

Wednesday 4th May 2022 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM



Encountering Christ
Prayerfully preparing for the
Sunday Mass and praying in
particular for our school families



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 8th May 2022 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

1 Relax & Remember

Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 8th May 2022 - Jesus the Good Shepherd (John 10:27-30)

Jesus said, "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one."



3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection. Jesus' teaching on the Good Shepherd is the nearest saying approaching a parable in John's gospel. It is so important that the Church puts it before us on the fourth Sunday of Easter in each of the three cycles of readings. Apart from its obvious sense of Jesus looking after his sheep – and silly, confused sheep at that – this image receives special meaning from the figure of the shepherd in the Old Testament. God is the primary shepherd of Israel, who pastures his sheep in pastures green so that they fear no evil (Psalm 23). In Ezekiel 34 God promises to free Israel from the self-centred shepherds who keep the sheep for their own advantage, and to send them a true shepherd after his own heart, a second King David, who will tend them as God himself would care for them. Thus, in putting before us each year in Eastertide this proclamation that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the Church is affirming the risen Christ as the divine Shepherd who tends his flocks. Particularly in these verses we see the unity of the risen Christ and the Father in their role of shepherds of the sheep, just as in our second reading from the Book of Revelation we see the unity of the LORD God and the Lamb, both revered on the one throne.

What is involved in imitating Christ as shepherd?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.



The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph

www.wednesdayword.org

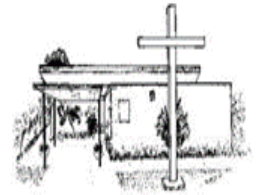
Newsletter for the Parishes of
Our Lady and the Apostles, St. Ambrose and St. Vincent de Paul

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Deacon: Rev. Moses Ibeh



1st May 2022. THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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 (for both St. Vincent's and St. Ambrose's)
(MASKS ARE NO LONGER MANDATORY BUT RECOMMENDED. PLEASE USE THE HAND SANITISER).



Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sun 1st May	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR HUMAN WORK)	5.30pm	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose	Our Parish Family
		7.00pm	Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's	Our Parish Family
		9.30am	St Vincent's	Ann Alan RIP (<i>ann</i>)
		11.00am	Our Lady's	Bridget Crowley RIP (<i>ann</i>)
		1.00pm	Our Lady's- Mass, Baptism & FHC	Ronnie Charles Mallamphy a Tommy Junior Mallamphy & Franky John Mallamphy.
Mon 2nd May	St Athanasius, B, D	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Nora Ann Walsh RIP (<i>2nd ann</i>)
Tues 3rd May	Ss PHILIP & JAMES, Ap	9.30am	Our Lady's	Breda Geraghty RIP
Wed 4th May	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS	12noon	SV- Requiem Mass	Kevin Mc Kierney RIP
Thurs 5th May	Ferial	9.30am 11.15am 7.00pm	St Ambrose OL- Funeral Service Our Lady's	John Byrne 5th anniversary Allan Stanway RIP Mary Hough RIP
Fri 6th May	Ferial	9.30am	St Vincent's	Dierdre & Michael O'Kane RIP
Sat 7th May	FERIAL (BVM on Saturday)	9.30 am	Our Lady's	Diane RIP
		1.00pm	OL- Baptism	Ellie Marie & Kimberley Ann van Loon
	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	5.30pm 7.00pm 7.45pm	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's Our Lady's	Ukraine Una Higgins Marian Procession
Sun 8th May	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR VOCATIONS)	9.30am	St Vincent's	Tommy Higgins RIP
		11.00am	Our Lady's	Allan Stanway RIP
		1.00pm	OL- Baptism	Baptism of the Patani Family Kaitlin Avril Karen Stott

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 has started on 23rd April 2022 . The next course will be in July.

First Holy Communion: Preparations continue in school and at Our Lady's church at the 11am Mass.

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 every Sunday at Our Lady's.

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: Michelle Philips, Lucile Ebbs, 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 Shelagh Lees.

In St. Ambrose's: Denise Carlin, 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: Father Robin Sutton, Allan Stanway, Kevin McKierney, Peter Louise Smith. May the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Nora Ann Walsh, Bridget Connolly, Helen O'Gara, Ann Allen, Bridget (Beenie) Crowley, Eileen Crowley, John Richard Freeborough, The Moran Family, Martin Merriman, Patrick Sidebotham, Elizabeth Kay, James Angus Faulkner, Mary Hough, Catherine (Katie) Calvert, May Jones, Frances Mildred Perkin, Ann Hewitt.

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.

During May We pray with Pope Francis for **Faith-Filled Young People:** We pray for all young people, called to live life in the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Pilgrimage to Fatima: In the light of Pope Francis' reconsecration of Russia, Ukraine and the World to Our Lady of Fatima last month, Fr. Martin will lead a pilgrimage to Fatima in September / October, 2022. Full details will be in next week's newsletter and on the parish website. Deposits of £250 will be required by Sunday 31st May to secure your place, with the balance due in July. The cost will be about £670 plus insurance to include a full pilgrimage programme, direct flights from Manchester to Lisbon, transfer to Fatima, full Religious programme including tours and visits to key sites associated with the apparitions, and full board in a central hotel in Fatima for 7 nights. Please be ready to book quickly to ensure this wonderful spiritual visit to Our Lady can go ahead. Brochures and forms will be circulated shortly.

