

Wednesday 14th February 2024

THE YEAR OF PRAYER

Parish Version



Encountering Christ

The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families

- 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.
- Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, 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.

1 Read

The Gospel for Sunday 18th February 2024
JESUS IS TESTED IN THE DESERT

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. "The time has come," he said, "and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News."

Taken from Mark 1:12-15 The First Sunday of Lent, Year B

2 Reflect

After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

Mark's emphasis is distinctly different from that of Matthew and Luke. No details of the testing are given. Rather Jesus' sojourn in the desert seems almost a return to the peace of the Garden of Eden. The desert of Judea, between Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley, is a noble and dignified solitude of smooth, sandstone hills. Nothing grows, of course, but wild camels and the occasional leopard prowl around. There Jesus was 'with the wild animals' as, led by the Spirit, he made his preparation for his mission. In what way was he tested? We may presume that in solitude and prayer he was working out the implications of the Voice from Heaven at his Baptism. How was he to run his course as the beloved Servant of the Lord? Precisely how was he to bring the presence of the Kingship of God into people's lives? The 'forty' is often used in biblical accounts for a period of preparation, as Israel's forty years in the desert, or the forty days between Easter and Ascension which prepared the Apostles for Jesus' leaving them and then for the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. We may use our forty days of Lent to reflect on how we may bring God's presence to bear in and through our lives.

How will you make best use of this time of preparation in Lent?

Dom Henry Wanstrough OSB

3 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. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, joy, forgiveness, hope or something else.

4 Pray for Families

This Wednesday's word for our school families is LENT!

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

FROM The Year of Prayer

Share the Prayer: Why not forward a digital copy of this Parish Version to your friends? Or to share your school's Family Version, see: wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm

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

Assistant Priest: Fr. Moses Ibeh

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 11th February 2024

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
Sunday 11th February	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>World Day of Prayer for the Sick Day of Special Prayer for the Unemployed.</i> <i>Please pray for Mark, Bishop of Shrewsbury on the anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood (1984)</i>	9.30am	St Vincent's	Carmel Shaw RIP
		10am	St Ambrose	Our Parish Family
		11am	Our Lady's Our Lady's Baptism	Julia and Patrick Moore RIP Baptism, Savannah Skylar Mtonga
Monday 12th February	Ferial	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Walter Tyrer RIP
Tuesday 13th February	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Mary Kingston Spec Int
Wednesday 14th February	ASH WEDNESDAY <i>Day of Fasting and Abstinence</i>	9:30am	St Vincent's	Josie Preston RIP
		9:30am	Our Lady's	Holy Souls
		7pm 7pm	St Ambrose Our Lady's	World Peace Fr David Long, Spec Int
Thursday 15th February	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Helen Slack RIP
		7pm	Our Lady's	Deidre Hill, Ann, RIP
Friday 16th February	Friday after Ash Wednesday	9.30am	St Vincent's	The Ramos Family, Thanksgiving
		7pm	Our Lady's	Stations of the Cross (The Cleaning Team)
Saturday 17th February	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	9.30am	Our Lady's	Jesse and James, Spec Int
		6.30pm	Vigil Mass Our Lady's	Our Parish Family
Sunday 18th February	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	9.30am	St Vincent's	World Peace
		10am	St Ambrose	Kirsty Bain RIP
		11am	Our Lady's	Joe Mollard and Mollard Family RIP
		1pm	Our Lady's Baptism	Baptism, Izzabelle Daphne Gwatking

There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before every weekday morning Mass 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 in

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: 7PM, 16th May 2024 at Our Lady's.

SAFEGUARDING LEADS FOR THE THREE PARISHES :- 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: Denise Corlett, Chloe Logan, Mary Metcalfe, Taya, Angela Mullin, Hayden Longworth, Peter Stanway, Julie Scanlan, McKenzie Kiely, Pauline Hinson, Eileen McGahan, Veronica Morrissey, Barbara Murphy, Michelle Philips, Maureen Brosnahan, Kelly Brosnahan, Zach Tierney, Irene Cox, Lee Abernathy, Janice Cook, Annie Topping, Theresa Burrows.

IN ST. AMBROSE'S: Sister Thomas More McGrath, Vera Gallagher, Michael Gallagher, Molly Lane, Matthew Donegani, Michael Nealon, Colin Burns, Cerys Jones, Richard Laurens, June Campbell, Mavis Doggett, Khia Whitehead, Eleanor Loftus, Mary Sein, Paul Thuoc, Andrew Way, Mary Young, Veronica Norbury, Imelda Judge, Veronica Lane, Joanna Winter, Paul McClure, Helen Jenkins, Helen Leasor, Terry Glynn, Leaf Matthieson.

