

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR LENT 2022—continued from last Sunday.....**

"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)

2. "Let us not grow tired of doing good" Christ's resurrection enlivens earthly hopes with the "great hope" of eternal life, planting the seed of salvation in our present time (cf. BENEDICT XVI, *Spe Salvi*, 3; 7). Bitter disappointment at shattered dreams, deep concern for the challenges ahead and discouragement at the poverty of our resources, can make us tempted to seek refuge in self-centredness and indifference to the suffering of others. Indeed, even our best resources have their limitations: "Youths grow tired and weary, the young stumble and fall" (*Is* 40:30). Yet God "gives strength to the weary, he strengthens the powerless... Those who hope in the Lord will regain their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; though they run they will not grow weary, though they walk they will never tire" (*Is* 40:29, 31). The Lenten season calls us to place our faith and hope in the Lord (cf. *1 Pet* 1:21), since only if we fix our gaze on the risen Christ (cf. *Heb* 12:2) will we be able to respond to the Apostle's appeal, "Let us never grow tired of doing good" (*Gal* 6:9).
Let us not grow tired of praying. Jesus taught us to "pray always without becoming weary" (*Lk* 18:1). We need to pray because we need God. Thinking that we need nothing other than ourselves is a dangerous illusion. If the pandemic has heightened the awareness of our own personal and social fragility, may this Lent allow us to experience the consolation provided by faith in God, without whom we cannot stand firm (cf. *Is* 7:9). No one attains salvation alone, since we are all in the same boat, amid the storms of history; [2] and certainly no one reaches salvation without God, for only the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ triumphs over the dark waters of death. Faith does not spare us life's burdens and tribulations, but it does allow us to face them in union with God in Christ, with the great hope that does not disappoint, whose pledge is the love that God has poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (cf. *Rom* 5:1-5).
Let us not grow tired of uprooting evil from our lives. May the corporal fasting to which Lent calls us fortify our spirit for the battle against sin. *Let us not grow tired of asking for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation,* knowing that God never tires of forgiving. [3] *Let us not grow tired of fighting against concupiscence,* that weakness which induces to selfishness and all evil, and finds in the course of history a variety of ways to lure men and women into sin (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 166). One of these is addiction to the digital media, which impoverishes human relationships. Lent is a propitious time to resist these temptations and to cultivate instead a more integral form of human communication (*ibid.*, 43) made up of "authentic encounters" (*ibid.*, 50), face-to-face and in person.
Let us not grow tired of doing good in active charity towards our neighbours. During this Lent, may we practise almsgiving by giving joyfully (cf. *2 Cor* 9:7). God who "supplies seed to the sower and bread for food" (*2 Cor* 9:10) enables each of us not only to have food to eat, but also to be generous in doing good to others. While it is true that we have our entire life to sow goodness, let us take special advantage of this Lenten season to care for those close to us and to reach out to our brothers and sisters who lie wounded along the path of life (cf. *Lk* 10:25-37). Lent is a favourable time to seek out – and not to avoid – those in need; to reach out – and not to ignore – those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit – and not to abandon – those who are lonely. Let us put into practice our call to do good to all, and take time to love the poor and needy, those abandoned and rejected, those discriminated against and marginalized (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 193).

3. "If we do not give up, we shall reap our harvest in due time" Each year during Lent we are reminded that "goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day" (*ibid.*, 11). Let us ask God to give us the patient perseverance of the farmer (cf. *Jas* 5:7), and to persevere in doing good, one step at a time. If we fall, let us stretch out our hand to the Father, who always lifts us up. If we are lost, if we are misled by the enticements of the evil one, let us not hesitate to return to God, who "is generous in forgiving" (*Is* 55:7). In this season of conversion, sustained by God's grace and by the communion of the Church, let us not grow tired of doing good. The soil is prepared by fasting, watered by prayer and enriched by charity. Let us believe firmly that "if we do not give up, we shall reap our harvest in due time" and that, with the gift of perseverance, we shall obtain what was promised (cf. *Heb* 10:36), for our salvation and the salvation of others (cf. *1 Tim* 4:16). By cultivating fraternal love towards everyone, we are united to Christ, who gave his life for our sake (cf. *2 Cor* 5:14-15), and we are granted a foretaste of the joy of the kingdom of heaven, when God will be "all in all" (*1 Cor* 15:28). May the Virgin Mary, who bore the Saviour in her womb and "pondered all these things in her heart" (*Lk* 2:19), obtain for us the gift of patience. May she accompany us with her maternal presence, so that this season of conversion may bring forth fruits of eternal salvation.

