

A PASTORAL LETTER :AT A TIME OF NATIONAL MOURNING
TO BE READ AT ALL MASSES ON SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2022

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am writing to you this Sunday following the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. With so many across the country and across the world, we share a sense of loss today of a Head of State and the Commonwealth who exemplified duty and public service. We have, indeed, been blessed to live in the reign of the Second Elizabeth and to have known such an example at the centre of our national life. The Queen's tireless service across more than 70 years, was always sustained by her faith in Christ and her daily prayer. It was the promises she had made before God and a strong sense of her Christian vocation that was the foundation of her daily work in the affairs of State and Commonwealth, in building closer relationships with nations across the world and in the kindly words and encouragement she would offer to a countless number. We also cannot forget today her warm welcome to these shores of Saint John Paul II, the first Pope to visit our land, and of his successor Pope Benedict XVI.

I had written a longer Pastoral Letter for this Sunday to prepare for the Pilgrimage of the Relics of Saint Bernadette of Lourdes. This beautiful pilgrimage will continue in the week ahead at Shrewsbury and Chester as an invitation to prayer and as an encouragement in our Christian vocation. I have asked the clergy to make available in printed or electronic form, the words I wanted to share on the relics of the Saints and the witness of Saint Bernadette.

However, in this time of national mourning I am conscious of the expressions of grief and grateful remembrance which will mark the days ahead. People can sometimes be unsure today how to respond to death and to the sudden shock which comes with the loss of someone who has always been part of our lives. The faith that we share in Christ's Cross and Resurrection leads us to pray for those who have died.

From the beginning, the Church has offered prayers for the dead, above all in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, that purified from every sin, they may come to the perfection of love and finally attain the beatific vision of God. In this way our feelings of loss and grief are directed into this prayer filled with Christian hope. As the great bishop Saint John Chrysostom wrote some 1500 years before us, "Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them."

This must always be our final duty of charity to everyone we have known in this life, and this must surely be our final duty to Queen Elizabeth II, to pray that she may rest in peace. It for this reason, that we not merely commemorate our longest serving Monarch, but remember her in Christian prayer. In the same way, let us also remember the family who mourns Queen Elizabeth most as a mother and grandmother, our Royal Family. The world of modern media can often portray public figures merely as celebrities rather than as the people, the souls we must pray for.

It is slightly startling for all of us who have known the Queen throughout our lifetimes to hear the words "God save the King." Yet, today I want us to keep in prayer King Charles III as he begins his reign and continues his mother's life-long service. Our national anthem takes the form of a prayer and reminds us of the Apostle Paul's guidance to the young bishop Timothy: "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." ii

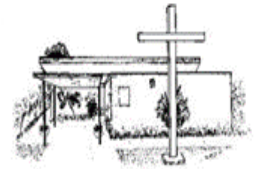
Let us use these days of national mourning and this time of the accession and eventually coronation of a new King, to remember all we should pray for both living and departed. May the soul of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II rest in peace. May her family and our nation find light and strength in the Christian faith she shared. And may our new King be granted strength and wisdom in all the ways he is called to serve.

United with you in this prayer,
+ Mark
Bishop of Shrewsbury

i Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 1032

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



TWENTY FOURTH 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=...) (for both St. Vincent's and St. Ambrose')

Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sun 11th September	TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR EDUCATION)	5.30pm	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose	Gerry Morrissey –(ann) Tommy & Caroline Higgins RIP– Caroline's B/D (ann)
		7.00pm	Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's	
		9.30am	St Vincent's	
		11.00am	Our Lady's	
		1pm—4pm	OLATA	Heritage Open Day
Mon 12th September	Ferial (Most Holy Name of Mary)	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Cerys Jones—Poorly
Tues 13th September	St John Chrysostom, B,D	10:00am	Our Lady's—Requiem Mass	Margaret Ryan RIP Michael Girgis– Special Int
Wed 14th September	EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	9.30am	St Vincent's	Darren Kiely RIP
		12.30pm	Aquinas College	New Academic Year
Thurs 15th September	Our Lady of Sorrows	9.30am	St Ambrose (St Ambrose' primary in church)	New Academic Year
		12.15pm 7.00pm	OLATA-Funeral Service Our Lady's (Fatima Mass)	Rupert John Thomas RIP Cerys Jones—Poorly
Fri 16th September	Ss Cornelius, P,M & Cyprian, B, M	9.30am	St Vincent's	John & Vera Campbell— Good Health
Sat 17th September	Ferial (St Robert Bellarmine, B,D St Hildegard of Bingen, V,D) (BVM on Saturday)	9.30 am	Our Lady's	Cerys Jones—Poorly
		5.30pm 7:00pm	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's	Our Parish Family Monika Keppliner– Speedy R
Sun 18th September	TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR HOME MISSIONS)	9.30am	St Vincent's	Caroline Higgins– B/D rememb Mary & Arthur Barnfield RIP
		11.00am	Our Lady's	
		1.00pm	OLATA– Baptism	
		2.30pm	Baptism—St Ambrose	Phoebe Cordock, Harry Nield

