

Bishops' Answers to Questions on the Synodal Process

If the process is already defined, how do we 'walk together?' Every member of the Church has the right to speak, and the obligation to allow those charged with the work of discernment the freedom to do so. Pope Francis in his book Let us Dream says "we need a respectful, mutual listening, free of ideology and predetermined agendas".¹ This is at the heart of the process. Each diocese will form its own means of running this listening process so that it reaches as broad a scope of people as possible.

Is this just for parishes and dioceses? No, it involves everyone. Schools, young people, hospital chaplaincies, university chaplaincies, prison chaplaincies, the religious and consecrated communities, the societies of apostolic life, those with a distinctive charism in the church all have a voice that speaks into the conversation. Catholic organisations and charities also have a role to play in this work. Echoing the experience of the Second Vatican Council, Ecumenical and Interreligious engagement is also encouraged, and this is best facilitated at the local level. This is an important voice from outside the Church that offers an insight into the collaboration for the good of all.

Can we talk about any topic? Pope Francis says "what is under discussion at synodal gatherings are not the traditional truths of Christian doctrine. The Synod is concerned mainly with how teaching can be lived and applied in the changing contexts of our time."² Therefore all topics can be raised but it is important to realise that not all will form part of the ongoing discussion.

Will this make the Church more democratic, like other churches? The Synodal Process is not about a democratic debate. It is place of respectful mutual listening and experiencing the call of the Holy Spirit to move in new ways. Again the Pope is clear on this: "Another temptation that so often confuses people is treating the Synod as a kind of parliament underpinned by a 'political battle' in which in order to govern one side must defeat the other... this goes against the spirit of the synod as a protected space of community discernment."³ What it will do is embed at all levels of the Church a new way of listening and hearing, of discernment and action which remains faithful to the truths received but expresses them in the context of a particular time.

How does this discernment take place? The whole Synodal Process is a prayerful process, rooted in the encounter with Jesus in the prayerful reading of the Sacred Scriptures and through the liturgical life of the Church and inspired by an openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit. Listening to each other is very important. Pope Francis says of the Synod of Bishops gathering itself: "we listen, we discuss in groups but above all we pay attention to what the Spirit has to say to us."⁴ This discernment is not an activity done in isolation. Mutual listening and reflection are vital, as what is proposed grows from the unity and conviction that comes from the lived practice of faith within the community. The process of spiritual discernment is incumbent on everyone's part; truly being open to the Spirit and seeing where the local Church is being led in its own context, with the bishops listening carefully to the views of the faithful, and the faithful respecting the authentic role of the bishop as one who governs the local Church and promotes communion.⁵ Discernment is always orientated towards the mission of the universal Church which continually moves towards Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life who calls his people into a unity of purpose.

What is the role of the Bishops' Conference? The role of the Bishops' Conference in this process is twofold. First, its Secretariat will act as an administrative point of contact for the dioceses to liaise with for the production of the documentation for the bishops, as a whole, to consider. However, and more importantly, the bishops acting together, effect a common discernment of the points raised in the particular Churches for the whole of the territory.⁶ The bishops, whilst remaining the authentic pastors of their particular Churches and speaking on behalf of them, also work collectively to summarise the "links of culture, tradition and common history, as well as the interconnection of social relations among citizens of the same nation."⁷ It is for this reason that this part of the Diocesan Phase of the Synodal pathway has great importance.

Is this the best time to do this, after all we have experienced in the past 15 months? Pope Francis has called this moment in human history as "a time of reckoning."⁸ The Synodal Process is for the whole Church not just in England and Wales and the themes from the title of the Synod can help in understanding why now is the right time to consider this.

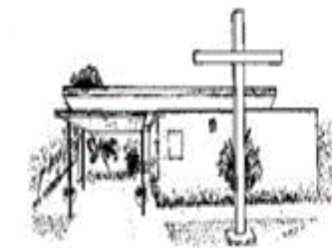
Newsletter for the Parishes of Our Lady and the Apostles, St. Ambrose and St. Vincent de Paul

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Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Onuoha Email: frifeanyimom@yahoo.com
Deacon: Rev. Moses Ibeh