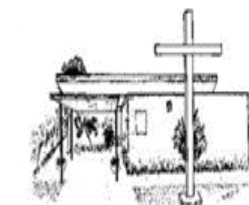
Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 November, 2021, Memorial of Saint Martin, Bishop.

FRANCIS

[1] Cf. SAINTAUGUSTINE, *Serm.* 243, 9,8; 270, 3; *En. in Ps.* 110, 1.[2] Cf. *Extraordinary Moment of Prayer presided over by Pope Francis* (27 March 2020).[3] Cf. *Angelus*, 17 March 2013.

**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/ stambrosechurch.org.uk/ stvincentbramhall.org/
 Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Onuoha Email: frifeanyimom@yahoo.com
 Deacon: Rev. Moses Ibeh



20TH MARCH 2022. THIRD 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 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 20th Mar	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	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	Mary Ann O'Connor b/d ann Mary Brett RIP Ukraine & Russian people Our Parish Family
Mon 21th Mar	Ferial	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Kenneth Price RIP
Tues 22nd Mar	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Tommy Higgins RIP
Wed 23rd-Mar	Ferial (St Toribio of Mogrovejo, B)	9.30am 10.45am	St. Vincent's Funeral -OL First Forgiveness—OL	Tommy Higgins RIP Patrick 'Paddy' Sharp Our Lady's School
Thurs 24th Mar	Ferial	9.30am 7.00pm	St Ambrose Our Lady's	Holy Souls Patrick Broadhurst RIP
Fri 25th Mar	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	9.30am 10.15am 12noon 7.00pm 7.30pm 7:30pm	St. Vincent's Mass (with consecration prayer) St Vincent's Funeral—OL Our Lady's Mass (with consecration prayer) Our Lady's St Ambrose	Margaret Runieman –Get Well Stations of the cross. Elizabeth Cullenaine RIP Holy Souls Stations of the cross. Stations of the cross.
Sat 26th Mar	Ferial British Summer Time begins VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	9.30am 5.00pm 5.30pm 7.00pm	Our Lady's St Ambrose Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's	Patrick Broadhurst RIP First Forgiveness Our Parish Family Gertrude Ashton RIP (ann)
Sun 27th Mar	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9.30am 11.00am 2.00pm	St Vincent's Our Lady's Baptism— OL	Our Parish Family Our Parish Family Lottie Victoria Cain

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: We warmly welcome the children been enrolled this weekend for their First Forgiveness and Holy Communion at Our Lady's and pray for God's blessings for them and their families.

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!

Sick List

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, 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, Sean O'Callaghan and Sheilagh Lees.

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 of Tommy Higgins, Elizabeth Cullenaine, Patrick Sharp and the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Reginald Lyne, Elizabeth Greatorex, William Norman Lawler, Henry O'Brien, Elizabeth Hulme, Winnie Kelly, George Trevor Smith, Patrick Fleming, Bernard Pritchard, Thomas Fallon, Philip James Pollitt, Goerge William Wood, James Joseph Nermey, Bert Viggars, William (Bill) Vaughan, John H. Allcock., Kathleen Hodkinson.

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

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE—Hear our prayers, O Lord, and deliver us from distress, for You are merciful and compassionate and love mankind.

Draft Easter Services Proposal . Friday, 8th April – **LENTEN PENTITENTIAL SERVICE** at St Ambrose' Adswood for the 4 parishes of Our Lady and the Apostles, St Joseph's, St Ambrose and St Vincent's.– see notice board.

