



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 28th April 2024

THE TRUE VINE

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples."

Taken from John 15:1-8 The Fifth Sunday of Easter, 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.

A vine is an extraordinary plant. It can grow to a huge size, spreading over a wide area, a whole garden wall or trelliswork, from one single root, and producing a rich sap which yields grapes at the end of countless little branches. And then there is the business of pruning: cut it back thoroughly on all its many shoots and tendrils, and it seems only more determined to grow thick and strong. So the vine was the symbol of Israel, drawing from the Lord a sap which penetrated to all its shoots, and lovingly pruned by the gardener in a way which best encouraged its growth. The image was taken over by Jesus for his own community, the new Israel. Pairing with last week's picture of the good shepherd, it is one of the greatest of Jesus' images. It perfectly sums up the two emphases of this Sunday's other two readings. The only source of fruitful energy for the Christian is union with and dependence on the life flowing from Christ. Without that, the branches wither and die; a trimming cut off from a vine no longer has any chance of life. The vine itself at pruning season looks stark, rough and suffering. It is in fact bursting with new life.

What bits of your life need to be pruned away now? What more can you do to express the flow of Christ's life within you?

Dom Henry Wansbrough 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 GROWING!

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.

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Sunday 21st April 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')



The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity 234025

Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sunday 21st April	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am	St Vincent's	Our Parish Family.
		10am	St Ambrose	Michael Heath RIP
		11am	Our Lady's	John & Madelaine Sexton
		11am	Our Lady's Baptism	Baptism of Jana Pauline Villareal Abueg
		1pm	Our Lady's Baptism	Baptism of Mack Anthony Graham Mullins
Monday 22nd April	Ferial	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Fr Liam Tallon
Tuesday 23rd April	St George, M	9.30am	Our Lady's	Ceris Jones, Thanksgiving
Wednesday 24th April	Ferial	9.30am	St Vincent's	John Campbell RIP
		12.15pm	Aquinas College	Mass preceded by Adoration at 11.30am
Thursday 25th April	St Mark, Ev	9:30	St. Ambrose	Michael Heath RIP
		7pm	Our Lady's	Christine Mullen
Friday 26th April	Ferial	11am	St Vincent's Funeral	Funeral Mass for John Campbell
Saturday 27th April	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	World Peace and End to all Wars
		6.30pm	Our Lady's	Ann Sheehan
Sunday 28th April	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am	St Vincent's	John Campbell RIP
		10am	St Ambrose	For Success in Exams, Spec Int
		11am	Our Lady's	Dorothy Chamberlain RIP
		1pm	Our Lady's Baptism	Baptism Kalie Tsang

There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament/Holy Hour before every weekday morning Mass from 8:30am—0930hrs and before every Sunday Mass.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available after 9.30am Mass on Saturday morning, during lent see times above.

Please pray for those preparing to receive the sacraments

Baptisms: New Baptism classes will start in JULY, CONFIRMATION: 7PM, 16th May 2024 at Our Lady's.
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.

SAFEGUARDING LEADS FOR THE THREE PARISHES :- St Vincent's-Judy Carey carey.judith@yahoo.com OLATA Ged Murtagh geraldmurtagh@outlook.com St Ambrose — Marie Byrne ma.byrne1@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, Mary Metcalfe, Taya, Angela Mullin, Hayden Longworth, Peter Stanway, Julie Scanlan, McKenzie Kiely, Pauline Hinson, Eileen McGahan, Barbara Murphy, Michelle Philips, Maureen Brosnahan, Kelly Brosnahan, Zach Tierney, Irene Cox, Lee Abernathy, Janice Cook, Annie Topping, Theresa Burrows, Marie Kennefik, Nora Reade.

IN ST. AMBROSE'S: Pat Byrne, 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 Leator, Terry Glynn, Leaf Matthieson.

RECENTLY DEPARTED: May the souls of John Campbell, Monica McManus, Laurence John Gallagher, Tommy Mackinlay, Dorothy Chamberlain, Mary Joyce Henderson, Veronica Morrissey, Sister Thomas More McGrath, , Kirsty Bain, Lucile Ebbs, Stanley William Berry, John Adams, Kam Fu Miu, Ann Boswell, Charles Edwards, Susan Margaret Mills, Mary Ryan, Veronica Rendell, Margaret Pendlebury, George Bockenheim, , and all the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARIES: John Hales, Patrick Lawrence O'Donovan. Lisa Jane Mansfield, Vincent Morris, Mary O'Shea, Brian Cox, Rose Doyle, Fr John Gannon, Marie Maguire, Barbara Ann Currie, Peter Diffley, Gertrude Glendinning, Rev. Fr. Patrick Mulcahy, Florence Burrows, Joan Lillis, Emma Murphy, Anne Jenkinson, Annie Wolstencroft, Maureen Swinden, Edmund Roche, Andrew Kelly, William Joseph White

