

Wednesday 7th December 2022 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM

	<p>Celebrating the Year of the Word with The Wednesday Word. <i>Lectio Divina - prayerfully preparing for the Sunday Mass.</i></p>	
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Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 11th December 2022 - The Third Sunday of Advent

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 11th December 2022 - Miracles of the Messiah (Matthew 11:2-11)

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

John the Baptist was expecting a Messiah of judgment, who would cut down the rotten tree and burn the useless chaff. When, in prison, he hears that Jesus is not doing this, he is puzzled and sends messengers to ask if Jesus is really the Messiah. Jesus sends back the message that he is fulfilling the prophet Isaiah - the passage which we hear about in today's first reading. Jesus' understanding was that healing, not punishment, was the task of the Messiah. He goes and seeks out those who need healing, both physically and spiritually. He does not wait for sinners to repent before gathering them into the kingdom; he makes the first advance. Then he turns to praising the Baptist. It is a fascinating point of speculation as to whether Jesus was himself once a disciple of John the Baptist. After all, John says he did not recognise Jesus until he saw the Spirit coming down on him. But he also says that Jesus, who came after him, has passed before him. This is a typical position of a rabbi, leading his disciples, and suggests that John had been Jesus' rabbi, then became his disciple. Jesus was fully man, and even he needed to learn as all human beings do. John the Baptist did all he could to lead others to God. How, through our actions and attitudes, can we point others to God? How do our lives show that we are preparing for Christ's second coming?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OGB

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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Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Onuoha Email: frifeanyimom@yahoo.com
Deacon: Rev. Moses Ibeh

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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')

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NEWSLETTER DIGITALLY



Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sunday 4th December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	6.30pm 8.30am 9.45am 11.00am	Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's St. Ambrose St Vincent's Our Lady's (Enrolment Mass for 1st Communion)	Andrew Callaghan RIP ann Our Parish Family Allan Jekinson (ann) Paula & Agnes Kiely
Mon 5th December	Ferial	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Ceri Jones (Special int)
Tues 6th December	Ferial (St Nicholas, B)	9.30am	Our Lady's	Liam Gibbons RIP (2nd ann)
Wed 7th December	St Ambrose, B, D	9.30am 10.45am	St Vincent's Reconciliation service at Our Lady's Primary	Holy Souls For all the pupils
Thurs 8th December	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9.30am 1.00pm 7.00pm	St Ambrose OLATA- Requiem Mass Confirmation Rehearsal (No Mass)	Holy Souls Shelagh Margaret Lees RIP
Fri 9th December	Ferial (St John Diego Cuahlatootzin)	9.30am 7.00pm	St Vincent's OLATA- Confirmation Mass	Tom Lyons (Special int) For the Candidates
Sat 10th December	Ferial (Our Lady of Loreto)	9.30 am 6.30pm	Our Lady's Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's	Holy Souls Mrs Hennegan RIP
Sunday 11th December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.30am 9.45am 11.00am 2.00pm	St Ambrose St Vincent's Our Lady's OLATA- Baptism Mass/Anointing of the Sick	Our Parish Family Special Intention Dominic Fitzmaurice RIP Adam Wazny For the sick & housebound

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 start on the 15th January 2023.

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: Congratulations to the Candidates (and their families) on their Confirmation this Friday, 9th December, at Our Lady's.

Safeguarding Leads for the Three Parishes are as follows:- St Vincent's—Judy Carey carey.judith@yahoo.com OLATA Ged Murtagh -geraldmurtagh@outlook.com St Ambrose—Karen Tatton thetattons@ntlworld.com

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: 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, 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.

IN ST. AMBROSE'S: Michael Nealon, 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, Imelda Judge, Veronica Lane, Joanna Winter, Paul McClure, Helen Jenkins.

