

Please read this letter from the Bishop with regards to the Assisted Dying Bill. Bishop Mark asks the faithful to write urgently to their Members of Parliament to urge opposition to this proposal and greater support for palliative care.

Pastoral Letter ~ On the threat of Assisted Suicide
Sunday 13th October 2024

My dear brothers and sisters,

This week an ‘assisted suicide’ Bill will be introduced into Parliament. The Bill will seek to remove the legal safeguards which have long protected some of the most vulnerable members of society to allow medically assisted suicide. The government has indicated it will provide time for this legislation which will be considered on a free vote. It is hard to fathom why this proposal is such an urgent priority and why parliament will proceed in haste even voting before Christmas. This is especially troubling when we recall that due to its dangers, assisted suicide was overwhelmingly rejected by the House of Commons only nine years ago.

The proposal to be put before Parliament poses the same dangers and challenges the same moral foundations on which our laws have been based. In today’s Gospel, a young man affirms he has kept the Ten Commandments from his earliest days. For inscribed into the human heart from the beginning is the command: “You shall not kill”.

This prohibition safeguards a great good which has led us to value and hold human life sacred. We can say that from the beginning, this command has formed our society at its best in the care of the sick, the aged and the most vulnerable. The decision MPs are about to make is heralded as a historic vote because it threatens a momentous change to society in both its care and attitude to the sick and the aged. This change could be decided within a matter of weeks, allowing our parliamentary representatives little time to consider the enormity of the moral choice. I am therefore asking you to take urgent action in contacting your Member of Parliament to express opposition to this dangerous proposal and to urge that greater support and resources be given to end of life, palliative care. It is surely a scandal, that Hospices, providing pain relief and care for those at the end of their lives, are often left in financial deficit and need. Today, I must also warn where crossing the moral boundary set by the command

“You shall not kill” will lead. Elsewhere in the world we have seen how similar laws permitting medical professionals to assist their patients in suicide have been extended wider and wider to encompass those with mental health problems and even young children. We have witnessed a similar trajectory since the Abortion Act of 1967: initially agreed by Parliament to address ‘hard cases’, this law has been tragically responsible for the destruction of many millions of human lives.

As we see populations ageing across western countries with a diminished number of younger people to support them, this is an especially dangerous moment for politicians to open the door to euthanasia: the medical killing of the sick, the disabled and the elderly. We already hear of a social duty to end our lives when we become a burden to others. This is not the kind of society in which we would wish to grow old or become vulnerable! If medical professionals, now sworn to protect the lives of patients, become those who assist in killing and suicide, how will our relationship change to those we look to for help and care? This is, indeed, a dark and sinister path on which we could be embarking before Christmas 2024. The pre-Christian mind may have thought it reasonable to dispose of a human life, yet, through the Christian Centuries we have seen how the command “You shall not kill,” has protected the most vulnerable and led society to generously care for those at the end of their lives. The Church’s Catechism explains how discontinuing burdensome, extraordinary or disproportionate medical procedures and using pain relief to alleviate the suffering of the dying, even at risk of shortening their days, can stand in harmony with this command. Yet, these considerations in genuine medical care belong to a different moral universe to deliberately killing another human being or assisting someone to commit suicide. Let us pray that a decisive rejection of the proposal being placed before Parliament will lead society to affirm the value of human life anew, by devoting ourselves more generously to the support of the aged; to the relief of suffering and to truly assisting those at the end of their lives. I ask you not to delay in contacting your Member of Parliament, whose postal and e-mail address can be found in the parish newsletter today.

United with you in this witness to the Gospel of Life, + Mark Bishop of Shrewsbury.

Here is the postal address for the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

MP Navendu Mishra	Email— navendu.mishra.mp@parliament.uk	Stockport Constituency
MP Tom Morrison	Email—tom.morrison.mp@parliament.uk	Cheadle Constituency
MP Lisa Smart	Email—lisa.smart.mp@parliament.uk	Hazel Grove Constituency

Should you wish to write to the House of Lords Please see the following link to help create your letter. <https://www.spuc.org.uk/lords-assisted-suicide>

See the BBC documentary Liz Carr’s Better off Dead <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001z8wc/better-off-dead> reality documentary of how this law would affect disabled people, by disabled people and how the media and others portray glorifying the disabled, by pressuring the disabled to martyr themselves by choosing death, so us able bodied can go on with our life uninhibited by those less abled than ourselves. Noble Baroness Lady Campbell says “Assisted dying is not supported by the very people it is intended to benefit....it is not supported by one single organisation, for people with progressive conditions.” We need to be fully aware of those we are throwing under a bus if this bill is passed. This bill will not protect them.

