

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
FOR LENT 2022**

**"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is a favourable time for personal and community renewal, as it leads us to the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For our Lenten journey in 2022, we will do well to reflect on Saint Paul's exhortation to the Galatians: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity (*kairós*), let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10).

1. Sowing and reaping

In these words, the Apostle evokes the image of sowing and reaping, so dear to Jesus (cf. Mt 13). Saint Paul speaks to us of a *kairós*: an opportune time for sowing goodness in view of a future harvest. What is this "opportune time" for us? Lent is certainly such an opportune time, but so is our entire existence, of which Lent is in some way an image. [1] All too often in our lives, greed, pride and the desire to possess, accumulate and consume have the upper hand, as we see from the story of the foolish man in the Gospel parable, who thought his life was safe and secure because of the abundant grain and goods he had stored in his barns (cf. Lk 12:16-21). Lent invites us to conversion, to a change in mindset, so that life's truth and beauty may be found not so much in possessing as in giving, not so much in accumulating as in sowing and sharing goodness.

The first to sow is God himself, who with great generosity "continues to sow abundant seeds of goodness in our human family" (*Fratelli Tutti*, 54). During Lent we are called to respond to God's gift by accepting his word, which is "living and active" (Heb 4:12). Regular listening to the word of God makes us open and docile to his working (cf. Jas 1:21) and bears fruit in our lives. This brings us great joy, yet even more, it summons us to become God's co-workers (cf. 1 Cor 3:9). By making good use of the present time (cf. Eph 5:16), we too can sow seeds of goodness. This call to sow goodness should not be seen as a burden but a grace, whereby the Creator wishes us to be actively united with his own bountiful goodness.

What about the harvest? Do we not sow seeds in order to reap a harvest? Of course! Saint Paul points to the close relationship between sowing and reaping when he says: "Anyone who sows sparsely will reap sparsely as well, and anyone who sows generously will reap generously as well" (2 Cor 9:6). But what kind of harvest are we talking about? A first fruit of the goodness we sow appears in ourselves and our daily lives, even in our little acts of kindness. In God, no act of love, no matter how small, and no "generous effort" will ever be lost (cf. *Evangeli Gaudium*, 279). Just as we recognize a tree by its fruits (cf. Mt 7:16, 20), so a life full of good deeds radiates light (cf. Mt 5:14-16) and carries the fragrance of Christ to the world (cf. 2 Cor 2:15). Serving God in freedom from sin brings forth fruits of sanctification for the salvation of all (cf. Rom 6:22).

In truth, we see only a small portion of the fruits of what we sow, since, according to the Gospel proverb, "one sows, while another reaps" (Jn 4:37). When we sow for the benefit of others, we share in God's own benevolent love: "it is truly noble to place our hope in the hidden power of the seeds of goodness we sow, and thus to initiate processes whose fruits will be reaped by others" (*Fratelli Tutti*, 196). Sowing goodness for the benefit of others frees us from narrow self-interest, infuses our actions with gratuitousness, and makes us part of the magnificent horizon of God's benevolent plan.

The word of God broadens and elevates our vision: it tells us that the real harvest is eschatological, the harvest of the last, undying day. The mature fruit of our lives and actions is "fruit for eternal life" (Jn 4:36), our "treasure in heaven" (Lk 12:33; 18:22). Jesus himself uses the image of the seed that dies in the ground in order to bear fruit as a symbol of the mystery of his death and resurrection (cf. Jn 12:24); while Saint Paul uses the same image to speak of the resurrection of our bodies: "What is sown is perishable, but what is raised is imperishable; what is sown is contemptible but what is raised is glorious; what is sown is weak, but what is raised is powerful; what is sown is a natural body, and what is raised is a spiritual body" (1 Cor 15:42-44). The hope of resurrection is the great light that the risen Christ brings to the world, for "if our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are of all people the most pitiable. In fact, however, Christ has been raised from the dead, as the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:19-20). Those who are intimately united to him in love "by dying a death like his" (Rom 6:5) will also be united to his resurrection for eternal life (cf. Jn 5:29). "Then the upright will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Mt 13:43) .....to be continued next week.

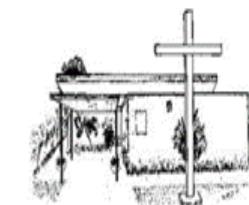
**Newsletter for the Parishes of  
Our Lady and the Apostles, St. Ambrose and St. Vincent de Paul**

Telephone: 0161 480 2489 Email: stockport3parishes@gmail.com  
Websites: [ourladyandtheapostles.co.uk/](http://ourladyandtheapostles.co.uk/) [stambrosechurch.org.uk/](http://stambrosechurch.org.uk/) [stvincentbramhall.org/](http://stvincentbramhall.org/)  
Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Onuoha Email: [frifeanyimom@yahoo.com](mailto:frifeanyimom@yahoo.com)  
Deacon: Rev. Moses Ibeh



**13TH MARCH 2022. SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

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](http://tinyurl.com/stockportparishes) or [Stockport Parishes - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) (for both St. Vincent's and St. Ambrose')



