



A Pastoral Letter

On the Month of Mary

To be read at all Masses on Sunday 5th May 2024

Dear brothers and sisters,

I write at the beginning of this month of May, a month devoted to renewing our love for Mary, the Mother of God, who at the foot of the Cross, was given to us as our mother i. It is Mary, full of grace and free from sin, who perfectly lives Christ's command *"To love one another"* ii. As the Second Vatican Council declared: *"By her maternal love, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by danger and difficulties, until they are led into their blessed home"* iii. It is in this confidence that we turn to Our Lady amid all the troubles of time saying in the words of Pope Francis: *"God has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and all humanity. By God's gracious will you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of history ..."* iv Amid the death and destruction of the First World War, the Church not only worked for peace, she joined in continuous prayer together with the Mother of Christ. The Church sensed in that troubled hour the closeness of Mary as an ever-present mother. During this worldwide prayer, Our Lady appeared to three children in the tiny hamlet of Fatima in Portugal, to remind us that the peace of the world demands we turn away from our sins and turn more trustfully to God. As in all the appearances where Our Lady in modern times, she called us to renewed Eucharistic faith and love. This is a message for us to rediscover in a year which Pope Francis has dedicated to *"rediscovering the great value and absolute need of prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, and in the world"* v. In calling us to deeper prayer, the Mother of God invites us to accept her motherly help. Our Lady specifically invites us to pray with her the Gospel prayer we call 'The Rosary', that might draw closer to her Son, by meditating on the mysteries of His life, death and resurrection. The Rosary, we can say, is a precious gift from Mary herself to help us contemplate Christ in the mysteries of His joy, His sorrow, His light and His glory. In the Rosary, it is with Mary's gaze and Mary's wonder that we keep our eyes fixed on Him. This prayer has accompanied me, and I have come to treasure it more and more along the path of life. At the Chrism Mass, I personally reflected on how the Rosary has formed an unbroken chain linking every scene and moment of my life with Gospel contemplation, intercession, reparation and praise and thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity. The Church and the witness of her Saints encourages us all to find in the Rosary, *"The depth of the Gospel message in its entirety" and a prayer "destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness"* vi. As Pope Saint John Paul noted, this prayer can rightly be called *"Mary's prayer: the prayer in which she feels particularly united with us (for) she herself prays with us"* vii. The month of May is an opportunity to take up this prayer anew. Let us turn to the Mother of God, who is our mother too, praying in the words of Pope Saint John Paul that amid the darkest shadows of time, *"There be revealed once more, in the history of the world, the infinite saving power of the Redemption: the power of merciful love! May it put a stop to evil. May it transform consciences. May your Immaculate Heart reveal for all the light of Hope."*

May this be so for us with Mary's help.

⇒ Mark Bishop of Shrewsbury

i Cf. Jn. 19: 27

ii Jn. 15:17

iii Cf. Lumen Gentium Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of the Second Vatican Council No. 62

iv Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 25th March 2022

v Angelus Address 21st January 2024

vi Pope John Paul II Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae No. 7

vii Reference needed to Pope John Paul II 13th May 198

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 of Easter, Sunday 5th May 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/channel/UC...) (for both St. Vincent's and St. Ambrose')

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity 234025



Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
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	Our Lady's	Igbo Holy Mass
Monday 6th May	Ferial	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Kirsty Bain RIP
Tuesday 7th May	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	End to All Wars/World Peace
Wednesday 8th May	Ferial	1pm	Aquinas College	Mass preceded by Benediction
		7pm	Garden Mass	Mary Norton 90th Birthday
Thursday 9th May	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD <i>Holyday of Obligation</i>	9.30	St Vincent's	John Mercer RIP
		9:30	St. Ambrose	Pat Byrne RIP <i>St Ambrose School children will be attending.</i>
		7pm	Our Lady's	Fr Liam Tallon
Friday 10th May	St John of Avila, P, D	9.30am	St Vincent's	David G James RIP
Saturday 11th May	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Michael Heath RIP
		6.30pm	Our Lady's	John Campbell RIP
Sunday 12th May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Day of Special Prayer for World Communications	9.30am	St Vincent's	Susan Claffey, Spec Int <i>First Holy Communions at St Vincent's</i>
		10am	St Ambrose	Our Parish Family
		11am	Our Lady's	Tom Jones, Spec Int <i>First Holy Communions at Our Lady's</i>

