

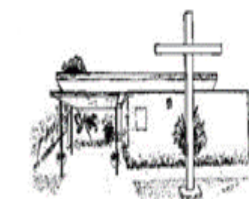
Always, “Life is Worth Living”... Confronting the Culture of Death with Saint John Paul II’s “Gospel of Life (By Rev. Martin Onuoha) Continued from last week.....

A similarly precise and intelligible distinction must be applied in cases where there exists no direct causal link between induced unconsciousness and the shortening of life although the actual administration of drugs brings about two distinct effects, the one the relief of pain, the other the shortening of life. In such cases the action to administer such a drug is lawful. Yet some necessary conditions need to be observed: firstly, that there is, between these two effects, a reasonable proportion, and that the advantages of the one compensate for the disadvantages of the other; Secondly, it is important also to ask oneself if the present state of science does not allow the same result to be obtained by other means; Thirdly, that in the use of the drug, one should not go beyond the limits which are actually necessary, as for instance to impede the fulfilment of moral and religious duties. In all these cases, we need to think very carefully, maintain and refuse to surrender necessary distinctions all of which depend upon the sanctity (or at very least the special character) of human life whose origin and termination in this world can never be simply matters of utilitarian concern and overt control as though we were the authors of our existence and can do what we will with it.

Euthanasia is a very sensitive subject which raises passions. We cannot doubt and should not belittle in any way the very strong emotional force of those who support it, especially of those who have had close experience. I have watched people, including close relatives, endure cancer pains, I am aware that watching a loved one go through this ordeal is the grimmest and most distressing of experiences, especially faced with one’s incapacity to alter the situation. Hence, the inclination to facilitate a quicker end. However, the basic principles of the dignity of the human person based on the Natural Law, as enunciated by St. John Paul, as well as the manifest danger of the slippery slope which I have tried to set out here, must surely make anyone hesitate. This is especially the case at present where we cannot know what legislation the government will introduce next and how long before the decision is taken out of the hands of the persons and their families. One real anxiety here is that such decisions, though presented in the language of compassion, may (probably will) be strongly influenced by the consideration of funds and the need to free up beds and a whole host of similar reasons which have little to do with moral principles. The heroic latter life until death of St. John Paul who bore in the manner of a saint, but also that of an exemplary human being (the two are not opposed), suffering and pain till life’s natural end, is permanently relevant here and must not be forgotten. It is the manifest lived equivalent to his clear and courageous teaching. Prominent in his Pontificate was this struggle between the “culture of life” and the “culture of death” which so marked the wars and dictatorship societies through which he lived and now threatens us in the peacetime ‘democratic ’moves to a euthanasia and abortion society in which prenatal life and the manner of death are decided by fiat and whim. For St John Paul, this is the external sign of *the eclipse of the sense of God and of man* and thus the systematic violation of the moral law”. His unswerving stand is that euthanasia is “a *serious violation of the law of God*, since it is the deliberate and morally unacceptable killing of a human person”. And so, no law or human authority can justify it. Even in confusing cases he rightly argues that “the moral principle is well known, according to which even the simple doubt of being in the presence of a living person already imposes the obligation of full respect and of abstaining from any act that aims at anticipating the person’s death.” to be continued.....

**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**



9th JANUARY 2022. THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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=...) (for both St. Vincent’s and St. Ambrose’) **IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES, WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE USE THE HAND SANITISER, SIGN IN AT THE DOOR FOR TRACK AND TRACE USING THE QR CODE OR PAPER, WEAR A FACE COVERING, AND GIVE PEOPLE SOME SPACE UNTIL THE PANDEMIC IS OVER.**

Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sun 9th Jan	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	5.30pm 7.00pm 9.30am 11.00am	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady’s St Vincent’s Our Lady’s	Our Parish Family William & Tommy Mellet RIP Patricia Kenny RIP Julia Higgins (ann)
Mon 10th Jan		9.30am	St. Ambrose	Leach Family - Private int
Tues 11th Jan		9.30am	Our Lady’s	Service of Word and Communion
Wed 12th Jan		9.30am	St. Vincent’s	Pauline Doherty– Private int
Thurs 13th Jan		9.30am 7.00pm	St Ambrose Our Lady’s-	Sager & Dugmore family— Private int Service of Word and Communion
Fri 14th Jan		9.30am	St. Vincent’s	Marie McDonald
Sat 15th Jan		9.30am	Our Lady’s	Service of Word and Communion
Sun 16th Jan		5.30pm 7.00pm 9.30am 11.00am	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady’s St Vincent’s Our Lady’s	Morrell Family– Private int Marie O’Callaghan RIP Patricia Kenny RIP Ted Donnelly RIP

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 those preparing to receive the sacraments:

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. Please send names to the parish office. Would you consider volunteering as a Catechist?

