare for a time when we may not even have a priest resident in the parish, so how will we function? Many are doing so as people pull together, so what do we need to do?

Firstly, we need to take a long hard look as to what the needs of the parish are, and how will we manage to keep it running. Already there are very few volunteers in the parish and those that are getting older and some are tired having given their best for many years. At present we need Catechists to take the children for their "Liturgy of the Word" during Mass. We need young parents to come forward to help in this area. The more volunteers the more the work is spread out and less burdensome. We need musicians at Mass' at present we have one guitarist. Have we any more musicians in the parish, or at least a sound manager who can play backing tracks? We need people to count the money each Sunday after Masses and record the amounts, there always needs to be at least two people present. Eight people could cover once a month commitment. There are no Altar Servers at Mass. Boys and girls are you ready to help? We have some good "Welcomers" but we need more to make people welcome and share the load. We definitely need more Eucharistic to take Communion to the sick and housebound. I also feel that we need a Bereavement Support Group to be there for people over a period of time to help them readjust to live without a loved one and help them through loneliness and befriend them. We can get people trained for this important role. We have no youth workers in the parish to accompany our youth on their journey. Such important role models are vital to offer support, guidance and leadership.

As I say, there is much work to be done to build up the family of St Joseph's. If this work is carried out the sense of fulfilment is enormous as God uses us to carry out his work. Then the priest can focus on his sacramental and preaching role which he will be doing to a larger number of people in several churches covering a wider area. If you have thoughts on how you might be able to help then speak to Fr John or other members of the parish. The gifts and talents that are in the parish are enormous, we just need to get everyone working together as "Apostles of Christ". Even if you are not sure what you are good at, but are willing to help, then let us know.

Over to you the parishioners. Fr John

Holy Week and Easter

Please try to make an effort to come along to the Holy Week and Easter Services. This is the most important time in the Church's year. The Triduum (that is Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Saturday Services are all one long Service starting with **The Mass of the Lord's Supper and it continues with watching with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane until 9pm.** There is no formal end to this Service and there is no formal start to the **3pm Service of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday.** This Service is not a Mass as Masses are not offered on Good Friday. Nor is there a formal dismissal at the end of the Good Friday Service. There are no sacraments administered, except the Sacrament of the Sick, on Holy Saturday, and then only in emergency cases of death. Again the Service on Holy Saturday Night, **The Easter Vigil at 8.30pm begins with the Blessing of Fire.** Following this the Liturgy of the Word, taking place in dimmed lighting recounts from creation how God revealed himself through the history of the Hebrews to the Passover and the early settlement in the Promised Land. The Mass, having begun after nightfall comes alive with the proclamation of the Gloria announcing the Resurrection, and the singing of the Easter Alleluia. The Baptismal water is then blessed and the Baptismal promises renewed. In many parts of the world people rise early to await the rising of the sun coming up from the Eastern horizon to celebrate the Resurrection. Then at midday on Easter Sunday the Pope gives his Easter message to the world.

On the back page of this newsletter is a prayer list which we invite you to use at home. During each Mass the intention will be used. Over the coming months we will pray for each street in the parish and also each child on the Sacramental Programme or the Confirmation Programme. In November we will pray for the deceased. This will be our parish prayer list to help us think of intentions as one. In other words: "A parish at prayer."

Congratulations to: Mr and Mrs Stephen and Kara (Teese) Sumner who have just been married here at St Joseph's.

Parish Soup Lunch – When? First Friday of the Month- Starting in May We are looking to start a Friday Soup Lunch to raise money for CAFOD. You come for a lunch of soup and bread and make a donation that will go to CAFOD. You also get to meet other parishioners. These will be held in the parish/school hall after a late morning Mass. If you wish to attend please let John Dowling know, he is preparing the soup!

Parish Accounts for February 2022 Due to lack of time and space to do the accounts for February, I will include them in the May newsletter. Apologies, Fr John

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) are having their next meeting on Monday evening at 7.30pm in the Parish/School Hall. Anyone is invited to attend and will get a great welcome.

St Vincent de Paul (SVP) The members of our Parish SVP Society are looking for people to help. Our conference has been active in the Parish for some time, but our activities were restricted due to Covid and the lockdowns along with people sheltering. We are sure that there will be people in the parish or people within the area that you know of that could do with some help. The SVP are here to help, it could be as simple as a visit & chat or more practical help such as shopping, prescription collection, giving someone a lift to Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

If you would like some help or know of friends or neighbours who could benefit from the help of the SVP then please pass on the information to Fr John or contact Maureen Hartley on 07843738211. Our SVP Society needs your help & information to reach out & help those in need. We are a small team so are always happy to welcome new members, if you would like further information again contact Maureen Hartley on the phone number above.

Foodbank Are you aware that there is a Foodbank within the Parish boundaries ?