Newsletter for the Parishes of Our Lady and the Apostles, St. Ambrose and St. Vincent de Paul

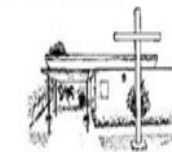
Telephone: 0161 480 2489 Email: stockport3parishes@gmail.com
Websites: ourladyandtheapostles.co.uk/ stambrosechurch.org.uk/ stvincentbramhall.org/
Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Onuoha Email: frifeanyimom@yahoo.com



Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 13th October 2024

You can join us via this Live Stream link: <https://www.churchservices.tv/ourladystockport> (for Our Lady’s church) or [Stockport Parishes - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) (for both St. Vincent’s and St. Ambrose’s)

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity 234025



Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sunday 13th October	TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Day of Special Prayer for prisoners and their dependents.	9.30am	St Vincent's	Mary O'Donovan RIP
		10am	St Ambrose	World Peace
		11am	Our Lady's	Our Parish Family.
Monday 14th October	St Callistus 1, Pp, M	9.30am	St. Ambrose	World Peace
Tuesday 15th October	St Teresa of Avila, V, D Memorial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Natalya's Father RIP
		12.30	Funeral Service Our Lady's	Funeral Service for Stuart Thorneycroft
Wednesday 16th October	St Hedwig, R Memorial	9.30am	St Vincent's	Deceased members of the Prayer Group RIP
Thursday 17th October	St Ignatius of Antioch, B, M.	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Kirsty Bain RIP
		7pm	Our Lady's	Christopher McGowan RIP
Friday 18th October	St Luke, Ev	9.30am	St Vincent's	Ada Tyler Anniversary
Saturday 19th October	St Peter of Alcantara, P.	9.30am	Our Lady's	Zamiwe (Ruth) Banda RIP
		6.30pm	Our Lady's	Robert McGowen RIP
Sunday 20th October	TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. Day of special prayer for world missions. (AFP)	9.30am	St Vincent's	Valerie Foster—Special Int
		10am	St Ambrose	Our Parish Family.
		11am	Our Lady's	Philip Flanagan 5th Anniversary
		1pm	St Vincent's	Baptism of Mason & Jude Flanagan

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.

Please pray for those preparing to receive the sacraments

Baptisms: New Baptism classes will start in October. Contact the parish office.

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. Start date to be announced soon.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION: Please register with the parish office as soon as possible.

WEDDINGS: Please speak to Fr Martin after Mass or contact the parish office.

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: Teresa Greenhalgh, Jane Coupes, Michael Philbin, Mary Metcalfe, Taya, Hayden Longworth, Peter Stanway, McKenzie Kiely, Pauline Hinson, Eileen McGahan, Barbara Murphy, Michelle Philips, Kelly Brosnahan, Zach Tierney, Irene Cox, Lee Abernathy, Janice Cook, Annie Topping, Marie Kennefik, Nora Reade.

IN ST. AMBROSE'S: Walt Tomlin, Roy Porter, Adeel, Vera Gallagher, Michael Gallagher, Molly Lane, Michael Nealon, Colin Burns, Cerys Jones, June Campbell, Mavis Doggett, Khia Whitehead, Mary Sein, Paul Thuoc, Mary Young, Veronica Norbury, Imelda Judge, Veronica Lane, Joanna Winter, Paul McClure, Helen Jenkins, Helen Leasor, Terry Glynn, Leaf Matthison, Susan Claffey.

RECENTLY DEPARTED: May the souls of Margaret Forester, Anne Sheridan, Raymond John Burke, Stuart Thorneycroft, Bernadette Marsh, Maureen Brosnahan, Brian Thorpe, Michael Thomas Keeley, Teresa Burrows, Graham Kingston, Denise Corlett, Joan Constable, Anthony Way, Richard Laurens, Stefanie Goodfellow, Andrew Way, Kevin Yoh, Margaret Porter, Eleanor Loftus, Julie Scanlan, Eddie Hickman, Patricia Byrne, Patrick Ryan, Celia Cameron, John Campbell, Monica McManus, Laurence John Gallagher, Tommy Mackinlay, Dorothy Chamberlain, Sister Thomas More McGrath, and all the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARIES: Gertrude Florence Bennett, Rita Morris McAlear, Helen Borrell, Margaret Cherrington, Bernard Joseph Smallwood, Harry Wilson, Rita Mary Ryan, Eliza J. Kelly, Steven Beveridge, Gary White, Thomas Ansell, Marion Traynor, Philip John Flanagan, James Diffley, Edward Maguire Jnr., Bernadette Eastwood, Dorothy O'Farrell, Sean Tracey, John Nicholas Rigby, Roy Hegginbotham, Florence Baker, Martin Horan, Mary MacDonald.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST FORGIVENESS/FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES—Please let the office know immediately if you have not already put your name down to participate in these Sacramental programmes and wish to do so. Please register by contacting the parish office - stockport3parishes@gmail.com Mass attendance cards are at the back of church and need signing by the priest after each mass.

BAPTISM CLASSES—The next course will be in January 2025. Book early via the parish email or phone. If you desperately need the baptism course before October, please talk to Fr Martin.

MARRIAGE COURSE—2.11.24 at Our Lady & St Christopher Church, Romily 9.45am—4pm. www.marriagecare.org.uk

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

OLATA CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP - Thursdays after 7pm Mass

FOREIGN CURRENCY – If you've returned from holiday with any foreign notes and coins, please consider donating them to help the work of the SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul) among the poor and disadvantaged at home and abroad. If you find any old British, Irish and European coins please bring them as well. There are big jars at the entrances of our 3 churches.

IF YOU ARE A TAX PAYER and are not already in our parish's Gift Aid scheme, please ask for details on how to join.

ST AMBROSE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL are holding Stay and Play sessions for children who will be starting Reception in September 2025. They will be held on Thursday 31st October from 10:00 - 10:30 or Tuesday 19th November from 2:00 - 2:30. Please contact school on 0161 480 8466 to book your place.

OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWS: On Tuesday, we held our Welcome Liturgy for our new Reception children, where they were all invited to walk under our 'Welcome Arch'. Fr Martin visited Year 5 this week for a Q and A session. The children thoroughly enjoyed it. Year 6 will be going to Winmarleigh Hall in Preston next week for their 3-day residential - let's hope the sun shines on them!

SPUC - LIVES WORTH LIVING - The Prime Minister has pledged to have a vote on assisted suicide and Lord Falconer has already tabled a Private Members' Bill in the House of Lords. This lecture will be held at the Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel, Portland Street, Manchester M1 4PH from 7:30pm - 9pm on **Tuesday 22nd October** and the speaker, Dr Dominic Whitehouse, who is a palliative care consultant currently working in a hospice in Sussex, will be explaining why a change in the law would be harmful to patients, doctors and to society. **Please register online to attend at - www.spuc.org.uk/assisted-suicide-lectures**

FR MARTIN'S BOOK: 'Life is always worth living : Assisted Dying or Living' is still available in our churches and on Amazon. The Kindle edition is free.

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE—Are you frustrated or angry with your spouse? Do you argue ... or have stopped talking all together? Retrouvaille helps married couples through difficult times. Register now for next programme starting 8th - 10th Nov. Call 0788 7296983 or Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com www.retrouvaille.org.uk

ALCOCKS AND GEORGE HILLS CHARITY FLORAL ARRANGING EVENT CHARITY EVENT - Autumnal Flower-Arranging Workshop on Wednesday, November 13th, at Cheadle Sports Club from 7:00—9:00 p.m. Tickets £40.00 p/person. Sarah from the Floral Mill, will help you create your very own beautiful autumnal hand-tied bouquet- which you will take home! Your first drink and snacks are also included with your ticket. The bar will also be open for the evening. More information about the event can be found on our website here <https://jasfunerals.co.uk/news-events/charity-flower-arranging-workshop-nov-2024/>

PRISONS WEEK—Shrewsbury Diocese: HMP Stoke Heath, HMP Styal, HMP Thorn Cross. Prison Week began in 1975, an initiative by Bishop Victor Guazzelli, quickly gaining ecumenical support. The purpose of Prison Week is to encourage prayer within the Church and the wider Christian community for the needs of all involved in prisons - prisoners and their families, victims, prison staff and those working in other parts of criminal justice system and many volunteers.

OCTOBER DEVOTION TO OUR LADY:- At Our Lady's Church, 7:30pm nightly, commencing on 1st October. Please come and join us. Volunteers from each parish are welcome to lead us in the rosary. Live streaming will be available for those unable to attend. October is a month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. The Rosary is a series of meditations on some aspects, or mysteries, of the life of Jesus Christ and Mary his mother. The rosary is integral to our spiritual life, if we deepen our understanding of the foundations of our rosary prayers, we can, in turn, deepen our devotion to Mary, the Mother of God.

OFFICE CLOSURE - The office will reopen on Wednesday 16th October.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - 20th October 2024. On 20th October the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio, his charity for world mission, through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and the heal our world. To donate please use the Missio envelopes at the back of church, call 020 7821 9755, or visit mission.org.uk to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit, and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

FILM NIGHT—17 OCTOBER 2024 THE CHOSEN—The final episode of Season 3. It's an epic. Tonight it's the feeding of the 5,000 and the walking of water. Come and see, Psalm 77 in action, 5 loaves and 2 fishes and how they relate to us today in our lives. Mass at 7pm and Rosary straight after if you would like to come. The film will start at 8pm at Our Lady's Social Club. The bar will be open. Film duration 1hr 40 mins.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS TO OUR PARISHES. Please introduce yourselves to Fr. Martin and let the parish office have your email address so that we can send you the weekly newsletter and Sunday reflections every Friday afternoon. Contact us at stockport3parishes@gmail.com.

SVP - Kate Birkenhead, Membership Support Officer of the St Vincent de Paul Society for Shrewsbury Diocese, would like to thank parishioners of Our Lady's and St Vincent's for their welcome and generous response last weekend. This weekend she will be at St Ambrose to give a short address outlining the role of the SVP and encouraging new volunteers to join our local group. There will also be a retiring collection at St. Ambrose to help with the work of the SVP in our local community.

JANUARY 2025 MEDICAL OUTREACH MISSION—A GoFundMe page, set up by Max, for the January 2025 Free Medical Outreach in Umunomo is now live for donations. For details, please click on this link <https://gofund.me/181ecc20>. Thank you all, once again, for your invaluable support, without which this crucial annual humanitarian project would not have thrived for the past five years. We will let you know once the date is fixed. Please keep the programme in your prayers, as so many depend on it. God bless you. **EASYFUNDRAISING** supporters have already raised £224.12 so far without costing them a penny. You can help them keep up this momentum! Use easyfundraising whenever you need to buy anything online & invite others to sign up and join you in raising free donations. <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/fr-martins-medical-outreach-mission>.

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

AQUINAS WELCOME MASS CELEBRATIONS—Please feel free to join us as we welcome our new six formers and returning upper six formers at Aquinas College, as they start their academic year. Week commencing 14.10.24—Monday, Tuesday, Friday Masses will be Celebrated at 9:15 am and 11 am. Wednesday and Thursday Masses will be Celebrated at 9:15am, 11 am and 12:30pm.

OUR LADY'S NEWS

FIRST SACRAMENTS AND CONFIRMATION—enrolment is now. Mass attendance cards are at the back of church and need signing by the priest after each mass.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY—To Mary Walsh our Centenary Birthday parishioner and our dedicated Sacristan for decades.

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

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.

TEA AND COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS - Come to Our Lady's Guild Room after 11am Mass this Sunday for tea/coffee and chats.

ST AMBROSE NEWS

FIRST SACRAMENTS AND CONFIRMATION—enrolment is now. Mass attendance cards are at the back of church and need signing by the priest after each mass.

CAFOD RETIRING COLLECTION is today 13.10.24

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE at St George's church this Sunday, 13th October, at 4pm as part of the Churches Together Programme. All Parishioners are cordially invited and any gifts will be donated to the Wellspring.

ALTAR FLOWERS—Donations are requested for altar flowers. Please put any money you can spare in the box at the back of church. All donations gratefully received.

MASS IN SACRISTY - From Monday 7th October onwards, weekday Masses will be held in the Sacristy to save on heating costs.

QR CODE Please use this QR for online donations for St Ambrose.

ST VINCENT'S NEWS

FIRST SACRAMENTS AND CONFIRMATION—enrolment is now. Mass attendance cards are at the back of church and need signing by the priest after each mass.

This Sunday - Coffee after Mass, also please bring your donations for Chelwood Foodbank. They are getting short of breakfast cereal packets and washing up liquid at the moment!

MONDAY 14TH - 10am Service of Word and Communion, followed by Prayer Group. All welcome

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - the annual Toy Mass will be Dec 1st, this will be a Children's Mass so we will need volunteers from the younger members of the parish!

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. 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.