31st OCTOBER 2021 ALL SAINTS (31st 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/watch?v=STOCKPORTPARISHES) (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 31st October	ALL SAINTS	5.30pm 7.00pm 9.30am 11.00am 1.00pm 2.30pm	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's St Vincent's Our Lady's Baptism—OLATA Baptism—OLATA	Special Private Intention Our Parish Family Our Parish Family Frank Ogege RIP Orla Elsie Feeney Oliver Price
Mon 1st Nov	Ferial	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Marie O'Neil RIP
Tues 2nd Nov	COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED	9.30am 7.00pm	Our Lady's St. Ambrose	Marie O'Neil RIP Marie O'Neil RIP
Wed 3rd Nov	ST WINEFRIDE, V	9.30am	St. Vincent's	Marie McDonald
Thurs 4th Nov	St Charles Borromeo, B	9.30am 7.00pm	St Ambrose Our Lady's-	Quirk & Morrell Family RIP Marie O'Neil RIP
Fri 5th Nov	Ferial	9.30am	St. Vincent's	Marie O'Neil RIP
Sat 6th Nov	Ferial (BVM on Saturday)	9.30am 1.00pm 2.30pm	Our Lady's Baptism - OLATA Baptism—OLATA	Marie O'Neil RIP Louis Anthony Steele Olivia Lamb
Sun 7th Nov	THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	5.30pm 7.00pm 9.30am 11.00am 1.00pm	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's St Vincent's Our Lady's Baptism—OLATA	Our Parish Family Our Parish Family Our Parish Family Mary Walsh— Belated Birthday Ava Mcdonagh

There is **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** every weekday morning before Mass 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: New Baptism classes will commence in January 2022

First Holy Communion: You may begin now to enroll for next year's classes for those not in Catholic schools.

Confirmation: Please pray for the **40 young parishioners** who have enrolled for Confirmation, and for the Catechists.

RCIA: Are you or anyone you know **interested in joining the Catholic Church**, or just wish to learn more about the faith? Please send us an email or call the parish office to give your details. God bless!

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: Dominic Dickin, Irene Cox, Lee Abernathy, Janice Cook, 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, 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.

Recently Departed: May the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Winifride Redfern, Peter Cook, Brian McDonald, John Rigby, Mary Monica McBride, Kathleen Flaherty, Dennis Holland, Tim Kilduff, Dora Selby Sister Hilda Gaskell, Keth James Hillard, Paddy Donnellan, Cecilia Power, Jenna McDonald, Dorothy Kelly, Thelma Wharmby, Margaret Kent, Eric Joseph Egginton, Francis J. Kemball, John Shepherd, Richard Murphy, Bridie McGowan, Michael Cook, Mark Iverson

General Notices:

Year of St. Joseph: "I saw Jesus assisting his parents in every possible way, and also on the street and wherever opportunity offered, cheerfully, eagerly, and obligingly helping everyone. He assisted his foster - father in his trade, and devoted himself to prayer and contemplation. He was a model for all the children of Nazareth" Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich .

Synod 2023—Journeying Together: 'Lived Synodality' Communion – Participation – Mission 'A Time for Listening: Some questions for your quiet reflection individually or in groups:

Communion: In what ways has the unity of our parishes in faith and charity, above all in Eucharistic communion, been strengthened or weakened by the experience of the past two years? Have we grown in our desire for the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist?

Participation: What has the experience of this time taught us about participation in the life of the Church?

Mission: What have been the fruits of this time for mission to those outside the life of our parishes and especially to those on the margins of society?

The Secretariat for the Synod has provided some Questions which could be accessed on the diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/news/local-news/synod>. **The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales** has also provided answers to some frequently asked questions on the synodal process. Please see <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-conference-synodal-process-q-and-a/>

Walk with me - Many parishioners are familiar with the "Walk with Me" publication which encourage prayer and the reading of Scripture following the liturgical year. The Advent edition of the Walk with Me can be ordered directly from the website of Alive Publishing: <https://shop.alivepublishing.co.uk/category/WWMA-DV> Whilst retailing at £1/copy, the price is reduced to 75p for orders of 25+ Or, you can call on 01782 745600 or email booksales@alivepublishing.co.uk

Pause for Hope : is a prayer Initiative for dealing with cancer. Service taking place at St Columba's Church, Plas Newton Lane Chester on Sunday 14th November at 3pm

2022 Mission Appeals in Parishes—The Xavarian Missionaries have been allocated to Shrewsbury Diocese for the 2022 Mission Appeals. This will be an opportunity for the people of our parishes to be able to contribute financially to the work of this missionary society.

The Catholic Universe Newspaper~ Is now on line! Go to: <https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk/subscribe>.

