

Pope Francis's announcement of the Year of Saint Joseph 2020 -2021

The Holy Father has announced a Year of Saint Joseph to be celebrated by the whole Church from 8th December 2020 until 8th December 2021. The year is to mark 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. During this time of crisis across the world Pope Francis invites us "to increase our love for this great saint ... implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal." This is an especially happy announcement for Shrewsbury Diocese that was celebrating a Diocesan Year of Saint Joseph to commend our recovery from this crisis to Saint Joseph's example.

Act now and ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide

The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands. Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

Praying for the unborn and women facing crisis pregnancies

"We pray for all expectant mothers. We pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be given by their family, friends and local communities, as the journey through this life changing experience. Lord hear us".

Father Anthony & Deacon Michael are most grateful for all your good wishes & presents for Christmas & wish you all a very Happy, Peaceful & Holy Christmas!

Church Stewarding and Cleaning Appeal

If anyone else would like to volunteer to help steward and clean the church at Mass times we would be most grateful to hear from you as we are looking to help share the burden of the work with our current stewards. It's a great way to get to know other parishioners and it is also plays a crucial part of the church being available for public Mass for the community in these times. Training & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided to ensure everyone is kept safe. Just a reminder you should not volunteer if you are in the vulnerable groups - e.g. over 70, are pregnant or have underlying health conditions.

If you can help us at these times of Mass (Wednesday morning, Saturday evening & Sunday morning), please contact us via the parish telephone number (01625-523-584) or email us at sacredwil@gmail.com with your details and times you are available to help. Many thanks.

Please Pray for Persecuted Christians in the Middle East

Sacred Heart & St. Teresa's Church, Green Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 1LD



**SACRED HEART & ST TERESA'S CHURCH,
WILMSLOW**



PARISH NEWSLETTER

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SVP Wilmslow President

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20th December, 2020 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 19th	6.30 pm	Elizabeth & John O'Riordan
Sunday 20th	9.00 am	The Parishioners
	10.30 am	Father Kevin Moorhouse
Wednesday 23rd	10.30 am	Helen Van Steene
Thursday 24th	3.00 pm	The Parishioners
	5.00 pm	Celebrant's Intention
Friday 25th	9.00 am	The Nativity of the Lord
	10.30 am	Christmas Masses (Booking Only) Celebrant's Intention
Saturday 26th	6.30 pm	Celebrant's Intention John Brassell
Sunday 27th	9.00 am	The Parishioners
	10.30 am	Family of David Craven

- (1) Please note rules & guidance in church overleaf.
- (2) Confession is available on request from Father Anthony after any Mass.

General Rules & Guidance in church at this time

- Church at one metre plus social distancing with compulsory face mask wearing.
- Please do not enter church if you are symptomatic. Please sanitise your hands on entering & leaving church.
- Visitors should not touch or physically venerate statues, relics, or the church stoop.
- Whilst in church, or the surrounding grounds, people should adhere to the social distancing rules at all times. People should only interact with members of their own household and once the Mass is ended, participants should move away promptly to minimise the risk of contact and the spread of infection.
- Single use Mass sheets & Parish newsletters are provided and should either be kept or disposed of appropriately at the end of each Mass. Please also note toilet facility is closed in church at this time.
- Maximum safe capacity of church if all worshippers are from a different household: 47 (Max 2 per pew each separated by 1 metre). Maximum safe capacity of church if worshippers from the same household can sit together (Max 4 to a pew, 3 on the front pews): 79
- Please follow the one way system & guidance in church – on leaving church, those sitting on the left side pews/seats should leave by the left aisle/main entrance door; those sitting on the right side pews/seats should leave by the right aisle/side entrance door.
- Following Holy Communion at the very end of Mass, please leave church promptly, not returning to your seat.