RECENTLY DEPARTED: May the souls of Monsignor Canon Peter O'Neill, Shelagh Lees, Eileen Mains, John Holt, Rita Pantelides, Mary Patterson and all the souls of all our departed rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Bill Matthews, Paula Kiely, Allan Jenkinson, John Shields, Ethel Maguire, Katie Collier, David Williams, Mary Ann Carroll, William Hope, Carole Ann Armes, Brenda Brett, Hilda Satterthwaite, Andrew Callaghan, Arthur Bailey, Teresa Greenwood, Brenda Collier, Leslie Whelan, Raymond (Ray) McNulty, Clive Parsons, Dominic Fitzmaurice, Joan Matthews, Mary Fox, Patrick Curran, Bill Welch.

The funeral of Sheelagh Lees is scheduled for Thursday 8th December at 13:00 at Our Lady's.

In December; we pray with Pope Francis for – Children who are suffering, – especially those who are homeless, orphans and victims of war. May they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

CHILDREN'S ADVENT CALENDAR: This year, during Advent, the Children's Liturgy group are going to make a reverse Advent Calendar. This means that you DONATE an item each week for homeless and families in need. At the end of Advent, the calendar will result in a collection of goods that can be dropped off at a local food bank in time for Christmas. Every Sunday during Advent we will fill a box with tins, non-perishable foods, toiletries and chocolates to take to either Chelwood or The Olive Branch. If you would like to join please bring one item each Sunday to fill our box which will be at the back of church before and after Children's Liturgy. Thank you and God bless! Claire, Kerry, Rachael and Lesley.

THE IMPACT OR OUR MISSION TOGETHER-Our Mission Together has been a remarkable initiative for the Diocese, marked by the generosity of so many and the development of areas of mission and strengthening our parishes. The latest 'Impact Brochure' has been prepared at the Curial Offices and will be sent out to parishes and donors in the coming weeks.

Cost-of-Living Campaign -Caritas Shrewsbury are supporting the new Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) Cost-of-Living Campaign and are inviting parishioners to write to their MP to amplify the 'asks' of Government issued by the Bishops' Department for Social Justice on 5th September. If Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury can support you in this initiative in any way please do get in touch via mobile: 07824 329 344; or email: ben.gilchrist@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk and claire.griffiths@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

EXHIBITION OF CHRISTIAN ICONS from 11th to 18th December 2022 at St Teresa's Church in Wilmslow.

"KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" stickers free. Take as many as you can use. Christmas window posters coming soon.

DIOCESAN RCIA PROGRAMME 2023: Bishop's Retreat – Saturday 11 February 2023 at St Michael and All Angels, Woodchurch, Birkenhead, CH49 5LE. Rite of Initiation – 1st Sunday of Lent, 26 February at Shrewsbury Cathedral, SY1 1TE, Diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving – Pentecost Sunday 28 May, 11am, at Shrewsbury Cathedral.

FROM LISA MARTINEZ, DIOCESAN MISSION CATECHESIS TEAM: 'YOU ARE A GIFT' – Sat 10 December at St Wilfrid's, Northwich. A day of talks and discussion examining our true identity through the Theology of the Body and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Booking essential at tobnetworkuk@gmail.com or more information from lisa.martinez@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

"FOREIGN AND OLD CURRENCY: Please donate any foreign notes and coins also old British coins to the big jars at the back of all 3 churches. Donations will go to SVP Charities.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES can be obtained from the Gift Aid Coordinator of each parish, through the Parish Office. We thank the many who give through Standing Orders. Also get in touch if you need help with this Or follow these links for Online giving to the Parishes:

For Our Lady's parishioners, the link is: <https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donor/page/ourladyandtheapostlesdioceseofshrewsbury2127>

For St. Ambrose parishioners, the link is: <https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donor/page/stambroseadswooddioceseofshrewsbury2185>

For St. Vincent's parishioners, the link is: <https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donor/page/stvincentdepaulbramhalldioceseofshrewsbury2608>

