

SUNDAY PLUS

Who am I?

In season and out of season



by Fr Maurice O'Mahony C.Ss.R.

St Paul, in his second letter to Timothy, writes: "Preach the Gospel in season or not, welcome or unwelcome". It seems there is no optimum time to proclaim Jesus and the Gospel. Yes, for many people in every generation the proclamation of God's love and the promise of salvation is "Good News". Equally, there is often opposition.

Jesus experienced similar responses during his public ministry. His time was dominated by two powerful groups: the Romans who ruthlessly occupied the land, and the religious leaders who exercised great power over the people. Yet, Jesus was not discouraged; he proclaimed the coming reign of God with a clear, challenging message: repent and change your lives!

Jesus maintained a low profile during those early days, protecting the message and giving it time to root in his first followers. However,

everything about him led many to believe he might be the Messiah. That is why he asked his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" and followed it with a personal challenge, "But you... who do you say I am?" Then and now, that answer made the difference.

The people among whom he ministered made the link between Jesus and the prophecy of Isaiah. The religious authorities also heard about him, his activities and, alarmingly, what the people were saying. Jesus knew these two worlds would eventually collide

and he told his disciples that he would be handed over, suffer and be put to death.

We are Jesus' disciples in 2021. Many are indifferent, even hostile, to faith. Yet, Jesus calls us to share the message. It is our privilege to act in his name, in season or not, welcome or unwelcome. So, be courageous!

Fr Maurice P. O'Mahony is a Redemptorist priest of the London Province. Over forty years of priesthood he has worked in a variety of apostolates and is currently developing Redemptorist Lay Ministry.

"The love of God is not something vague or generic; the love of God has a name and a face: Jesus Christ."

Pope Francis

Calvary is a beginning

by Phil Ferguson

Wildfires raged throughout many tree-covered areas of the world during the hot summer months and severe drought of 2020. Hosepipe bans and standpipes became a daily event for thousands of householders as fire brigades heroically tried to extinguish flames and, paradoxically, to keep their use of water to a minimum. Farmers watched helplessly as huge cracks appeared in their dry fields and thirsty crops withered and died.

Many television documentaries covered not only the drought and wildfire experiences but also flooding, hurricanes and earthquakes, all possibly effects of climate change.

Time and again, seemingly "ordinary" people showed themselves capable of extraordinary courage, generosity and self-sacrifice. Their Calvary was a beginning, not an end.

Feast of the week
Tuesday 14 September

Triumph of the cross

The young Emperor Constantine was heading out to fight the Battle of the Milvian Bridge (AD 312) when he looked up towards the sun and saw a cross of light above it and the words, "In this sign, you will conquer." That night, according to tradition, he had a vision in which Jesus explained the meaning of the sign, which Constantine ordered his army to make its military standard. He subsequently always claimed that his victory in battle the following day

was the result of his vision of the cross. Soon afterwards, Constantine became the first Christian Roman Emperor. In 313, he issued the Edict of Milan which allowed Christianity to be freely practised.

With the conversion of her son, Constantine's mother, Helena, soon also became a Christian. On his instructions – and with his money – she travelled to the Holy Land in search of Calvary, the Holy Sepulchre and the remains of "the True Cross". She believed she found all three, but Helena's enormous contribution to early Christianity is another story...

All was not lost. Within days of the first rainfall following devastating wildfires, blackened woodland started to turn green. Tiny blades of grass emerged through the parched soil. Bit by bit, the world started to change. In seeing endings, we discovered new life.

Phil Ferguson is a former teacher.

Lord, when times are hard, it can be difficult to see that you offer a choice. If I can see who you really are and follow you in everything that I say, think and do, even my Calvary can be a new beginning and the start of a journey of discovery. Amen.

