

## PARISH FINANCE

Gift Aid	£ 101.00
Loose	59.30
Total	£ 160.30
<b>Anonymous donation</b>	<b>£ 340.00</b>
<b>Pro Life</b>	<b>£ 53.50</b>
<b>Many thanks for your contribution</b>	

<b>THIS WEEK</b>	<b>Counters</b>	<b>Team</b>
Red Bag		
Blue Bag		
<b>NEXT WEEK</b>	<b>Counters</b>	<b>Team</b>
Red Bag		
Blue Bag	<b>CAFOD Lent Fast</b>	

## Mass Attendance

Sat:49; Sun:41 . Your weekly mass attendance is the greatest support to the parish.

**The National Novena to St Joseph** will take place from 10<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at **St Joseph's Church** in **Maidenhead**. In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work.

If you are able, and if it is possible to attend, Masses are on Wednesday to Friday (10-12 March), at 7.30pm, Saturday, 13 March at 10am, Sunday, 14 March at 11.00am, Monday –Thursday (15-18 March) at 7.30pm.

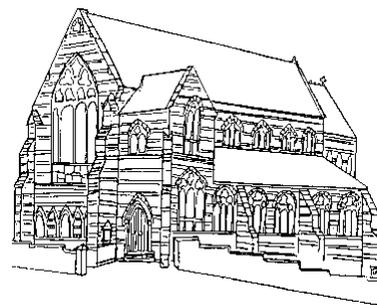
If you are unable to attend but would like to join in from home, for the first time this year, Masses from **St. Joseph's Church** will be available to follow on **Zoom** and **YouTube** via the parish website: [stjosephsparish.co.uk](http://stjosephsparish.co.uk) and the Mill Hill website: [www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena), where you will also find the Novena prayer leaflet.

You can also join in by praying the daily Novena prayer, which will be in your Novena prayer leaflet. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the **Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW**, or email [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com).

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** are also providing online marriage preparation: on the these dates:

27<sup>th</sup> Jan – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar (every Wednesday, 6 sessions);  
 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> April (2 sessions);  
 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June; and  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> October.

For booking link <https://engaged-encounter.org.uk/book-a-weekend/>  
 Another option for couples is Smart Loving and the link to their marriage preparation is <https://smartloving.org/uk/>



## OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS & ST. PETER IN CHAINS, STOKE

Registered as a Charity (No. 234216)  
 Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7LT, Tel: 01782 844308  
 Church email: [ourladyandstpeterstoke@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ourladyandstpeterstoke@yahoo.co.uk)  
<http://www.ourladyandstpeterstoke.org.uk/>  
 Church Twitter: twitter@OLSP\_Stoke  
 Church Facebook: facebook@OLSPstoke  
 Church Office 365  
 email:olotpic.stokeontrent@rcaob.org.uk

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Rony Kurian George (George Ettuparayil); Email:8parayil@gmail.com  
**Parish Deacon:** Rev Tony Bradshaw; Email: [a.bradshaw555@ntlworld.com](mailto:a.bradshaw555@ntlworld.com) (Retired)

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 – **First Sunday of Lent**

**Welcome to all new comers.** If you are visitors, I hope you have a good time staying in the area. If you are new in the parish, please introduce yourself to the Parish Priest.

Sat	20	Mk 1:12-15		5:45pm	Nadia Oakley (RIP)
Sun	21	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	Week 1	10:30am	People of the Parish
Mon	22	The Chair of St Peter, Mt 16:13-19	Feast	-	
Tue	23	Mt 6:7-15		-	
Wed	24	Lk 11:29-32		-	
Thu	25	Mt 7:7-12		-	
Fri	26	Mt 5:20-26		-	
Sat	27	Mk 9:2-10		5:45pm	People of the Parish
Sun	28	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	Week 2	10:30am	

**Please pray for:** Our sick and housebound: Robin Butler, Firdela Aclan, Margaret Roberts, Michael Barlow, Ann Malanaphy, Jesse Adams, Dave Hilditch, Eliadora Mamaril, Audrey Weller, Virginia Arcebedo, Moses Soro, Esther Kojo, and Tony Brougham.

**Those whose anniversaries occur during this time:** terry Johnson and Andrew Forrester.

**PPE Donations:** to all the donors, thank you for your continuous support.

**Volunteer marshals and cleaners:** Our Parish is so grateful to all volunteers for your continuous support and help to our Church. Thank you.

