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NEWSLETTER DIGITALLY



Wednesday 22nd March 2023 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM

THE WEDNESDAY WORD

The Parish Version

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

Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 26th March 2023 - The Fifth Sunday in Lent

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 26th March 2023 - The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he learned that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother,' said Jesus to her, 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes Lord,' she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man; could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb; it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



3 Reflect

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

This is the third of the great Johannine gospel readings on the Sundays of Lent which lead up to and prepare us for the baptisms of the new members of Christ at the Easter Vigil; today's gospel grips us with the story of Jesus' gift of life to his friend Lazarus. This is not the same thing as the gift of life to us by Jesus in the resurrection, for Lazarus returns to ordinary human life, and will die again, whereas the Christian resurrection transforms us into a new way of life, giving us a life which is a participation in the divine life for ever. Rather, the resurrection of Lazarus is the last and greatest of Jesus' signs, his marvellous works which point towards and hint at this final gift of divine life. The first of the signs was the transformation of the water of the Law into the wine of the messianic wedding banquet at Cana. These signs show who Jesus really is. As well as showing the divine power of Jesus – for only God can give life – they also show the real, human love of Jesus for his friends. He is upset by Lazarus' death and weeps for him, sharing the human sorrow of his family as he shares our sorrows too.

Is death something to fear?

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**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT-19th March 2023

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/channel/UC...) (for both St. Vincent's and St. Ambrose')

Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sunday 19th March	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Happy Mother's Day)	6.30pm	Vigil Mass Our Lady's	Deceased members of the Nerney Family
		8.30am	St. Ambrose	Mary O'Connor RIP (ann & b/day memorial)
		9.45am	Our Lady's	Our Parish Family
		11.00am	Our Lady's	James Toolan RIP
1.00pm	OL- Baptism	Ida McDonald		
Mon 20th March	ST JOSEPH, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Peace in Ukraine
Tues 21st-March	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Michael , Anne & Gladys RIP
Wed 22nd March	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Brian & Margaret Marshall RIP
Thurs 23rd March	Ferial (St Toribio of Mogrovejo, B)	9:30am	St Ambrose	Ceris Jones (Private intention)
		7.00pm	Our Lady's	Pat McGowan, Jennifer & Anne RIP
Fri 24th-March	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Private Intention
		7.00pm	St Ambrose	Stations Of The Cross
Sat 25th March	THE ANNUCIATION OF THE LORD	9.30 am	Our Lady's	Brain & Margaret Marshall RIP
		2.30pm	OL-Baptism Vigil Mass	Toluwanimi Areo
		6.30pm	Our Lady's	Our Parish Family
Sunday 26th March	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30am	St. Ambrose	Our Parish Family
		9.45am	Our Lady's	Goerge May RIP
		11.00am	Our Lady's	Bridget Mary Ward RIP
		1.00pm	OL- Baptism	Ruairi Niall MacInnes
		2.00pm	SA- Baptism	Esra & Danny-Joe Bolton

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 16th April 2023.

First Holy Communion: Preparation classes have started. Please ensure that all 1st Communion candidates attend Mass every weekend and join the children's liturgy. Important dates: **First Reconciliation Service-** Sat 18th March (11am); **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION -** Sun 25th June (11am)

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults): 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: Next date to be announced.

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, Una Higgins, 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, 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, Veronica Norbury, Imelda Judge, Veronica Lane, Joanna Winter, Paul McClure, Helen Jenkins, Helen Leasor, Terry Glynn.

RECENTLY DEPARTED: May the souls of Wynne Astle, James Toolan, and all the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

Anniversaries

William (Bill) Vaughan, John H. Allcock, Mike Dwan, Charles Galligan, Dorsi Coyle, James Costello, Lynn O'Higgins, John Salt, Mary Brannon, James O'Donovan, Florence Wild, Ellen Wood.

IN MARCH—FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE- We pray for those who suffer harm from members of the church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023- World Youth Day is the largest international gathering of young people. As a diocese we have a limited amount of places booked, for those aged 18 – 35, at the cost of £1,200 which is inclusive of meals, travel, accommodation, and World Youth Day passes. For any questions, or an application for contact clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

THE STOCKPORT/HYDE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (THE SVP) have been providing a children's holiday for over 70 years. These holidays offer a week of fun, excitement and friendship to boys and girls aged 9 to 11 yrs who, for various reasons need a break. It may be due to family issues such as unemployment, illness, bereavement, or relationship breakdown. The holiday takes place in Snowdonia and is activity based with the children and volunteers taking part in climbing, canoeing, caving and gorge walking. For this to succeed we need to recruit volunteers to help during the holiday week. Volunteers must be willing to undergo training and have a DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service) if they do not already have a relevant certificate. Volunteers **do not** need to be members of the SVP and we are looking for men and women aged over 18 yrs who have lots of energy and are free between the 13/8 and 19/8 2023. This is a wonderful opportunity to give young people an experience that they will remember for many years, but it cannot take place without volunteers. If you are able to help or would like more information, then please contact Vince McAllister by email to vincem@svp.org.uk

THE DIOCESE IS LOOKING TO RECRUIT A YOUTH MISSION TEAM MEMBER—to engage with young people in schools and parishes across the Shrewsbury Diocese, based in Stockport. The full-time employee will be a key member of the team led by the Director. Salary £19K to £22K depending on experience. For more information please visit <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> For application form please contact Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Closing date Friday 7 April 2023.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2023: Booking are now open for this year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Under the leadership of Bishop Mark, the theme for our pilgrimage will be "... *tell the priests to build a chapel here*". This year's overland pilgrimage will depart on Thursday 27 July returning on Friday 4 August. Those pilgrims wishing to fly will depart from Liverpool airport on Friday 28 July returning on Thursday 3 August. More details, brochure and booking forms are available on the pilgrimage website <http://www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk>. Young pilgrims (aged 16 - 22) who wish to join us in Lourdes and offer their time and energy to assist and serve the sick and elderly pilgrims are asked to contact Sandy Fairley at the Youth Mission Team (youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) for more details.