Today: Isaiah 50:5-9 James 2:14-18 Mark 8:27-35
Monday: 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Luke 7:1-10
Tuesday: Numbers 21:4-9 Philippians 2:6-11 John 3:13-17
Wednesday: Hebrews 5:7-9 John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35
Thursday: 1 Timothy 4:12-16 Luke 7:36-50
Friday: 1 Timothy 6:2-12 Luke 8:1-3
Saturday: 1 Timothy 6:13-16 Luke 8:4-15
Next Sunday: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20 James 3:16-4:3 Mark 9:30-37

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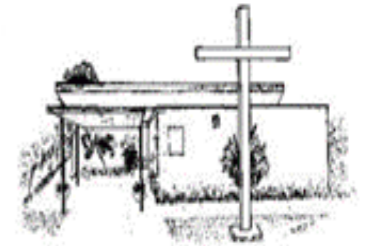
Newsletter for the Parishes of Our Lady and the Apostles, St. Ambrose and St. Vincent de Paul

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12TH September 2021 TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

You can join us via this Live Stream link: <https://www.churchservices.tv/ourladystockport> (for Our Lady's church)
OR click on tinyurl.com/stockportparishes or [Stockport Parishes - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) (for both St. Vincent's and St. Ambrose')

IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES, WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE SIGN IN AT THE DOOR FOR TRACK AND TRACE USING THE QR CODE OR PAPER, THOUGH NOT REQUIRED BY LAW, WE STILL PLEAD THAT YOU WEAR A FACE COVERING, AND GIVE PEOPLE SOME SPACE UNTIL THE PANDEMIC IS OVER.



Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sun 12 th Sep-tember	TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Day of Special Prayer for Education)	5.30pm 7.00pm 9.30am 11.00am 12.30pm	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose - FHC Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's- FHC St Vincent's - First Holy Communion Our Lady's - First Holy Communion Our Lady's - First Holy Communion	Our Parish Family Michael O'Brien RIP Our Parish Family Julia Higgins (Birthday memorial) Our Parish Family
Mon 13 th Sept	St John Chrysostom, B,D	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Peggy Cotton RIP
Tues 14 th Sept	EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	9.30am	Our Lady's	Darren Kiely RIP
Wed 15 th Sept	Our Lady Of Sorrows	9.30am	St. Vincent's	John Burke RIP
Thurs 16 th Sept	Ss Cornelius, P,M & Cyrian, B,M	9.30am 7.00pm	St. Ambrose Our Lady's	Eamonn McManus RIP Brian Johnson RIP
Fri 17 th Sept	Ferial (St Robert Bellarmine, B,D)	9.30am	St. Vincent's	Marie O'Neil RIP
Sat 18 th Sept	Ferial (BVM on Saturday)	9.30am 2.30pm 1-4pm	Our Lady's OLATA- Baptism Heritage Day Blessing of Bergara Close with Cllr Matt	Marie O'Neil RIP Zara Jones Heritage Day
Sun 19 th Sep-tember	TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (National Day of Prayer for Home Missions)	5.30pm 7.00pm 9.30am 11.00am 1.00pm 1.00pm 1-4pm	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose -FHC Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's- FHC St Vincent's - First Holy Communion Our Lady's - First Holy Communion St Vincent's - Baptism OLATA- Baptism Heritage Day	Our Parish Family Our Parish Family Our Parish family Mary Hall RIP Alba Bailey Nellie Cosgrove Heritage Day

There is **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** every weekday morning from 8:30am to 9:30am.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available after 9.30am Mass on Saturday morning and by appointment.

Please pray for:

Baptisms: We welcome **Elliot Irwin** who became new member of our parish family last week in the sacrament of baptism. **Congratulations** to him and his family. Please pray for the many families currently attending the baptism course for the baptism of their children and for our very committed catechists.

First Holy Communion: Please may we pray for our children who will be making their first Holy Communion this weekend.

Confirmation: Please pray for the over 35 children who have so far enrolled for Confirmation, and for the Catechists.

The Sick:

In St. Vincent's: We remember in our prayers all the intentions on the St. Vincent's Prayer Board. Please add your intentions to the Prayer Board in church and you can see who is in need of our prayers on our website under "Thoughts for the week".