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: 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 Celia Cameron, Pat Byrne, 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: The Moran Family, Martin Merriman, Patrick Sidebotham, Elizabeth Kay, James Angus Faulkner, Mary Hough, Catherine (Katie) Calvert, May Jones, Frances Mildred Perkin, Ann Hewitt, Ursula McGowan, Jennifer Padden, James Cameron, Ellen Mellor, Bill Walker, Kevin Hitchen, Breda Murray, Frank McGovern, Ellen McLoughlin, Margaret Merriman, John Joseph Timon

THE FAMILY OF JOHN CAMPBELL RIP, wish to express their thanks to those who attended his funeral last week and helped to raise £800 for Alzheimer's Research through the collected donations.

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.

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.

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO THE BISHOP'S CONFIRMATION MASS ON 16TH MAY 2024 AT 7PM, AT OUR LADY'S - Parents and parishioners are welcome to bring snacks and food items to share in the Guild Room after the Mass. Please drop them off at the Guild Room before Mass.

DIOCESAN NEWS

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 15th May 7pm-8pm.** Email Natalie Orefice for the link to join: 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.

A DAY FOR CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS You are invited to a day with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph and Bishop Mark Davies for confirmation catechists and all those interested. It is a day exploring the Sacrament of Confirmation, best practice and an opportunity to network with catechists from across the diocese. The Mission for Catechesis Team and the Diocesan Youth Team will in attendance to offer their support on the day. Join us on May 18th, 10am-4pm at St Mary's Parish. Centre, 65 Delamere St, Crewe, CW1 2JX. To find out more contact Natalie Orefice on 07730 526826 or natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-day-for-catechists-in-the-diocese-of-shrewsbury-tickets-851383700567>

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 to get started. A few minutes of your time will make a huge difference.

HOLY HOUR FOR PENTECOST - '...and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,' St Peter on Pentecost Sunday (Acts 2:38). You are welcome to join us for a **Holy Hour for Pentecost**. A time of prayer with worship music with scripture readings in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament at **Christ Church**, Heald Green, SK8 3DY on **Sunday 19th May 2024, 7.30pm-8.30pm** followed by refreshments in the hall.

COLLECTION ON SUNDAY 12TH MAY - There will be a special collection for World Communication Day on 12th May.

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 this Sunday, 5th May 2024, 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 & August, during the week, by 7.00pm, on one of the days that your church has a Mass. Contact the parish office to book.

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.

CABARET NIGHT - 18 May 2024 at St Vincent's - 9 tickets have become available if you would like one please contact Lucy or Neal either after Mass or on 07557475242. Please put your order in for wine for your table. £8 per bottle. Red, White or Rose.

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.

LIFE IS ALWAYS WORTH LIVING - Fr Martin's book has been temporarily reduced to £5.99 on Amazon in the hope that it can reach more people. Please help to spread the word and get this very important and life-enhancing message to as many people as possible - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/LIFE-ALWAYS-WORTH-LIVING-ASSISTED/dp/B0C7JCB9>

RED BOX 2023 - THANK YOU! In 2023 St Vincent's raised £591. Thank you! Our missionary community here is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Visit mission.org.uk to find out more.

CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS - As of 1st May 2024 the office will be closed on Wednesdays. The new office hours will be: Monday—9am to 2pm, Tuesday - 9am to 2pm, Thursday 10.30am to 1pm, Friday - 9am to 3pm.

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

PENTECOST BREAKFAST As part of the "Churches Together" programme, at St Gabriel's Church on Saturday May 18th from 9.00am to 11.00pm. Breakfast until 10.30, when the service begins. Free entry, donations welcome.

FUNERAL OF CELIA CAMERON—A previous parishioner of St Ambrose, died on 19 April 2024. Requiem Mass is to be held at St Ann's Church Cheadle Hulme on 16th May at 11.30 am.

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

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

NO SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY (MAY 6TH)

THE PLANT SALE went well and the Church Flower Fund collected £143. Many thanks to all who donated plants

INTERNATIONAL MASS IS ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, we need volunteers to say a Bidding Prayer in their mother tongue please. Also please bring your national flag for the procession at the start of Mass.

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.