**MASKS ARE NO LONGER MANDATORY BUT RECOMMENDED. PLEASE USE THE HAND SANITISER.**

Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sun 13th Mar	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	5.30pm 7.00pm 9.30am 11.00am	<b>Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose</b> <b>Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's</b> <b>St Vincent's</b> <b>Our Lady's</b>	Margaret Walker (RIP) Our Parish Family Patricia Melson RIP Przemyslaw Janczewski RIP
Mon 14th Mar	<b>Ferial</b>	9.30am	<b>St. Ambrose</b>	Joseph Ebbs (ann)
Tues 15th Mar	<b>Ferial</b>	9.30am	<b>Our Lady's</b>	Ukraine and Russian people
Wed 16th-Mar	<b>Ferial</b>	9.30am	<b>St. Vincent's</b>	Jim Wheeldon RIP
Thurs 17th Mar	<b>ST PATRICK, B Patron of Ireland</b>	9.30am 7.00pm	<b>St Ambrose</b> <b>Our Lady's</b>	Ukraine & Russian people Service of Word & Communion
Fri 18th Mar	<b>Ferial</b> (St. Cyril of Jerusalem, B)	9.30am 10.15am 7.00pm 7:30pm	<b>St. Vincent's</b> <b>St Vincent's</b> <b>Our Lady's</b> <b>St Ambrose</b>	Adrian Kelly RIP Stations of the cross. Stations of the cross. Stations of the cross.
Sat 19th Mar	<b>ST JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>  <b>VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY</b>	9.30am  5.30pm 7.00pm	<b>Our Lady's</b>  <b>Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose</b> <b>Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's</b>	Holy Souls  Mary Ann O'Connor b/d ann Mary Brett RIP
Sun 20th Mar	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	9.30am 11.00am	<b>St Vincent's</b> <b>Our Lady's</b>	Ukraine & Russian people Our Parish Family

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 resume in April 2022

**First Holy Communion:** Preparatory Classes have now started across our parishes. Please get in touch before it is late. The next Enrolment Mass will hold at Our Lady's on Sunday, 27th March, 11am.

**RCIA:** Are you or anyone you know **interested in joining the Catholic Church or wish to know more about the Catholic faith?** Please join us after the 11am Mass at Our Lady's. 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:** Allan Stanway, Maureen Brosnahan, Kelly Brosnahan, Zach Tierney, 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, 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:** June Campbell, Mavis Doggett, 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.

**Recently Departed:** May the souls Thomas Caveney, Dawn Marie Flanagan, and the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

#### Anniversaries

Derek Caine, William Foley, Joan Burniston, John Curley Jnr, Melanie (Mel) Hadfield, Gertrude (Gertie) Ashton, Moira Selby Snr, Terrence Maguire, May Maynes, Kathleen Fay, Robert Leech, David Wolstencroft, Kate McLoughlin, Terry Hibbert, William Joseph White, Walter Joseph Wright, William Gee, Constance Johnson, Joseph Ebbs, Katherleen Mason, Joseph Sheehan, John Eric Ford, Daniel Redden.

#### **PRAYER FOR SYNOD 2021-23:**

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.**

**LENTEN PRAYER—Heavenly Father, As we begin the discipline of Lent, protect us in our struggle against evil. Make this season holy by our self-denial, that we may be cleansed from sin, renewed in spirit, ready to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

**Stations of the cross**—every Friday during lent at St Vincent's after 0930 mass, OLATA at 1900hrs and St Ambrose at 1930 hrs. All welcome. If anyone would like to volunteer to lead please come forward so we can make it a truly parish event at each of our parishes.

**Harrytown Catholic High School Vacancy**—Part-time caretaker—Full details are on the school website – [www.harrytownschool.org](http://www.harrytownschool.org)

**Catering Assistant Vacancy**—St Ambrose College—Term time only 20 hrs/week, 10:15 am—2.15pm Mon—Fri. Closing date 24.3.22 12 mid day. £9.43 per hour. Application form at [www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk](http://www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk) Karen Allen, Catering Manager, on 0161 980 2711 for further information.

**Stockport Leaders Lunch** on the 31st March 12:30-2:30pm. Soul City Church, Floor 2, Welkin Mill, Lower Bredbury, SK6 2BH.

**LORETO SPIRITUALITY CENTRE RETREATS:** Loreto Spirituality Centre is based in Llandudno, North Wales, five minutes' walk from the west shore and at the base of the Great Orme. It is run by the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Sisters) whose Founder is Mary Ward. Mary Ward said: "I listened to God's deep dream for me and felt ready to respond". The Centre offers space for people to come away and rest awhile with God, by offering individually guided retreats, preached retreats, themed retreats and conferences. There is a well-equipped conference room which can be booked on a day or live in basis. Groups who would like to 'come away and rest awhile' are welcome, whether for a retreat or a short break. Individuals are invited to come for a few days on a self-catering or B&B basis enabling them to spend time with us in a peaceful, quiet atmosphere. Groups can also book their own conferences on a full board basis. For the programme of events please visit our website: [www.loretocentre.org.uk](http://www.loretocentre.org.uk)

**Our Lady's Offertory Envelopes:** 'Boxes of envelopes for the year commencing 10 April are now available on the tables at the back of Church. The boxes are, as usual, in alphabetical order. If you are new to our Parish or don't have a box but would like one please telephone or email the Parish Office (details on page 1) with your name, address and phone number and I will contact you. Should you choose to donate by Standing Order or wish to Gift Aid your donation, this can also be arranged. There are leaflets on the table to help you make your decision. If you are no longer a taxpayer please let me know. Thank you all for your continuing support and the generosity you give to YOUR Parish throughout these very difficult times.' Tom Horan.