There is **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** every weekday morning from 8:30am—0930hrs.

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 October

First Holy Communion: Preparations will soon resume in school and at Our Lady's church for 2023. We are collecting names and all candidates are expected to come to mass and join the children's liturgy from September.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults): *Congratulations to the seven people recently received/baptised into the Church!* 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.

CONFIRMATION FOR OUR LADY'S, ST JOSEPH'S, ST AMBROSE & ST VINCENTS PARISHES has been scheduled for **9th December 2022** at Our Lady's. Please send names to the parish office.

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: Deacon Ged Doherty, McKenzie Kiely, Eileen McGahan, Winifred Thomas, Veronica Morrissey, Barbara Murphy, Michelle Philips, Maureen Brosnahan, Kelly Brosnahan, Zach Tierney, Irene Cox, Lee Abernathy, Janice Cook, 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, and Shelagh Lees.

In St. Ambrose's: Colin Burns, Cerys Jones, Richard Laurens, June Campbell, Mavis Doggett, Khia Whitehead, Eleanor Loftus, Mary Andrusiak, Carl Stanley, C. Wootton, Mary Sein, Paul Thuoc, 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 Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Margaret (Rita) Ryan and all the souls of all our departed rest in peace.

Anniversaries

James Hinselwood, Louise Hayes, Mary Hampson, Steve Maidens, Jonhn (Sean) Hassatt, Darren Kiely, Brenda Conlon-Hope, Henry Heaney, Frank Reynolds, Francis (Frank) Lafferty, Raymond Littlemore, Margaret Callaghan, Lily Traynor, James Kenny, Mark Prescott.

DURING SEPTEMBER : We pray for the **Abolition Of The Death Penalty:** that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

BISHOP MARK'S PASTORAL LETTER ON THE DEATH OF HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH II, which will be read at the Masses this weekend, is on the back of the newsletter.

PRAYER FOR HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH II: ALMIGHTY GOD, YOU ARE THE AUTHOR AND SUSTAINER OF ALL HUMAN LIFE; GRANT THAT YOUR SERVANT, ELIZABETH OUR QUEEN, WHOM YOU GRANTED A LONG AND HAPPY REIGN AS MONARCH OF THESE LANDS MAY BE FORGIVEN HER SINS AND REWARDED WITH THAT ETERNAL LIFE PROMISED TO ALL THOSE BORN AGAIN IN THE WATER OF BAPTISM AND POWER OF YOUR SPIRIT. THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT GOD, FOREVER AND EVER, AMEN.

ETERNAL REST, GRANT TO HER O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HER. MAY SHE REST IN PEACE. AMEN. MAY HER SOUL, AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

AGM - SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY: The next meeting of the Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality will be the Annual General Meeting. It will be held on Sunday 11th September 2022 at 2pm. Join us at St Marys, Gatefield Street, Crewe, CW1 2JP. Register your attendance or agenda items secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk or tel:07451 20249267 agenda available at <https://teamshrewsbury.wordpress.com/agm-and-committee-meeting-agendas-and-minutes/>

HARRYTOWN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL has vacancies for General Administrator(s). Hours are negotiable, up to 37 per week (Term Time only). Please visit the School Website for more information – www.harrytownschool.org

ST BERNADETTE RELIC TOUR—Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes—please see the at the back of church — Here is the link for all the information with regards to the tour. <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/news/st-bernadette-relics-tour-2022>

THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION'S MANCHESTER NEWMAN LECTURE Thursday 15 September 2022 at 6.30 pm Friends Meeting House 6 Mount St. Manchester M2 5NS: The speaker: Cardinal Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald M Afr. FRATERNITY: A PROPOSAL AND A PROJECT FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS. Admission is free but book your place by contacting Chris Quirke by email dcq@mac.com or phone 07764 946074.