In Our Lady's: Lee Abernathy, Janice Cook, Tom Davis, Eileen Melia, Annie Topping, Theresa Burrows, Josephine O'Hagan, Denise Corlet, Nora Reade, Tommy Higgins, Marie Kenefick, Eileen Mains, Beryl Collins, Josie Vaughan, Michael Heath, Honora Hague, Victoria Russell, Sophie Mansfield, Mary Brett, Vivienne Goostry, John Wynne, Vincent Tracey, Ronald Fury, Veronica Gallagher, Aine O'Callaghan, Mary Murphy, Catherine Tracey, Kathleen Bond, Jordan Harris, Alana Walsh, Jean Egginton, Mary Glindon and Sean O'Callaghan.

In St. Ambrose's: Mavis Doggett, Terry Skorzewski, Khia Whitehead, Eleanor Loftus, Mary Andrusiak, Carl Stanley, C. Wootton, Mary Sein, Paul Thuoc, Barry Lloyd, Andrew Way, Mary Young, Irene Walker, Veronica Norbury, John Holt, Imelda Judge, Veronica Lane, Joanna Winter, Pat Judge, Paul McClure, Helen Jenkins, Marie Hughes, Paul Morrell and Mary Sweetman.

Recently Departed:

May the souls of Tom Davies, Kathleen Gardiner, Bernard James Colgan (Seamus), Elaine Hallworth, Marie O'Neil, Bernard Reily and may the souls of all recently departed rest in peace.

Anniversaries

John (Sean) Hassett, Darren Kiely, Brenda Conlon-Hope, Henry Heaney, Frank Reynolds, Francis (Frank) Lafferty, Raymond Littlemore, Margaret Callaghan, Lily Traynor, James Turner, Fr Francis McManus, Bernard Anthony Davies, Amador Laude, James Kenny, Mark Prescott, Harry Baker, Bridget Henahan, Joseph Kozlowski.

General Notices:

Year of St. Joseph: *"Truly, I doubt not that the angels, wondering and adoring, came thronging in countless multitudes to that poor workshop to admire the humility of him who guarded that dear and divine Child, and laboured at his carpenter's trade to support the Son and the Mother who were committed to his care". St Francis de Sales.*

Prayer intentions: During Ordinary Time (autumn) ie, from September to Christ the King we are asked to pray for these intentions: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; the Harvest; the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their families.

Primary Deputy Headteacher Vacancy: St Peter's RC Primary School, Stalybridge are looking for a new Deputy Head. Please contact admin@stpeters.tameside.sch.uk to arrange a visit. The full advert can be found on the Shrewsbury Diocesan website; for application forms etc contact Sue.Jenkinson@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

SVP Sponsored Walk: is on SUNDAY 19th September from noon. Meet at the Coffee Shop, Shrigley Road, Higher Poynton, SK12 1TE. BRING YOUR FRIENDS. BRING YOUR FAMILY

Our Lady's Offertory Envelopes: As more parishioners are returning to Mass would you please check to see if your box of envelopes is waiting to be collected from the table at the back of Church. If you don't have a box but would like one please post your name, address and telephone number through the Presbytery door and Tom Horan will contact you. May we take this opportunity to thank all those Parishioners who have made donations and legacies to the Church for various reasons such as flowers, maintenance etc. During this very difficult time it is very much appreciated.

Last weekend's collections: OLATA-£678.47 St Ambrose- £143.85 St Vincent's- £203.50

Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality – Annual General Meeting: You are invited to attend the AGM on **Sunday 12 September at 2pm at St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, CH2 1PL.** Attend in person or via Zoom. If possible please register your attendance and make requests for the password, apologies or items for the agenda to secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk or text/call 07451 249267. On Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81692383233?pwd=dEINSjkzdIRKQ2pjbldTWkdSG1CZz09> Meeting ID: 816 9238 3233. You can also call in if you don't have access to Zoom on +44 203 481 5237. The agenda and draft minutes of the previous AGM can be found at <https://teamshrewsbury.wordpress.com/agm-and-committee-meeting-agendas-and-minutes/>