Medjugorje Youth Festival - from 2nd to 9th August 2022 led by Fr Tony McGrath. £645, return flights from Manchester Airport, 7 nights accommodation close to St James Church, full programme with Joe Walsh Tours and Breakfast and Dinner each day. This pilgrimage is for 18-35 year olds, and families with under 18's are also welcome. There is an information evening at Christ Church, 98 Finney Lane, Heald Green, SK8 3DY at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th April. For more information or to register interest please email Fr Tony at christchurchg@yahoo.co.uk

Ukrainian Refugee Crisis—Our diocese will register an interest in the government scheme to help Ukrainain refugees come to the UK. Caritas Social Action Network will circulate a detailed briefing next week. We need to register our interest as a parish if we are moved to support this scheme. Please would you send your contact details to the parish office so we can arrange a meeting and formulate a response as to what our support would look like, eg giving, campaigning, prayer, housing, sharing previous experience of working with refugees, support when they get here. Useful links can be found at <https://resetuk.org/about/ukraine> <https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/2022/02/28/ukraine-crisis-update/>

Renewal North West—seeks volunteers to work in their coffee shop for one or more days a week. Contact Ben Rochford 61-63 Shaw Heath Stockport SK3 8BH 01614762777. Bringing Hope through Jesus Christ..

Remember to put your clocks forward next weekend, Saturday 26th March.

St Ambrose College—Job opportunity—Site Manager—36.25 hrs per week, £25,419—£30,095 all year round. For further information go to www.st-ambrosecollege.org.uk click on vacancies.

Last weekend's collections (excludes standing orders): **OLATA—£540.44 St Ambrose - £90.18 St Vincent- £205.55 & CAFOD—£114.22 THANK YOU.**

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

Thank you for your kind support towards the work of Stella Maris—On the one-year anniversary of the Ever Given ship getting stuck in the Suez Canal, Catholic charity Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is hosting a webinar about modernisation in the shipping industry. It will look at the history of the container ship, the rise of the ultra-large container vessels, and explore what impact modernisation of the shipping industry has had on seafarers around the world. Please register now at www.stellamaris.org.uk/modernisation to join online on **23 March at 7.30pm** to hear how shipping has changed in the last century, the impact this is having on seafarers today, and the important role Stella Maris has in supporting them.

Our Lady's News

Ian & Caths family group are meeting in the Guild Room on Friday 1st April 2022 from 7pm to 9.15pm for nibbles, a chat and session planning. The plan is to revert back to monthly gatherings from then on **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 three 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. **TEA & COFFEE AFTER 11AM MASS NEXT SUNDAY** (AS WE CELEBRATE OUR FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES) - '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

St Ambrose News

The Piety stall Piety stall has lots of new items for sale including some lovely new children's bibles and christening gifts. Many cards, rosary beads and prayer cards. We also have some Easter cards on sale. We also have a book case with some lovely books for the children to read if they wish to, just return when they have finished reading.

Second Collection - this weekend for CAFOD for those who missed the opportunity last week. Please be as generous as you can and thank you for your support.

Used Stamps can be left at the back of the church for SVP to recycle. Thank You.

St Vincent's News

Please stay for **coffee after Mass today.**

Children's Mass on Sunday 3 April: We need children to volunteer to read, take the collection, take part in the Offertory Procession etc.

Mary's Meals Rucksacks—if you still have a completed rucksack from 2020, please could you bring it to Church and leave it in the Meeting Room as soon as possible. The rucksack project is being discontinued, but there is a final delivery of existing rucksacks.

Stations of the Cross on Fridays after 9.30 am Mass.

Prayer Group continues the Lent Retreat on Monday at 10.30 am after the Service of Word and Communion.

Exploring Faith in Church on Monday 21 March at 7.30 pm.

Week of Prayer for The Mill (Bramhall's Youth Centre) on 28 March to 3 April. There will be an Open Day on Wednesday 30 March from 3 pm to 8 pm.

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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