SECOND COLLECTION—For Home Mission Sunday will be on the third Sunday in September— 17 & 18th.

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS (excludes standing orders): **OLATA— £612.02 St Vincent's- £267.50**

St Ambrose's £136.20 THANK YOU.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES can be obtained from the Parish Office or see links for online giving to the Parishes or

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW PARISHIONERS: Please remember to introduce yourself to Fr Martin, if you are new to the parish, and do indicate if you wish to volunteer for any role in the parish. Perhaps you exercised a particular ministry in your previous parish, or now feel able to, we would be delighted to have your services. You are welcome to our parish family!

CHURCH CLEANING MORNING: We sincerely thank all those who graciously made themselves available and worked hard to tidy up at St Ambrose' and St Vincent's this week. We look forward to seeing as many as possible, please, **on Saturday, 17th, for the tidying of Our Lady's church premises.** Thank you!

WELCOME BACK FROM SUMMER HOLIDAYS to all the school children and teachers. Fr Martin will be celebrating Masses for the opening of the academic year **on Wednesday, 12.30pm, at Aquinas College,** and on **Thursday, 9.30am, at St Ambrose' church for St Ambrose' primary.**

ST VINCENT'S FEAST DAY: We are all invited to St Vincent's' feast day celebration on Sunday, 25th September. It will start off with Mass at 1pm, followed by a party with activities for children and adults.

MASS INTENTIONS: There are loads of available spaces now for Mass intentions. Please complete the envelopes at the back and submit, if you would like to have Masses offered for yourself or your loved ones.

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE— There will be a meeting for those booked on the Fatima Pilgrimage this Thursday 15th September 2022 at Our Lady's after 7pm Mass.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Friday 14th October at Our Lady's Social Club, a social evening for the 3 parishes including live music. £5 per ticket, proceeds to the medical outreach project in Nigeria. Tickets will go on sale next weekend. We'd like to run a big tombola please can you donate bottles, chocolate, toiletries etc anything NEW. Bring items to the big box at the back of Our Lady's or give them to Fr Martin after masses at the other churches.

PRAISE IN THE PARK 2022—NOW CANCELLED!

Our Lady's News

SATURDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER, CHURCH CLEANING MORNING 10AM TO MIDDAY - please come along with your gardening tools to tidy the weeds around the church or with your cleaning cloths and dusters to clear away the cobwebs etc. Or just come to enjoy the company or help with serving tea and coffee. Please, do get in touch or indicate in the paper provided at the back of the church, if you wish to join a gardening team.

TEA AND COFFEE: IN THE GUILD ROOM AFTER 11 AM MASS

THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP—has now resumed.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY:— Today 1—4 pm. Church is open. Come and learn about the history of the parish over the last 200 years.

St Ambrose News

YEAR BOOKS—There are still a few Year books available. Just leave a donation.

PIETY STALL—has some new gifts and cards for sale.

St Vincent News

WOODFORD WELCOME LETTERS FOR DISTRIBUTION: Please, could you help us distribute these letters? Details will be announced at the weekend. Many thanks and God bless you!

NEXT SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER - Coffee after Mass and food collection for Chelwood Food Bank

MONDAY 12TH - Service of Word and Communion followed by Prayer Group. Exploring Faith meeting Monday 12th 7.30pm in church

WEDNESDAY 14TH - Lambs Social event 7 to 9pm. Donations for food and the disco will be collected after Mass. Help with moving the chairs after Mass in the morning and clearing away afterwards would be welcome

ST VINCENT'S FEAST DAY EVENT SEPT 25TH - MASS will be at 1pm that day. Volunteers to help on the day required, let us know if you can come to the social after Mass.

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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