CCRS (Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies) :begins this month with in-person classes on Thursday morning at St Columba's Chester. There is also an online learning option, with an in-person seminar in Wythenshawe or Birkenhead. This is an excellent course for anyone who would like to learn more about our faith or lead in a school or parish. Please register in advance - information is available. from ccrs@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

40 Days for life: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I invite you to join the '40 days for life' vigil outside 136 Chester road Hazel Grove NUPAS Abortion facility. 40 Days for life is a non-denominational global organisation committed to ending abortion. It has been endorsed by Pope Francis, and we have, this Autumn from the 22nd September to 31st October, an opportunity to join with our fellow Christians to put an end to Abortion in Stockport and the surrounding area. If you are interested in helping to hold a prayerful vigil for 40 days, contact me on 07702 828984.

Afghanistan Crisis: "We have all been shocked by the news and distressing images we have seen coming out of Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover. Afghan families are now feeling scared and abandoned. People are displaced inside their own country; others have fled to neighbouring countries. Millions are in need of emergency food, water and shelter. Please donate to our Afghanistan Crisis Appeal". Donations can be handed into church or go to: www.cafod.org.uk Thank you.

Our Lady's News:

Children's Liturgy: We are now allowed to resume children's liturgy. The resumption date for Our Lady's will be announced soon. Depending on numbers, it might hold in the main hall instead of the Guild room. Watch the space.

Blessing of Bergara Close: I have been invited by the Councillor to give a blessing to the new residential area and the residents on 18th September. You are invited to join us for the blessing, and for their mini celebration.

RIP: Please pray for **Marie O'Neil** a committed parishioner, who passed away recently and for her family

St Ambrose News:

Children's Liturgy: has now resumed. We hope to see many families back in church.

RIP: We pray for the repose of our dear Tom Davies, a very committed parishioner, and for his family.

St Vincent's News:

- **CTiBW - Praise in the Park.** Join us in Bramhall Park on the croquet lawn this Sunday 12th at 3pm for some hymns and reflections in the fresh air.

Save the date - Join us on **Sunday 26th September** to celebrate **St Vincent's feast day.** We would love as many parishioners as possible (especially families) to join us in the Church Garden **from 3pm to 5pm** to have a delicious **Afternoon Tea.** We hope to have a bouncy castle for the younger children (weather permitting). It is a great chance to come together as a Parish Family again after such a difficult 18 months for everyone.

Prayer Group on Monday at 10.30 am in Church

Amaretti Chamber Orchestra Concert 7.30pm Saturday 25th September at St Andrew's Church, Cheadle Road. Come and support this event to **raise funds for the SVP Stockport Children's Camp.** The last concert just before lockdown was very enjoyable. Give it a try. Tickets £10 on the door

- **Monday 10.30 am** in Church — Knit & Natter — All Welcome

- **Monday 7.30 pm** on Zoom – Emmaus Group – we are reflecting on 'Falling Upward' by Richard Rohr

Pease contact Rowena (rowena.nield@sky.com) if you would like to join us. You don't need the book for the first meeting.

-**Sunday 12 September** – Children's Liturgy resumes

Our Parish Schools:

Schools are back to normal this week after summer holidays and the lifting of Covid restrictions. Please pray for our young people and for all who have care for them. Every blessing for a happy and fruitful Autumn Term.

Our Lady's Primary: We congratulate our children, who made their First Forgiveness on Friday, as they make their first Holy Communion after such a long delay due to the pandemic!

Newsletter items: Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to the Parish Office by lunchtime on Thursday.

[Links for online giving to the Parishes: Please check our websites.](#)

Our Lady and the Apostles, Shaw Heath, Stockport SK3 8BQ St. Ambrose, Adswold Road, Stockport, SK3 3QA, St. Vincent de Paul, 29 Handley Road, Bramhall, Stockport, SK7 3EX

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