



## 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 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024

LOVING LIKE GOD

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants anymore, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me; no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another."

Taken from John 15:19-17 The Sixth 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.

Like so many of the great discourses of Jesus in the gospel of John, today's reading is not a shorthand record of Jesus' words, but will have been written up after the event. Most probably there were several slightly different versions of what Jesus said at the Last Supper. In any case, one can see that the author has in mind two different contexts: Jesus' own historical situation at the Last Supper and the situation of the early Church, where the disciples are being tested hard in their mission. They need encouraging by Jesus' own example of his sacrifice and by his promise of real friendship; they are friends, not servants, specially chosen by Jesus to bear fruit that will last. So we too are welcomed as friends, chosen and commissioned by Jesus to go out and bear fruit, but reminded that we must be prepared to pay the price. There is no fruit without pruning. Jesus had just given the example of service by washing the feet of his disciples. If we are to share the joy of Jesus we must be ready to join him also in laying down our lives for our friends.

Do we ever have to make hard choices for Christ?

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 LOVE!

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.**

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=...) (for both St. Vincent's and St. Ambrose')



The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity 234025

Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
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 Ka Yan Kalie Tsang
Monday 29th April	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, V, D	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Kirsty Bain RIP
Tuesday 30th April	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Ann Allen RIP, Ann,
Wednesday 1st May	Ferial	9.30am	St Vincent's	Nora Anne Walsh RIP, Ann
		1pm	Aquinas College	Mass preceded by Adoration at 12.30pm
Thursday 2nd May	St Athanasius, B, D	9:30 7pm	St. Ambrose Our Lady's	John Kenneth Burke, Birthday Ann, Bridget Crowley RIP, Ann,
Friday 3rd May	Ss PHILLIP AND JAMES, Ap	9.30am	St Vincent's	Marjory Lee's Spec Int
Saturday 4th May	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS	9.30am	Our Lady's	Closure of Nupas Abortion Clinic, Thanksgiving
		12.30pm	Our Lady's Wedding	Wedding of Ross Summers and Lauren Seggie
		6.30pm	Our Lady's	Ann Sheehan RIP
Sunday 5th May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am	St Vincent's	Mr Slatlery Spec Int
		10am	St Ambrose	John Byrne RIP, Ann
		11am	Our Lady's	Mary Hough RIP
		11am	Our Lady's Baptism	Baptism Flynn Crompton
		2pm	Igbo Holy Mass	

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:** 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 Bockenheimer, and all the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Florence Danyliw, Arthur Whelan, Norah Wood, Timothy Crowley, Bernard John Burke, Mary Bohan, Emma Wood, Owen Tiplady, Mary Kirkham, Dilly Burrell, Nora Ann Walsh, Bridget Connolly, Helen O'Gara, Ann Allen, Bridget (Beenie) Crowley, Eileen Crowley, John Richard Freeborough

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**BAPTISM CLASSES** -The July Baptism Course is almost full. The next course is 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 runs in the Guild Room on Thursdays 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.

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

### DIOCESAN NEWS

**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)

**YEAR OF PRAYER 2024** Come and join our online webinar with Sycamore. Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be a 'Year of Prayer', as a preparatory year for the Jubilee Year of 2025. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to get the most out of the prayer pathway on Sycamore! **On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 7pm-8pm.** Email Natalie Orefice for the link to join: [Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org).

**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.

**CAFOD AND SVP, A YEAR OF ENCOUNTER** -with a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see [cafod.org.uk/encounter](http://cafod.org.uk/encounter) for more information, including online sessions on Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May to learn more.

**STOCKPORT PRAYER BREAKFAST** 16 May 2024 7:30-9:30 am. St Mary's Market Place. Commencing with a free light breakfast, email info: [@renew-stockport.org](mailto:@renew-stockport.org) for catering only purposes please let them know you are coming.

**RED BOX 2023 - THANK YOU!** In 2023 Our Lady's raised £1364.14 and St Ambrose raised £606.03 through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Our missionary community here at our parishes is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Visit [mission.org.uk](http://mission.org.uk) to find out more.

**EASY FUNDRAISING FOR FR MARTIN'S MEDICAL OUTREACH MISSION** - Did you know that when buying everyday items like a food shop or big one-off purchases like a holiday, you can raise free funds for Fr Martin's Medical Outreach Mission. Everything you spend at over 8,000 online brands can turn into extra funding. All you need to do is sign up at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to get started. A few minutes of your time will make a huge difference.

**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, on Thursday's at 7.30pm after Mass, 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.

**YOUTH GROUP**—The New Youth Group for all 3 parishes will have their first meeting on 5th May 2024 Sunday after 11am Mass at Our Lady's. Age Groups 12 —25 yrs. Please spread the word and encourage all young people to attend. Thanks.

**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.

**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.

**ANONING 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.

**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.

### 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. NB 7.30pm on Thursdays after 7pm Mass.

**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 PLEASE USE THIS QR** for online donations for St Ambrose.

### ST VINCENT'S NEWS

**THIS SUNDAY** -Plant sale after Mass. Please bring your cuttings to sell. Proceeds will go towards Church Flowers.

**PLEASE TAKE CARE** to keep children away from the cordoned off area near the porch

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** Once again, the children will be making a small "Mary Garden Altar" for the church porch during May and as last year, we need to borrow some small icons of Mary. Tiny plants would also be welcome. Thank you.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 12TH MAY** - During Mass on the 12th May, five children will be receiving the sacrament of First Holy Communion, there will be tea/coffee and refreshments after Mass.

**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 and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at [www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice).