WALKING WITH JESUS' - The team would like to thank all those school communities who joined us the Liturgical Prayer for Lent Particularly those schools that pre-recorded readings and hymns and those who submitted the beautiful photographs that were central to the liturgy. Should schools want to access a recording of 'Walking with Jesus', then it can be found at the following link: <https://youtu.be/q3yb5oEoStI>

MARY'S MEALS- Mary's Meals UK Mary's Meals will be running our 'Pray in May' campaign again this year. Mary's Meals has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support us. We are inviting churches across the UK to join us in prayer to celebrate the wonderful work of Mary's Meals and give thanks that we are now reaching more than 2 million children with a nutritious meal in 20 countries every school day. For more information, resources and contact details: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/prayinmay>

Gift Aid: The annual claim to the Diocese for the year ended 5 April 2022 has been submitted. Once again, can I thank all those people who are in a position to Gift Aid their offering either by Standing Order, Weekly Envelope, Cheque or Online. To also thank those Parishioners who contribute to the weekly collections and the many other donations made to the Parish throughout the year. Should you be new to our Parish and would like a box of Offertory envelopes please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office . Tom Horan.

Last weekend's collections (excludes standing orders): **OLATA- £599.34 St Vincent-£229.05 St Ambrose £72.00 THANK YOU.**

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

GOD IN YOUR GARDEN:- Bring the word of God to your street with a celebration of mass in your garden. During the months of May, June, July & August, Fr Martin is offering to say mass in your garden. There are to be four dates available, one per month. The first one in the 3rd week May, followed by 2nd week of June, 3rd week of July and 2nd week of August. The mass will be in the evening at 7 pm. And the day is determined by your local parish. Our lady's on the Tuesday evening, St Ambrose on the Thursday evening, St Vincent's on the Wednesday or Friday evening, of the corresponding week. If you would like to host the celebration of the mass, please let the office know and we can arrange a date. It is first come first served. Fr Martin will bring the mass—you gather the people, family members and neighbours!

May - the month of Our Lady: As May is traditionally the time of devotion to Our Blessed Lady, the Catenian Association has provided a box of FREE Rosary beads at the rear of the church for anyone who does not own a set of Rosary Beads. There are also multi-coloured children's Rosaries for you to take if you would like to pray with your children or grandchildren. 'How to Pray the Rosary' cards are also included in the box.

At the upper room with Mary—Total Consecration to Jesus, the incarnate Wisdom, through the Blessed Virgin Mary: We invite everyone to join us for the this consecration. Preparation started on the 28th of April. The books are available at the back of Our Lady's, St Ambrose and St Vincent churches. You could join us in person or virtually everyday, 7.30pm. God Bless.. If we have a good turn out, we hope to have a Marian procession at Our Lady's church, from the church to our beautiful grotto, 7.45-8.00pm every Saturday in May.

Notable Feasts in May - 13th Our lady of Fatima—24th Our Lady Help of Christians— 31st The Visitation.

Lend-a-hand-day: we need volunteers to help clean the church premises, especially around the Grotto for the May Devotion. If you are available, please **join us after Mass on Saturday 7th May. Thanks**

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. **The First Holy Communion group are taking a break this Sunday to resume next Sunday 8th May.**

TEA & COFFEE – Join us for tea and coffee after 11am Mass.

INTERNATIONAL MASS:- 5 June 2011, 11am mass. Attend in your national dress. If you are willing to sing or read in your native language during mass, please text Magda on 07553552205 or speak to her after mass. Also please bring your national dish to share at the coffee morning after mass. Finger food if possible. Lets celebrate our diversity.

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, prayer cards and Easter cards. 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.

Books- There is a Library at the back of church with a good selection of books available to borrow. Feel free to have a look and write your name in the register supplied to record any book borrowed. Thank you.

Churches Together—will hold several gatherings throughout the year and one of them is the Pentecost Breakfast scheduled for Saturday 4th June 2022. We meet at St Gabriel's church on the corner of Garner's Lane and Clover Avenue from 9am for a continental breakfast of croissants, bread rolls, cheese, ham and jam along with juice and a hot drink. This will be served until 10.15 when we begin our act of worship with a guest speaker. The whole thing will be finished by 11am.

INTERNATIONAL MASS:- 4th June, 5.30pm—watch the space

St Vincent News

Collection to help Chelwood Foodbank Plus on Sunday May 8th. There will be a list posted in the church porch of items that are needed, both foodstuffs and toiletries. You can also look on their FaceBook page and click on "Shop on website" to get an idea of what is needed to help those who are currently struggling to feed their families. This week they ran short of bags of rice too, 500g and 1kg.

Concert at St Michael's on Friday 6th May- Eccles Community Choir Music for every taste. £8 on the door, proceeds to The Mill in Bramhall.

Roof-work - The site set up & scaffolding for the Roof Replacement is scheduled for the 19th May for commencement on the 16th May.

INTERNATIONAL MASS:- 5th June, 9.30am—watch the space

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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