**Nadia Oakley RIP:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Nadia who died recently. Her funeral will take place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Requiem Mass at 11:30am followed by burial in Hanley Cemetery at 1:00pm. May she rest in peace.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Genesis 9:8-15 – God’s Covenant with Noah after he had saved him from the waters of the flood.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Peter 3:18-22 – That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

**Gospel:** Mark 1:12-15 – Jesus was tempted by Satan and angels looked after him.

### **Sunday Reflection**

#### **Life messages**

**1)** *Let us make Lent a time of renewal of life by penance and prayer: Formerly the six weeks of Lent meant a time of severe penance as a way of purifying ourselves from our sinful habits and getting ready to celebrate the Paschal Mystery (the passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ), with a renewed commitment to follow Christ. Now the Church leaves the Lenten practice of penance to the good will and generosity of individual Christians. However, Lent should be a time for personal reflection on where we stand as Christians in accepting the Gospel challenges in thought, word and deed. It is also a time to assess our relationships with our family, friends, working colleagues, and other people with whom we come in contact, especially those of our parish. We should examine whether we are able to make any positive contribution to other people’s lives and to eradicate the abuses which are part of our society.*

**2)** *Let us convert Lent into a time for spiritual growth and Christian maturity by: a) participating in the Mass each day, or at least a few days in the week; b) setting aside some part of our day for personal prayer; c) reading some Scripture, alone or, better still, with others; d) setting aside some money that we might spend on ourselves for meals, entertainment or clothes and giving it to an organization which takes care of the less fortunate in our society; e) abstaining from smoking or alcohol; f) receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent and participating in the “Stations of the Cross” on Fridays; g) visiting the sick and those in nursing homes (when such visiting is again allowed), and doing some acts of charity, kindness and mercy every day in the Lent.*

**3)** *Let us use Lent as a time to fight daily against the evil within us and around us: Repenting and fighting against temptations and evil is a lifetime’s task. Jesus did not overcome Satan in the wilderness; he achieved that only in his death. Lent reminds us that we have to take up the fight each day against the evil within us and around us, and never give up. Jesus has given the assurance that the Holy Spirit is with us, empowering us, so that final victory will be ours through Jesus Christ.*

*By: Fr Anthony Kadavil*

### **Notices**

**Exploring the Directory for Catechesis Conference 2021:** Maryvale Institute, on behalf of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, is delighted to announce a free, virtual conference that will focus on the new *Directory for Catechesis*. This conference offers an opportunity for those either involved with or interested in catechesis, to explore the main themes and key emphases of this important text, and to reflect on its implications for their work in the Church and the world.

The conference sessions dates are:

**Session 1, Friday 12th March, 2.00-4.00pm:** *'Dynamic Continuity';*

**Session 2, Friday 16th April, 2.00-4.00pm:** *Key Emphases/Foci of the New Directory: a Closer Look; and,*

**Session 3, Friday 14th May, 2.00-4.00pm:** *Growing in Faith: A Lifelong Journey of Catechesis.*

There is **no cost** to register and attend all sessions of the Conference, although the delegates may consider a **donation** of **£5** or **£10** or more towards scholarships for those enrolling on Maryvale Institute’s adult formation courses, to help support and train the **catechists of the future**. To register: <https://bit.ly/2Z2KqIX>, or for more info please visit: <https://www.maryvale.ac.uk/conference-2021.html> or contact [marketing@maryvale.ac.uk](mailto:marketing@maryvale.ac.uk)

**CAFOD Lent Fast Second collection next weekend 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> February:** Help end water poverty and provide other vital support to communities around the world. Text LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10 (enough for sturdy water containers to store clean water safely) or you can add the amount you would like to donate eg. Text LENT 20 to give £20.

CAFOD Gift Aid envelopes are provided at the back of the church for your donations. Alternatively, you can donate online at [cafod.org.uk/lent](http://cafod.org.uk/lent) or contact 03033033030.

**Marriage support for those experiencing difficulties:** Is lockdown and living in a time of so much uncertainty affecting your relationship? Are you more stressed, silent or arguing a lot? Have you reached a point that you are considering separating or divorce? Help and support is available.

Retrouvaille (<https://www.retrouvaille.org.uk>) offer a virtual weekend programme (25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021) that may help. For more information or to speak to someone in confidence call or text 07887 296983 / 07973 380443 or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com)

**Private Fostering Awareness:** to find out more about Private Fostering or to tell someone that you think a child might be privately fostered you can call 0800 1313 126 or go on-line [staffordshire.gov.uk/privatefostering](http://staffordshire.gov.uk/privatefostering).