Second Collection 14th November —Clergy Education & Training Fund.

Clocks Change—Remember clocks move back this weekend

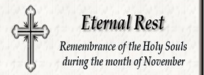


Last weekend's collections(excludes standing orders) : **OLATA-** £588.58. **Missio Collection**—£106.11 **St Ambrose & St Vincent's will be published next weekend, as the counters are away.** THANK YOU!

Offertory envelopes can be obtained from the Parish Office or see links for online giving to the Parishes: Please check our websites

NOVEMBER HOLY SOULS - There are brown envelopes at the back of the church for us to remember our dear departed ones in November. Please complete and return as soon as possible to the Church or through the Presbytery letter box. May we remember our departed ones at Mass and other prayers.

9.30am & 7pm Masses for All Souls: Please note the additional Mass at St. Ambrose this Tuesday.



Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from 31 October to 12 November. *May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 and instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the most vulnerable.* For further details go to: www.cafod.org.uk

Invitation to a Special Memorial Mass at Our Lady's Shaw Heath, Stockport SK3 8BQ, Thursday 25TH November at 7.00pm: The Mass is in memory of all our friends, relatives and parishioners who have died during the Covid 19 pandemic. *"Once this health crisis passes.... God willing ... after all this, we will think no longer in terms of "them" and "those" but only "us".* Pope Francis. (Arranged by the Society of St Vincent de Paul, Cheshire, Stockport & Tameside).

'Right to Life' & the Assisted Dying Bill - You must have heard the fantastic news that reason and humanity prevailed at the Second Reading debate of Baroness Meacher's assisted suicide Bill which has just ended (Friday). Following mass opposition from over 60 Peers who spoke against the Bill in the debate, Baroness Meacher has not taken her assisted suicide Bill to a vote! Thanks to all who rose to the occasion in defence of human life. For more on the Right To Life News and videos of some of the best speeches from the debate, go to: www.righttolife.org.uk.

Dicastery for promoting Integral Human Development—Cardinal Turkson has written announcing the establishment of a *Laudato Si* Action Platform to be launched on the Global Day of Prayer for the Poor, 14th November 2021. The platform will propose a 7-year journey based on the 7 goals to which Pope Francis has recalled us on the anniversary year of *Laudato Si*.

Sad news—announcement of the sudden death of Father John Gaul SCJ. May he rest in peace. Father John served in the Diocese as Parish Priest of Malpas and was latterly living in retirement in Stockport. Please remember him in prayer together with the community of the Sacred Heart Fathers.

Our Lady's News:

Ministers of The Eucharist at Our Lady's: If you are a Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady's and feel able to resume the ministry at Mass and in visiting the sick and housebound, please could you let us know by emailing the parish office, telephoning or by a note through the letter box. We are hoping to begin visiting the sick and housebound with Holy Communion as soon as possible. Please let us know if you (or anyone you know) would like to receive Holy Communion at home so that arrangements can be made. Fr Martin would also like to begin visiting the sick and housebound and if you would welcome a visit, again, please let us know.

Children's Liturgy: Hand sanitisers will be available and surfaces will be wiped down. The leaders will be wearing face masks as per the diocese guidance and we respectfully ask any parents/ guardians to wear a face mask if attending with children. Please can we ask that children do not attend if they have been in contact with anyone who is covid positive, have a temperature, cough or cold symptoms to avoid spreading viruses to others.

Normandy Veterans remembrance Service—will be held at Our Lady's on the 14th of November at 2.30pm.

St Ambrose News

7pm Mass for All Souls, this Tuesday, 2nd Nov: Please note the additional Mass at St. Ambrose this Tuesday, 7pm.

Piety Stall - is now open and has a large selection of cards for all occasions, plus books and Rosary Beads.

St Vincent's News:

Monday 10am Service of Word and Communion followed by Knit and Natter.

Parishes in Partnership church in Sudan—The update and photos are on the church website under the Groups tab. We are hoping to give you more information at our next coffee after Mass on November 21st.

Remembrance Sunday - please send the names of your recently deceased to Veronica Martin on 485 7616

Bramhall Methodist church are having a Charity Card sale on Saturday 6th November from 10am to 12.30pm in the church rear hall

Piety Stall Christmas Cards—some are on the stall and the catalogue is on line. Any house bound parishioners who need the physical catalogue can request a copy from Lucy 07557425242

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

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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