Parish Online Donation Page For those Parishioners who normally give in the collection at Mass but who are unable to attend at this time (or would prefer an alternative cashless giving option), an online donation page to allow you to donate to the Parish is linked below:

<https://app.investmycommunity.com/sacredheart&stteresawilmslowdioceseofshrewsbury2178>

Please be aware that a minimum donation of £5 is requested if giving in this way. You can also Gift Aid your donation to help the Parish further. If you want to Gift Aid your donation, please tick the box shown on the screen even if you have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration form in favour of the Parish for regular giving made by Offertory Envelope or Standing Order. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Piety Stall We are currently selling a limited amount of various Advent & Christmas gifts from our piety stall in the church porch including books, advent calendars & nativity figurines. Please do not form gatherings around this stall – if you would like to look at or buy anything, please wait until after Mass has finished before being allowed back in by the stewards. Please apply sanitiser before & after visiting the stall & please avoid contact with any goods. **Please note the stall will not be open after 9.00 am Mass.**

Food Link, Colshaw – Food & Christmas Selection Boxes Appeal The need to contribute food continues. Could you help to donate food to struggling families? We are very grateful to receive the following food donations: dried pasta, pasta sauces, cereals, tea, coffee, sugar, and tinned foods (pies, soups, beans, fruit, veg, meat, fish, etc.). Please leave donations in the box at the back of church. **We are also grateful to receive Christmas children's chocolate selection boxes at this time.**

Father Anthony Homily on The Crib

"The Crib, no more than the celebration of Christmas itself, is not any institution portraying a silly sentimentality. Its origin, by tradition, lies in the wish by Saint Francis of Assisi, to illustrate the scriptural teaching on the Incarnation by visible representation of the Gospels of Matthew and of Luke. Hence the angels, the shepherds, the wise men, but what of the ox and the ass? There is no mention them in the Gospels, but there is a reference to them in the first chapter of Isaiah. (1:3). For the full force of this reference please read Isaiah 1: 1-12.

These words are a reproach to the People of Israel for their infidelity to the God Whom they recognised as their creator and sustainer, the giver of the Law by which they lived. Israel did not recognise the presence of God, but by comparison these dumb animals, who, of course, were incapable of thought, did so. It is a reproach that can be addressed equally to ourselves and to our contemporaries. God's love is such that in the Person of Jesus Christ he became one of us in order to teach the whole human race the way to salvation, to suffer and to die for us, to show his triumph over sin by rising from the dead. Christmas is a celebration of this truth, something that cannot be done if we concentrate totally on material celebration."

Offertory Collections over the Christmas Masses - Just a reminder that all offertory cash donations over the Christmas masses are offerings for Father Anthony. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated. (Please note the online donation page is for church giving only).

CLERGY EDUCATION & TRAINING FUND Last week's retiring collection raised £253.10. Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Mass Booking 2020 Many people want to come to Mass at Christmas and normally there is no problem in welcoming everyone. This year circumstances are likely to be different, as numbers who can be accommodated in the church are limited. Father Anthony will therefore be celebrating four Masses over Christmas, two on Thursday 24th Dec (Christmas Eve) at 3.00 pm and at 5.00 pm, no Mass at midnight, but Mass at 9.00 am and 10.30 am on Friday 25th Dec (Christmas Day). Booking forms for each Christmas Mass are in the church porch – please sign up to the Mass you would like to attend and the total number in your household that will be attending. Alternatively, you may email these details to sacredwil@gmail.com **Please note the 10.30 am Mass on Friday 25th (Christmas Day) is now fully booked.**

Readers Rotas & Sanitiser Notice

Again, whilst we are in reduced capacity in the Church, it is necessary to create another new Readers Rota to ensure that it is not just left to one or two people doing all the reading. If again, you would indicate on the lists in the porch as you leave at the end of Mass, whether you would like to continue reading or to give up reading or if you would like to change the Mass to which you currently attend. New readers are welcome, if so - please indicate by adding your name to one of the lists and include your telephone number. Instruction will be provided if necessary. The list will be prepared and emails to all those who have put their names forward. Also, for current readers, sanitiser is now available at the pulpit for you to apply before reading. Thank you.