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

BAPTISM CLASSES -The April Baptism Course is now full. The next courses are on 7th & 13th July (attendance on both dates is required) and 6th & 12th October (attendance on both dates is required). Book early via the parish email or phone.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024 -12th May 2024 for children of non-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. The Confirmation programme resumes in the Guild Room on Thursday 18th April after 7pm Mass.

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

OLATA CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP - Thursdays after 7pm Mass

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

CALL FOR ALTAR SERVERS - We plan to train new Altar Servers in our three Parishes, who will hopefully be enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen to receive their medals. If any boys and girls who have made (or are preparing for) their First Holy Communion would be interested in this, then please see Fr. Martin or William, the Seminarian, after Mass.

ST AMBROSE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ADSWOOD are looking for new governors to join the Board for this small and friendly school. You need to be a practising Catholic to be a Foundation Governor, but we also have 2 vacancies for other people who would like to volunteer their time and skills. Experience in education is not a necessity but other transferable skills such as knowledge of HR or accountancy would be welcome. If you are interested or know someone who may be suitable, please contact the school office initially on 0161 480 8466

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

THE DIOCESE IS SEEKING TO RECRUIT A DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS and applications are now open. Details of the role and the application process can be found at www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/director-of-schools-birkenhead-2040730

CATHOLIC HERALD AND THE UNIVERSE - Please let us know if you would like to purchase a regular copy of the Catholic Herald Magazine or Universe Newspaper, so we know how many to order on a regular basis. Please inform Mark Kernberg—OLATA, Marge or Praveen—St Ambrose, Jane or Lucy - St Vincent's, or contact the parish office. There are some copies at the back of church if you would like to have a look.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MASS FOR CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY - Bishop Mark will celebrate a bilingual Mass for **all** members of the Chinese Catholic community on Sunday 28th April at 2.30pm, at St Hugh's & St John's, Timperley. During the Mass, which will be concelebrated with Father Bruno Lepeu who is chaplain to the Chinese community, the Bishop will welcome members of the Chinese community who have been baptised or received into full communion with the Catholic Church in 2024. Please contact the parish office for a booking form. The completed form should be forwarded to Father Tomasz Mamelka at the parish office :

office@sthughandstjohnntimperley.co.uk – using the email title '**Bilingual Mass**' by Friday 25th April at the latest.

THIS YEAR'S DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE will take place on Saturday June 8th, 12 noon at Saint Columba's Church Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. If you have a special anniversary this year then please contact the parish office for further details and we will pass your details on to the diocesan offices.

THE MERCY BROTHERS ARE COMING TO OUR LADY'S - Great night out—21st June 2024. The Clergy Rock Band— The Mercy Brothers is a group of priests from Salford and Shrewsbury Dioceses who use their musical talents to share Gospel values and raise vital funds for charity. Come and listen to favourite classics, such as "I'm a Believer", "Knock, Knock, Knockin' on Heaven's Door", and Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah". Save the date for a fabulous night out. Further information about tickets to follow.

ROSARY IN MAY—The month of May is dedicated to Our Blessed Mother and is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with the Mother of God. The Rosary will rotate around all three parishes as follows. 1st—7th May at OLATA, 8th—14th May at St Ambrose, 15th—17th May at St Vincent's, 18th May at OLATA, 19—21st May at St Vincent's, 22nd – 31st at OLATA.

PENTECOST INTERNATIONAL MASS. 19.5.24 Individual churches will celebrate the Pentecost International Mass at their usual time and then meet at Our Lady's at 12 midday for a shared table, bringing your own national dish for all to sample. Meeting and sharing food as Jesus did with his followers.

GARDEN MASSES FOR 2024 - There are still spaces available for Garden Masses. It is a lovely way to bring people together. All feedback for these events has been positive from both the host and those that attend. There is no need to provide anything other than your garden and a table for the altar. Please feel free to invite your neighbours to the Mass. Available weeks are in June, July & August, during the week, by 7.00pm, on one of the days that your church has a Mass. Contact the parish office to book.

