

# SUNDAY PLUS

Follow the leader

## Jesus the shepherd

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

The wandering figure of the good shepherd, anxiously tending his sheep to the point where he is willing to surrender his life for them, is the image Jesus uses about himself in today's Gospel. The good shepherd is not an image of religious authority that is eternally pleased with its own importance, blind to the useless pain it causes in those it leads. The authority of the shepherd costs the shepherd, not the sheep. The image of the shepherd cannot be separated from how the shepherd cares for his own sheep. His concern is not untroubled. His courage is not bloodless. His love is not detached. When we see how Jesus behaves as a leader, we see his tenderness and courage.

Jesus tackles his opponents, face to face. He confronts those who steal the dignity of the little ones. He names the wolves in sheep's clothing. He is willing to leave his enemies looking sheepish. He warns his followers about the rough terrain ahead. He goes there before them. He is defensive when people attack his own followers. He is realistic about people's wayward ways. He endures isolation and insult. He faces his own fear but stays loyal. He risks being slaughtered himself. He does lay down his life for his sheep.

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications. [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)



## Act out of love

By Michael George

I have often reminded colleagues in school that children remember their teachers. Although they will not always remember everything teachers have taught, children will remember their teachers as people. Through instruction, but most importantly through nurture and example, teachers make an impression on lives that endures far beyond school-leaving-age.

Many children are enthusiastic to learn and immediately respond positively to everything their teacher communicates, although

some children also find that there are barriers to their learning.

In today's Gospel, Jesus led those who knew they wanted to be with him. He also led those who at the time had a barrier: they had not actively chosen his presence. Acting out of love, Jesus, the Teacher, included all and sought the best for all.

Jesus himself nurtures and provides the example for teachers: to act out of love for each precious child and strive to bring out the best in all.

Michael George has served Catholic primary schools as a teacher and headteacher for more than twenty years.

### Feast of the week

Monday 23 April

## St George

The Military Saints, Warrior Saints and Soldier Saints are patron saints, martyrs and other saints associated with the military. They were originally composed of the Early Christians who were soldiers in the Roman army during the persecution of Christians, especially the Diocletianic Persecution of AD 303-313.

Most of the Early Christian military saints were soldiers of the Roman Empire who had become Christian and, after

refusing to participate in Imperial cult rituals of loyalty to the Roman Emperor, were subjected to corporal punishment including torture and martyrdom.

Veneration of these saints, most notably of Saint George, was reinforced in the Latin Church during the time of the Crusades. The title of "champion of Christ" (*athleta Christi*) was originally used for these saints, but in the late medieval period also conferred on contemporary rulers by the Pope.

Since the Middle Ages, more saints have been added to various military-related patronages.

Source: Wikipedia

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, does not humiliate or abandon people to remorse.

Pope Francis

Lord, I pray for everyone in positions of leadership, that they can act with justice, integrity, compassion and understanding. Amen.

Today: Acts 4:8-12 1 John 3:1-2  
 Monday: Acts 11:1-18 John 10:1-10  
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26 John 10:22-30  
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24-13:5 John 12:44-50  
 Thursday: 1 Peter 5:5-14 Mark 16:15-20  
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33 John 14:1-6  
 Saturday: Acts 13:44-52 John 14:7-14  
 Next Sunday: Acts 9:26-31 1 John 3:18-24 John 15:1-8

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### 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](mailto:stockport3parishes@gmail.com)

Websites: [ourladyandtheapostles.co.uk/](http://ourladyandtheapostles.co.uk/) [stambrosechurch.org.uk/](http://stambrosechurch.org.uk/) [stvincentbramhall.org/](http://stvincentbramhall.org/)

Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Onuoha Email: [frifeanyimom@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://tinyurl.com/stockportparishes) or [Stockport Parishes - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StockportParishes) (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
		2.30pm	Our Lady's Baptism	Baptism Freya Neenan

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](mailto:carey.judith@yahoo.com) OLATA Ged Murtagh -[geraldmurtagh@outlook.com](mailto:geraldmurtagh@outlook.com) St Ambrose — Marie Byrne [ma.byrne1@ntlworld.com](mailto: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:** Monica McManus, 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 Leasor, 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](http://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 28<sup>th</sup> 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@sthughandstjohnstimperley.co.uk](mailto:office@sthughandstjohnstimperley.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 May at OLATA. **At 7pm**

**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](mailto: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**

**OUR LADY'S** will be leading the Rosary on **1st - 7th, 18th, and 22nd – 31st May at 7pm**. Please volunteer to lead on one of these days.

**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.

**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.

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

**QR CODE** will be available next week for online donations to 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 on **15th, 17th, 19th and 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 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.*

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