SAINT JOHN OF GOD HOSPITALER SERVICES (SJOG) HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME is an official provider of this government scheme. It is a matching, training and support pathway for guests from Ukraine and hosts in the UK willing to provide much-needed support. Their programme is run collaboratively by Saint John of God Hospitaler Services (SJOG) and Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN). They will be holding a webinar for UK residents interested in hosting a Ukrainian guest or family under the Homes for Ukraine scheme on Wednesday, March 29, at 7 pm. You can find more details about the event here: <https://fb.me/e/N9EtGqhe>

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - All are invited to join us in the meditations on the passion of Our Lord this holy season of Lent. This week's stations will be at St Ambrose's at 7pm.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES can be obtained from the Gift Aid Coordinator of each parish or through the Parish Office. We thank the many who give through Standing Orders and Online.

STANDING ORDERS AND GIFT AID: Parishioners have been asking for guidance on regular giving to the parish. Please find, at the back of the Church, Standing order forms to be completed and passed on to your bank or used to set up the standing order using your online banking. You will find also the Gift Aid Declaration form to be completed and returned to our Gift Aid Coordinator.

SPRING FORWARD- Remember to put your clocks forward next weekend, Saturday 25th March.

Online course on Vatican II: Thank you to those who have been in touch to say how interesting/ informative/ helpful/ even 'excellent'(!) you have found the first two podcasts. The next two on *Divine Revelation* **are now available** on the diocesan website at dioceseofshrewsbury.org. They are not time-bound and may be listened to any time. There are also 3 **handouts for downloading or printing:** An introduction to the document; A guided reading of the text; A suggested reading list for the whole course. A **leaflet** outlining the content of the podcasts is available in the parish. Should you have difficulty accessing this material, any questions or reflections, don't hesitate to call Barbara Davies: 07730 526821.

LENT 2023 - A DAY FOR THE EUCHARIST on Saturday 1st April, 10am-2pm at **St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine**, Tatton Street, St Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EJ. A time of catechesis, fellowship, and prayer. No booking is necessary. Bring a packed lunch and drinks will be available. See poster in Church for the full schedule. All are welcome, and we especially encourage readers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to attend.

STOCKPORT MARRIAGE CARE -is looking for volunteers. Marriage Care is a national charity which provides marriage preparation for couples getting married in the Catholic church. In the Stockport Centre we are looking for volunteers to train to facilitate our one day courses. We are looking for both male and female volunteers. Marriage Care provides training and ongoing support to equip you to work as part of a team. If you would be interested please contact **John Worth, Centre Coordinator, Stockport Marriage Care, on 07905 785586 or e-mail john.worth@marriagecare.org**.

STEPS TO MAKING A GOOD CONFESSION— Parishioners have asked for a refresher on how to go to confession. Please pick documents with steps at the back of church. Sufficient opportunities will be provided this Lent for Confessions.

Our Lady's News

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

REQUEST FOR READERS: New readers are always welcome.

TEA AND COFFEE: In the guild room after 11 am mass. All donations made during Lent 2023 (22.02.23 - 09.04.23) will be passed on to Francis House Children's Hospice in support of their work with young people, and their families, who are living with life-threatening and life shortening conditions.

WASHING OF THE FEET ON MAUNDY THURSDAY—four volunteers needed from Our Lady's.

NEW ONLINE GIVING LINK: <https://donate.myдона.com/our-lady-the-apostles> Or please scan this QR



St Ambrose News

PIETY STALL—gifts and lovely books come and browse the stall.

Please put any USED POSTAGE STAMPS you may have in the box provided at the back of church. These are being recycled by a Parishioner of St Vincent's in aid of help overseas. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WEEKDAY MASSES will be held in the Sacristy due to heating costs and cold weather. Also, the live stream will not be available during these weekday masses.

THE NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR 2023/24: are available at the back of church. Please take the box with your name on it. If you would like a box, but are not yet in the Gift Aid scheme, please see Marge Newbrook at the back of church. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

St Vincent News

CHURCH CLOSING FOR PORCH WORKS—No Masses or activities at St Vincent's until Sunday March 26th due to porch alterations. Masses will recommence at Our Lady's during this time, including week day masses.

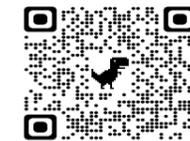
EASTER LILIES - please fill in an envelope with the name of the person(s) to be remembered and your donation ready for when St Vincent's is open again

TAIZE EVENING - Tuesday April 4th (Holy Week) at 7.30pm at St Vincent's. Everyone is welcome to come and reflect on the events of Holy Week, with readings and music; volunteer readers required

Bramhall "Walk of Witness" on Good Friday - the walk commences at the URC and Ford's Lane churches at 10.40am.

Open air service at Bramhall Methodist church from 11am. Stewards needed for the Walk.

NEW ONLINE GIVING LINK: <https://donate.myдона.com/st-vincent-de-paul-bramhall> Or scan this QR



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 3EX.

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