The Reddish branch of Stockport Foodbank is based at the Bairstow Centre:
2 St Rupert Reddish SK5 6DL, opposite Morrison's Supermarket, which is open from:
10.30 to 12.30 Thursdays & Saturday

If you or someone you know a friend or a neighbour needs help with the supply of basic foodstuff then please advise them to attend the Foodbank on Thursday or Saturday. A voucher is required for the supply of food but these are easily obtained from local schools, Doctors Surgeries, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Prevention Alliance Stockport, Health Visitors, Key Workers or Stockport Homes (**if you are a Stockport Homes tenant**)

Vouchers CANNOT be issued from the Bairstow Centre, but the staff there will be happy to help and provide further information on how to obtain vouchers, so please call in or prompt those who might need the help to do so.

Pilgrimages are now being organised for later this year. Two are as follows:

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham led by Bishop John Arnold

Saturday 7 May 2022

After a break of two years, due to the pandemic, we are pleased to confirm the resumption of our annual pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine in England. The pilgrimage will be led by Bishop John and will take place on Saturday 7th May 2022. The pilgrimage programme includes a procession praying the rosary down the 'Holy Mile', a reconciliation service and the celebration of Mass. Priests are warmly invited to attend and assist with confessions. There will also be some free time to explore the Shrine. We hope coaches will be available from each deanery, leaving around 7:00am and arriving back around 10:00pm. The cost for the day trip is £20.00. Those wishing to make their own way are welcome to join the pilgrimage in Walsingham. There is a coach going from St Bernard's, Burnage for those interested. See the posters in the main porch for information which also offer at extra cost the possibility for people who wish to stay overnight.

2022 Salford Lourdes Pilgrimage is Announced

Friday 29th July – Thursday 4th August 2022

We are delighted to announce that we will return to Lourdes this Summer for the 88th Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by the Rt Rev. John Arnold, Bishop of Salford.

Full details, including travel and accommodation pricing, insurance details and volunteer application forms will be available in the coming weeks but may we ask in the meantime that if you may be interested in joining us this Summer that you please notify Fr John who will inform the Lourdes office of your interest. Notifying does not commit you to travelling with us but will enable appropriate plans to be made and will help us to keep you informed as details become available. We look forward to welcoming you to Lourdes for our joyful return in July.

Please keep this prayer list in view where you can pray for each intention daily.

*FEAST DAYS & PRAYER LIST FOR APRIL (THIS MONTH WE PRAY
ESPECIALLY FOR PEACE IN EUROPE AND FOR THE CHILDREN
PREPARING FOR THEIR SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION)*

3 rd April Fifth Sunday in Lent – For those presenting themselves for Confirmation
4 th Lent Weekday – For those struggling with major price increases
5 th Lent Weekday – For The schools that finish for their Easter Holidays
6 th Lent Weekday – For families travelling on holiday
7 th St John Baptis de la Salle – For all our school children of any age
8 th Lent Weekday – For the Homeless in Ukraine, Afghanistan and other war torn countries
9 th Lent Weekday – For Peace in Ukraine
10 th Palm Sunday – That we may always welcome Christ into our lives and homes
11 th Monday of Holy Week – For a deepening of our Faith
12 th Tuesday of Holy Week – For the Jewish people
13 th Wednesday of Holy Week – For the Bishop and all the priests in the diocese
14 th Maundy Thursday – For a greater understanding of service to others
15 th Good Friday - For all who are suffering and have died
16 th Holy Saturday - For all who mourn the loss of life in Ukraine
17 th Easter Sunday - For a greater realisation of the gift of Eternal Life
18 th Easter Monday – That we may come to join the Communion of Saints
19 th Easter Tuesday – For all in our Parish that we may become Ambassadors of Jesus Christ
20 th Easter Wednesday – For the schools who start their new term
21 st Easter Thursday – For HCPT and all those with special needs
22 nd Easter Friday – For all planning a pilgrimage this year
23 rd Easter Saturday – For Peace in Ukraine
24 th 2nd Sunday of Easter – That we may be open to the Scriptures and the message of God
25 th St Mark – For all writers of spiritual books
26 th St George – For our country and all who live here, that we may grow in respect of all
27 th Easter Weekday – For all on the Sacramental Programme
28 th Easter Weekday – For all facing a term of important examinations
29 th St Catherine of Siena – For all the Pope’s advisors
30 th Easter Weekday – For Peace in Ukraine

“Stay with us Lord on our journey” Prayer of Bishop John

The Next Monthly Newsletter for May will be printed the weekend of 30th April/1st May. If you wish anything to be included, please submit by the evening of Wednesday 27th April.

The picture of St Joseph is taken from the stained-glass window in the organ loft. This would have originally been above the High Altar before the church was realtered.