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: Maureen Brosnahan, Kelly Brosnahan, Zach Tierney, Irene Cox, Lee Abernathy, Janice Cook, Eileen Me- lia, 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 soul of Dominique Davies, Anthony Morris and the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Eileen Woolley, Jack Callaghan, Mary McLoughlin, Richard Burgess, Sandra Mary Capey, Sheila Whelan, Fred Selby, George McKee, David Welch, Alice Wynne, Janina Piechowska, Julia Higgins, Ruby Adamson, Wilfred Pecket, Edith Moores, Roy Glindon, Mary Kenny, Mary Shorrocks, Thomas Sheehy, Elizabeth Hayes, Mary Graham.

General Notices:

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR 2022—JANUARY PRAYER— For True Human Fraternity; We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: 18th – 25th January 2022 The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches: 'We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him. (Mt 2:2)'. The Churches Together in Cheshire Service will be held at 3.00 pm on Saturday 22nd January at Chester Cathedral. Materials may be obtained from <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christianunity-2022/>

THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM ON SYNODALITY The symposium will take place at Saint Mary's College, Oscott College from Friday March 11th to Saturday March 12th, 2022. A link can be found on the Oscott College homepage (www.oscott.net) to a registration page on Eventbrite for the proposed symposium entitled "Exploring the Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission,". The event is in collaboration with St Mary's University, Twickenham and will afford an opportunity to explore the teaching of the Church through an academic and theological lens. It is open to all but would very much suit anyone with an academic or theological interest. Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/exploring-the-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission-tickets-160596058133>

Dominique Davies (McKee) Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday the 25th of January at 12pm at Our Lady's. Followed by cremation at the Rowan Chapel Stockport crematorium at 1.45pm.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School—Stockport. Governors are advertising for a new Headteacher. The closing date for applications is 24th January 2022. For further information please visit one of the following websites— School www.st-josephs-pri.stockport.sch.uk Diocese www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/education/vacancies/primary Local Authority www.stockport.gov.uk/job-vacancies

FR MARTIN'S NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOKS, *Mary, Daughter Zion & Actio Divina* will be available this Christmas, published by Peter Lang, Oxford. This can be ordered on Amazon and other outlets.

Second Collection — The collection for the Retired Priests' Fund is held annually usually over one weekend in January. The Priests' Retirement Fund will be collected on the third Sunday in January—16th of January 2022.

Last weekend's collections (excludes standing orders) : **OLATA— £610.90 St Ambrose £147.50 St Vincent— £171.55**
THANK YOU!

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

Free Medical Outreach Umunomo 2022— Father is appealing for prayers as the free medical programme starts on Friday 7th of January for parishioners to pray for its success. Thank You.

GREATER MANCHESTER CHURCHES TOGETHER ~ JOB VACANCY Churches Together Facilitator.

Here attached is the job description and details of the GMCT vacancy for a Churches Together Facilitator.

The closing date for applications is 5.00 pm on 10th January 2022.

The Universe Catholic Weekly is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new on line newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order **your Digital** copy by going to www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk or call us on 0743661 7650 and ask for Michelle. Special offer: Only £20 for 3 months.

Mini Vinnies- are collecting used cards to be refashioned into new Christmas cards by "mini vinnies" in schools within the Diocese. The new cards would then be given by prison chaplains to those in prison to give to their children and families when making their Christmas visits to the prisons. This idea has worked – additionally cards have been given to those who are in isolation or who are vulnerable as well as those who have a family member able to visit. It enhances – family relationships. Obviously the personalised part of the cards were detached. The used cards refashioned in 7 schools and will be taken in a week's time to the Chaplains at HMP Berwyn (Wrexham) which houses 1800 men. So the guys have something to give to their families, particularly children. The Mini Vinnie co ordinating group wish to repeat the idea and extend it to other prisons such as Thorn Cross and Risley near Stockton Heath.

The SVP Prison Group is different from the SVP in parishes but I am keeping the parish conference informed.

There is a **black bag clearly labelled at the back** of the church for collection of old Christmas cards.

Thank you - Kevin McKenna

Our Lady's News

The Piety Stall—is now open for cards and gifts, and a selection of rosary beads.

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.

St Ambrose News

SVP welcome any used postage stamps. These can be handed in at St Ambrose.

Thank you everyone for your very generous Christmas Donations.

The Piety stall has some lovely new items including Calendars and Rosary Beads. Please take time to have a look.

St Vincent's News

Knit and Natter—starts again on Monday morning after Service of Word and Communion at 10am.

Road to Emmaus—Monday 7.30pm on Zoom.

Rosary—Tuesday evening 7pm.

Collection on 26/12 was £829.65.

Collection on 24&25/12/21 was £476.44.

Please send any items for inclusion in the newsletter to the Parish Office by 12 midday on Thursday. Kindly indicate parish of choice for your mass intentions. Bear in mind that dates might not be available.

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 3E

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