RECENTLY DEPARTED: May the souls of, Kirsty Bain, Lucile Ebbs, Veronica Morrissey, Stanley William Berry, John Adams, Kam Fu Miu, Ann Boswell, Charles Edwards, Susan Margaret Mills, Mary Ryan, Veronica Rendell, Margaret Pendlebury, George Bockenheim, Fr Liam Tallon, Calista Ogwuegbu, Graham Cash, Maria Harding, Kathleen Bond, and all the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARIES: Arthur Gerard Hines, James Worthington Bowden, Jane Costello, Frank Milne, Oliver O'Hagan, Peter Mellor, Clifford Mason, Edith Hopkins, Frank Walsh, Joseph Arthur Bennett, Alfred Aidan Finchett, Henry O'Brien, Teresa Arden, Julia Moore, Thomas O'Brien, Norah Murphy, Paddy Langan, John O'Brien, Margaret Kenny, John Vincent Donohue, John Short

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024 -12th May 2024 for children of none Catholic Schools. St Ambrose school children on 16.6.24. Our Lady's Catholic Primary School on 23 June 2024.

CONFIRMATIONS 2024 -will take place on **16th May 2024 at 7pm at Our Lady's** for the four parishes of Our Lady and the Apostles, St Ambrose, St Vincent's and St Joseph's. Please contact the parish office if you would like to register your child.

NEW RCIA CANDIDATES:- Any new candidates considering joining or knowing more about the Catholic Church are welcome to join the sessions. Please speak to Fr. Martin or contact the parish office

OLATA CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP - on Thursday after 7pm Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH are held before every morning Mass in our three parishes. Please join us.

DIOCESAN NEWS

CHRISM MASS. This year the Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 27th March at Saint Michael & All Angels, Woodchurch at 7.00 pm.

BEIROTHED SACRAMENTAL MARRIAGE PREPARATION— March 2nd & 9th 2024 Time: 9:30-5:30pm Location: St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church Parish Hall, 2 Bentinck Road, Altrincham, WA14 2BP Registration is essential – please contact Jane Deegan at jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS—St Peter's parish in Hazel Grove, there will be a day with David Wells on Saturday 2 March in the parish centre from 9.30am to 4pm. Find out more here: <https://davidwellslive.com>. Do come and share the day – and bring a packed lunch.

ST CHAD'S RC Church are looking to appoint a Housekeeper/Cook for 8 hours per week with potentially more hours in future. The role is based at the presbytery at St Chad's, Stockport Road, Cheadle, SK8 2AF. Hourly rate: £12.50 per hour, Days/Hours Worked: Mondays and Thursdays 9am-1pm, Permanent Position. Role will include both cooking and cleaning. For the job description and information on how to apply, please email stchadsheadle@gmail.com. Deadline for applications is 5pm on Wednesday 21st February 2024.

PARISH SECRETARY at the parish of St Vincent's, Altrincham, working as a Job Share with the current Parish Secretary. Flexible working hours: approximately 12 hours per week over 3 days (Monday-Friday) 9am-1pm (days and times may vary). Hourly rate: £14.50. See the Diocesan Website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> CV and covering letter should be sent to PaulineMcCullochrecruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Closing date: Friday 1st March 2024

HARRYTOWN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: Please visit the school website (www.harrytownschool.org) to see the current job vacancies. We are currently advertising for a Deputy Head, a Learning Mentor and an Art & Design Technology Technician

FOREIGN CURRENCY— Please put spare notes or coins to the big jars in all 3 churches for SVP charitable projects.

LENTEN ALMS—Please take a mini jam jar from Ash Wednesday onwards and fill it with 5p, 10p, 20p or £1 and return before or at Easter. Fill it with 10ps and that will make £1.50, with 20ps - £4.00, and with £1 coins - £10! All proceeds to Fr Martin's next medical mission. Contact Lucy.

PILGRIMAGE 2024—Our Pilgrimage this year is to Poland—a 5 day pilgrimage—flying to Krakow, there will be visits to the Bishops Palace, St Mary's Church, Wawel Cathedral, Auschwitz, The Divine Mercy Chapel, a trip to the Marian Shrine in Czestochowa, Mass at the Jasna Gora Monastery. Departure is in September flying from Manchester. Cost is £630 sharing £730 in a single room. Please register your interest with unitedheartspilgrims@gmail.com or call for details as soon as possible.