**Last weekend's collections ( excludes standing orders): OLATA— £750.11 St Ambrose - £188.20 St Vincent- £ 168.42 THANK YOU.**

**Faulty Heating System:** The heating is now working. Thank you for your patience.

**The SVP:** Thank parishioners for providing jackets, coats and jumpers for asylum seekers being accommodated in Stockport.. 3 full car loads were delivered to Stockport Baptist Church and another car load went to an SVP project in St Helens near Liverpool.

#### Our Lady's News

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

**Children's Liturgy & 1st Communion Preparation Classes** - will take place during the 11am Mass. Please bring the children to learn and pray with us.

**Our Lady's Offertory Envelopes:** Thank you to all those Parishioners who were able to collect their envelopes over the past two weeks. Please do not start using them until the 9/4/2022. If you have not yet collected your box (only three weeks to go) or you are in position to deliver a box to a friend or neighbour please check the names before you leave Church. If you are new to the Parish or don't have a box but would like one please telephone or email the Parish Office (details on Page 1) with your name, address and phone number and I will contact you. Should you choose to donate by Standing Order or wish to Gift Aid your donation, this can also be arranged. As always a big THANK YOU to you all for your continuing support of YOUR Parish, Tom Horan.

**COFFEE MORNINGS AT OUR LADY'S** - 'Our Sunday Coffee Mornings will relaunch after the 11:00am Mass on *Laetare* Sunday 27th March 2022. This date has been chosen because it marks a time of celebration: it will be the Fourth Sunday of Lent - REJOICE SUNDAY! - and this year it is also Mother's Day and marks the start of British Summer Time. I anticipate that the sessions will be weekly - but this will, naturally, depend upon take up. Any variations will be shared through the Newsletter. Although the Government has removed all restrictions related to Covid [coincidentally the first session falls close to the second anniversary of restrictions being put in place], I would suggest that for our own peace of mind we operate with some caution - details of precautions to be taken are included on the poster displayed in Our Lady's Church. I look forward to seeing you at a Coffee Morning soon' - Ged

**HEALTH AND SAFETY AT OUR LADY'S**—Please note the following: 1. Risk Assessments—Please can all parish activity leaders check that their Risk Assessments are adequate and up to date. You can refer to the new Diocesan Health and Safety User Guide in the Parish Office or contact Stephen Lavin at [Lavin.stephen@talk21.com](mailto:Lavin.stephen@talk21.com) for an electronic copy. 2. Emergency evacuation— In case of a need to evacuate the church. Get out swiftly and calmly. Stay out. Report to the steward at the Assembly Point by the right hand car park exit gate (by advertising board). Do not attempt to fight fires, if not competent.

#### St Ambrose News

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

**The Gift Aid envelopes** for the new tax year 2022/23 are now available at the back of Church. Please take the box with your name on it. If anyone does not currently use the gift aid system, but would like to join, there are spare boxes available. Please see Marge Newbrook for a form to complete so that the box number can be recorded against your name. If anyone is no longer an Income Tax payer, could you also please contact Marge to let her know. Thank you all for your continuing support.

#### St Vincent's News

**Funeral for Margaret Whittaker** will take place on the 16/3/22 at Macclesfield Crematorium at 11.30am

**Lenten Book Group** - continues each Monday morning during Lent after 10am Service of Word and Communion

**Rosary** - Veronica Martin will be leading the rosary on Tuesday 8th March at 7pm in church. Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine

**Stations of the Cross** - every Friday in Lent after 9.30am Mass

**Ultimate Book Club** Rev David Clowes will address us on the book of Ezekiel on Sunday 3 April at 2pm. The meeting will be at Centrepoint Bramhall and will conclude with refreshments. We hope you can come or watch on the live stream via the Bramhall Methodist web site. The meetings are also recorded and can be visited on the same site.

**CAFOD**—Please return your CAFOD envelopes in the Offertory collection.

**Prayer Group Lent** retreat continues on Monday morning as usual.

**Children's Mass** on Sunday 3rd April: We need children to volunteer to read, take the collection and the offertory etc.

**Week of Prayer for The Mill** (Bramhall's Youth Centre) on 28th March to 3rd April, they will be having an Open day on Wed 30th Mar if you want to visit between 3-8pm.

**Coffee after Mass** next Sunday 20th March.

**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, Adswood Road, Stockport, SK3 3QA, St. Vincent de Paul, 29 Handley Road, Bramhall, Stockport, SK7 3E*

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