CHRISTMAS INVITATION LETTERS DISTRIBUTION TO RESIDENTS – as announced last week, there are digital lists of various roads in the parish for people to tick which streets they are covering. These are at the back of church. They will be synched with the on-line version to avoid duplication. Many thanks to all those who are able to volunteer to this work of evangelisation. Might you (with children/grandchildren) be able to help us distribute them to the streets in your area. Please help us check too for any errors or if your street was omitted. God bless you! Please check the printed list, scan the QR code or follow this link—<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14WPwUBsKHqOhaSX4Icg-PsNpJfYsn8080u-A1hSDrXA/viewform?>



MASS OF CONFIRMATION: Bishop Mark will be Confirming our Candidates at a 7pm Mass this Friday, 9th. All are invited

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friday, 9th December at 7pm—Mass of Confirmation at OLATA for four parishes. All welcome!

Week beginning 6th December— Outdoor Christmas Trees to go up at our three parishes

Thursday, 15th December 7pm—Advent Penitential Service at St Vincent's for 4 parishes (St Josephs, Our Lady's, St Ambrose, and St Vincent's) . All welcome!

11th December 2pm—Mass of Anointing of the Sick at OLATA. All welcome!

13th December 1.30pm—Aquinas College Carol Service at OLATA. All welcome!

14th December 2pm—Our Lady's Primary school Carols at OLATA. All welcome!

FREE MEDICAL SERVICES JANUARY 7TH, 2023: The date is now fixed for Fr Martin's 4th Medical Outreach Mission in his hometown. As usual, the target is to attend to one thousand patients. We sincerely thank those who have donated. If you would like to donate, you can scan the QR code here to go to the GoFundMe page.



<<< Scan Here to Donate or open at <https://gofund.me/9cc9372d>.

The video of this year's outreach is available here > [Medical Outreach Master Translated-1.m4v](#).

Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated by Fr Martin and especially by the beneficiaries who, otherwise, cannot access medical care. Thank you.

FROM THE PIETY STALL: Christmas gift ideas. Consider a donation to Martin's Medical Outreach Mission? Collect your notification receipt to add to your Christmas card explaining the purpose of the medical outreach to your recipient and space for you to write a personalised message. They are freely available on the Piety stall. You can add the link in your message to the go fund me page, so they can see your donation **or** add the video link to your message.

MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK 11/12/2022. If anyone can offer a lift to OLATA for this Mass, could they please add their name to the list at the back of church.

Our Lady's News

TEA AND COFFEE: In the guild room after 11 AM MASS

CHRISTMAS CARDS & GIFTS will be on sale. All proceeds to the medical outreach mission

THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP—has now resumed, during the 11am Mass.

SENIOR FAMILY GROUP: There will be a Christmas get together on Wednesday, 7 December at 12 noon in the Guild Room. If you wish to come as Father or Mother Christmas, you will still be allowed in!

St Ambrose News

PIETY STALL—now has Christmas cards, gifts and lovely books come and browse the stall.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE - Don't forget to get your raffle tickets before or after Mass. The first prize is a £50.00 note, generously donated anonymously. Donations for prizes are also still welcome. There is a box at the back of church for any donations. **Thank you for your generosity.**

St Vincent News

Great News - our porch extension has been approved and work has started

Monday 5th December - 10am Service of Word and Communion followed by Advent Prayer Group

TRAVELLING NATIVITY— Please put your name down at the back of church if you could take a turn. Basket contains all you need to do the service.

GIFT MASS— We have the Caritas gift collection at the Mass on Sunday the 11th of December as usual, please could you donate a gift for the underprivileged children around Manchester. Wrap and label with boy or girl and a suggested age.

PRAYER INTENTIONS— once each year we take the names off the prayer board and start afresh. Please write out a new intention slip for those who still need our prayers and we will update the website too.

Crib Afternoon— Friday the 16th of December 3-4pm—the crib and lights will be outside.

Saturday 17th December - Christ Church is organising a Carol Service on the "Village Green" on the new Woodford Garden Village estate from 4-6pm. All welcome.

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 3EX.

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