FILM NIGHTS—This year we are going to be watching The Chosen from Season One. The serialised stories of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the intriguing Gospel stories as you have never seen them before. Set in the first century, with Jesus, together with his disciples, who are seriously portrayed but with very real and relatable failings. It cleverly connects the Old Testament to the New Testament bringing both together in a way that is both interesting and entertaining. Episode one is a scene setter and starts in 2 BC with a back story of Mary of Magdala, then swings right into Capernaum 28 years later. We meet Nicodemus who has his world rocked by the presence of a miraculous occurrence. Our out and out bad guy is Quintas the Praetor of Capernaum. Meanwhile we are introduced to Matthew, Peter and Andrew, James and John. If you watch one thing this year – seriously - this should be it – you won't be disappointed. **Thursday 29 February 2024 starting 7:30pm in Our Lady's Social Club**, entrance through church. Voluntary retiring donations to Fr Martin's Medical Mission for 2025.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY. Weekly Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7pm, as follows: 16th Feb at OLATA - led by Cleaning team, 23rd Feb at St Ambrose - led by PPT, 1 March at St Vincent's - led by Children, 8th March at OLATA led by SVP, 15th March at St Ambrose – led by SVP, 22nd March at St Vincent's - led by the Prayer Group.

FR MARTIN'S FREE MEDICAL OUTREACH MISSION 2024—Thank you for all your prayers and support for the recent medical outreach mission. It was a resounding success. Please watch this space for details and photos/video and for further information about the next mission. **GoFundMe PAGE** - to support, please click on this link <https://gofund.me/2890550e> or scan the QR code, or feel free to give in any other convenient way.



THREE DAYS OF HEALING - JOINT PARISH MISSION WITH ST JOSEPH'S: We are pleased to announce that Our Lady and the Apostles church will be hosting the evening sessions of the already publicised **Three Days of Healing** event organised by St Joseph's Church, Stockport to be led by Sr. Briege McKenna and Fr. Pablo Escriva de Romani. Sister Briege is the widely known author of the books '*Miracles Do Happen*', and '*The Power of the Sacraments*'. Fr Pablo is from Madrid, Spain and works as a Diocesan Missionary in Costa Rica as well as working alongside Sister Briege in her parish missions and in ministering to priests. Please email stockportshrine@gmail.com to register for this wonderful event. The evening sessions will run as follows:

Monday 4th March 7pm

- Adoration and Confessions. Sr Briege will speak before and after Adoration and priests will be available for Confessions.

- Tuesday 5th March 7pm

Mass celebrated by Fr Pablo, followed by a talk by Sister Briege on *Prayer and The Power of the Holy* and Adoration.

- Wednesday 6th March 7pm

Mass celebrated by Fr Pablo, followed by a talk by Sister Briege on *The Eucharist Source and Summit of Our Faith*, Adoration and Eucharistic Healing Service.

Please see the poster for other activities at St Joseph's.

OUR LADY'S NEWS

CHILDREN'S LITURGY -every Sunday in the Guild Room.

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER 11AM MASS

THE PIETY STALL - at the back of church has cards for every occasion including Mass cards, also rosary beads and medals. St Patricks' Day (17 March) cards, medals and gifts now available. Open after Mass on Tuesday morning, and before and after Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

DONA ONLINE DONATION STAND -Feel free to give it a try or continue to use the QR code, or the weekly envelopes & standing order.



ST AMBROSE NEWS

THE PARISH LIBRARY is now up and running again in the porch. Please feel free to browse and borrow any book that catches your eye. There is a register for borrowers to enter their name and book title.

VOLUNTEERS are invited to help run the Children's Liturgy group. If we can get 3 or 4 people involved, it can be organised on a rota basis. Please give your name to Praveen or Marge, if interested.

PIETY STALL -Many thanks to everyone who continues to support the piety stall at the back of church. There are many lovely cards, books, gifts and rosary beads.

WEEKDAY MASS -Weekday Masses will now be in the sacristy, in order to reduce the heating costs.

Don't forget to bring your used stamps and hand them in at the back of church.

ST VINCENT'S NEWS

MONDAY 12TH - No Service of Word or group meeting today

NEXT SUNDAY 18TH - Coffee after Mass and food collection for Chelwood Foodbank

PIETY STALL—St Patricks Day cards and badges and Easter Cards are available on the Piety Stall. Your generous purchases have paid for the children to have an Advent Calendar for 2023 in preparation for Christmas and a Lenten 2024 Calendar in preparation for Easter.

LAMBS THANKS - We had our Valentines party on Wednesday—our female members all went home with a red rose, presented by our male members and Roses were given to the mums of the members who attended. Thank you to all our helpers and those who donated. All had a good time.

TO DONATE TO ST VINCENT'S PARISH—please scan the QR code.



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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