NEW OFFERTORY ENVELOPES - Please remember to collect your offertory collection envelopes at the back of church. If you know someone who has envelopes ordered and is unable to collect it please offer to take the box to them. If you would like a box and have not got one, please ask and we will be able to arrange this for you or take one unnamed box of envelopes from the back of church and enter your contact details on the first envelope you put in the offertory and the office will sort it out for you.

PARISH DAY TRIP—Saturday, 7 September 2024. Our Parish Trip this year is to Shrewsbury. It will include a visit and tour of Shrewsbury Cathedral followed by Mass. The afternoon will be free for you to enjoy the town of Shrewsbury or perhaps an afternoon stroll along the River Severn. Tickets £20, includes return travel by Coach from Our Lady and the Apostles. Secure your place with a £5 deposit, please bring to church in an envelope, marking clearly what the deposit is for. If you wish to go and finance is an issue please see Fr Martin.

FILM NIGHT—THE CHOSEN Episodes 7 & 8 completing season one is scheduled for **Thursday, 2nd May**. 'Get used to different'. Jesus meets the Pharisee Nicodemus, Matthew is invited to join Jesus' disciples and the Woman at the Well makes an emotional revelation. Mark your diaries and join us for Mass at 7pm at Our Lady's or at Our Lady's Social Club by 7.30pm. The Bar serves alcohol, soft drinks and warming tea's and coffees. Park in the church Car Park. Watching The Chosen on the Big Screen takes the show to the next level. Come and see. Voluntary donations received will go to the Medical Outreach Mission.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION - If you have not been to confession for a while, tell the priest and he will guide you; some people find it is easier this way.

PILGRIMAGE 2024 - - Our Pilgrimage this year is to Poland—a **5 day pilgrimage: 23.9.24—27.9.24**. Flying from Manchester to Krakow: morning flight out and evening flight back. Cost is £630 sharing or £730 in a single room. Deposit £275. Please register your interest with unitedheartspilgrims@gmail.com or call for details as soon as possible.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS—22 May 2024 at St Vincent's 2 pm. Please inform those who you know would like to attend. Maximum 50 people. Please, if possible, let the parish office know of names and numbers, for catering purposes. Family members are encouraged to bring those who would like to attend. The SVP is happy to pay for a taxi, if required.

PPT — The minutes are now published on our notice boards and copies are available at the back of church. Next meeting is 6.6.24 at Our Lady and the Apostles. Thank you to Stuart Monteith and Danny Norton who have recently stood down from the PPT for all their dedication and contributions to the Parish Pastoral Team over the years.

THE WOODEN "SMILE" & WELCOME SIGNS, as displayed on the flower troughs at St Ambrose, are now available for purchase at the price of £5.00. They make a welcome, uplifting, addition to any garden and are available for sale at each of our three churches.

LENTEN ALMS JARS - Thank you to all who have returned your Lenten Alms Jars. The total raised was £516.50 for the Medical Outreach Mission in Nigeria. A massive thank you to all who took jars. If you still have a sneaky pot at home please bring back to church, pennies make a big difference in Nigeria, as seen on the Outreach video.

OUR LADY'S NEWS

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

TEA AND COFFEE AFTER 11AM MASS

MAY ROSARY - Our Lady's will be leading the Rosary on **1st - 7th, 18th, and 22nd – 31st May at 7pm**. Please volunteer to lead.

THE PIETY STALL - at the back of church has cards for every occasion including Mass cards, also rosary beads and medals. Open after Mass on Tuesday morning, and before and after Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

DONA ONLINE CARD 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

WEEKDAY MASS will be held in the church, not the sacristy, after Easter.

SMILE & WELCOME locally handcrafted signs available at the back of church are £5 each. Proceeds to the Medical Outreach Mission.

MONTH OF MAY ROSARY - St Ambrose will be leading the Rosary on **8th—14th May at 7pm**. Please volunteer to lead on one of these days.

QR CODE will be available next week for online donations for St Ambrose.

ST VINCENT'S NEWS

PLEASE STAY for Coffee after Mass this Sunday

MONDAY 22ND 10am Service of Word and Communion followed by Prayer Group

SUNDAY 28TH PLANT SALE after Mass. Please bring your cuttings to sell. Proceeds will go towards Church Flowers.

MONTH OF MAY ROSARY- St Vincent's will be leading the Rosary for the days from 15th—17th & 19th— 21st May at 7pm in church. (NB 18.5.24 the Rosary will be at Our Lady's not St Vincent's). Please volunteer to lead this on one of these days.



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. The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity 234025 **Data Protection Privacy Notice** The parish of Our Lady and the Apostles sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative