

Statement by the Bishops of England, Wales, and Scotland
BE COMPASSIONATE

As Catholic Bishops in England and Wales, and in Scotland, we believe that genuine compassion is under threat because of the attempts in Parliament to legalise assisted suicide. ‘Compassion’ means to enter into and share the suffering of another person. It means never giving up on anyone or abandoning them. It means loving them to the natural end of their life, even if and when they struggle to find meaning and purpose. Compassion means accompanying people, especially during sickness, disability, and old age. This kind of genuine compassion is witnessed through the care and respect we show to people with terminal illness as they complete their journey in this life.

We appeal to those who share our Catholic belief in human dignity and sanctity of life, including fellow Christians, other religious people, and people of reason and good will, to join with us in defending the weakest and most vulnerable who are at risk through this proposed legislation.

Life is a gift to be protected, especially when threatened by sickness and death. Palliative care, with expert pain relief, and good human, spiritual, and pastoral support, is the right and best way to care for people towards the end of life. More adequate funding and resources for hospices and palliative care teams authentically serve and honour our shared human dignity. In the discussion around assisted suicide, so much is made of freedom of choice and autonomy; but autonomy is not absolute and must always be placed within the context of the common good of society as a whole. People who are suffering need to know they are loved and valued. They need compassionate care, not assistance to end their lives.

Assisted suicide raises serious issues of principle. The time given for Parliament to consider the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which will permit assisted suicide is woefully inadequate. Although the Bill indicates safeguards will be in place, the experience of other countries where assisted suicide has been introduced shows that such promised safeguards are soon forgotten. In Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada, and parts of the USA, the criteria for assisted suicide have been expanded significantly, in law or in practice, often to include people with mental illness and others who have no terminal diagnosis. It is not always easy to predict the length of time a person with a terminal illness has to live, making this Bill unworkable.

We are alarmed by the impact that legalisation will have on the most vulnerable members of our society. The option to end life can quickly, and subtly, be experienced as a duty to die. Some may well feel their continued existence is a burden to others, and, implicitly or explicitly, be pressured into assisted suicide. This includes people who are elderly, infirm, and living with disabilities. The protection of such people is the foundation of civilised society. It is at the heart of good government.

We are also concerned that this Bill will fundamentally damage the relationship between medical practitioners and their patients. It will potentially lead to pressure on medical staff to recommend or facilitate such procedures. Will the right to conscientious objection for individuals and institutions be guaranteed? The impact on hospices, care homes, and those who work in social and community care cannot be underestimated. It will radically alter the ethos of trust and support which underpins our service to those in need and their families.

We urge all people of good will to oppose this legislation and, instead, to advocate for better funded palliative care which is consistently available to everyone in need in England, Wales, and Scotland. Please inform yourself and others about this issue and contact your Member of Parliament to make your opposition known, asking him or her to oppose or not support the Bill.

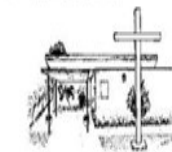
As Catholic Bishops, we call upon all Catholics, and invite all those who share our Christian faith, to turn in prayer to God our Father. Please pray that the dignity of human life will be protected and defended. On the cross, Christ united Himself to every form of human suffering and every person who suffers. In Him, life is changed, not ended. He shows us, in His own crucified and risen body, that love is always stronger than death.

14th November 2024

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



Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, 17th November 2024

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

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity 234025

Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sunday 17th November	THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. World Day of Prayer for the Poor	9.30am	St Vincent's	Maloney and Clegg Deceased
		10am	St Ambrose	World Peace and End to all Wars
		11am	Our Lady's	Anna Molapo and Justina Rantsiane RIP <i>Our Lady's Primary School, Sacramental Enrolment.</i>
		1pm	St Vincent's Baptism	Baptism of Arian Lockett
Monday 18th November	Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter & Paul AP <i>(Optional Memorial)</i>	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Deceased member of Morrell and Quirk Family
Tuesday 19th November	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Souls of Priests
Wednesday 20th November	Ferial	9.30am	St Vincent's	Mick Brundrett RIP
		1.45pm	Aquinas College	Mass preceded by Adoration Holy Souls
Thursday 21st November	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Memorial</i>	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Raymond Burke Special Intention
		7pm	Our Lady's	Shelagh Margaret Lees, 2nd Ann
Friday 22nd November	St Cecilia V, M <i>Memorial</i>	9.30am	St Vincent's	Veronica Sullivan RIP
		11.30am	OLATA	Funeral Service of Jack Birch
Saturday 23rd November	St Clement I, Pp, M Vigil Mass	9.30am	Our Lady's	Deceased members of Malloy Family
		6.30pm	Our Lady's	World Peace & End to all Wars
Sunday 24th November	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE Day of Special Prayer for Young People: Youth Sunday.	9.30am	St Vincent's	Our Parish Family
		10am	St Ambrose	Teresa Gale RIP <i>St Ambrose Primary Sacramental Enrolment</i>
		11am	Our Lady's	Vincent & Theresa Lesole RIP
		1pm	Our Lady's	Jacob Kurlo, Alia-Claire & Regan Moore

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: CATHERINE GIBBONS, 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, Imelda Judge, Veronica Lane, Joanna Winter, Paul McClure, Helen Jenkins, Helen Leasor, Terry Glynn, Leaf Matthieson, Susan Claffey.

RECENTLY DEPARTED: May the souls of Jack Birch, Veronica Norbury, Elizabeth West, Veronica Knowles, Margaret Forester, Anne Sheridan, Raymond John Burke, Stuart Thornycroft, Bernadette Marsh, Maureen Brosnahan, Brian Thorpe, Michael Thomas Keeley, Teresa Burrows, Graham Kingston, Denise Corlett, Joan Constable, Anthony Way, Richard Laurens, Stefanie Goodfellow, and all the souls of our recently departed rest in peace

ANNIVERSARIES: Michael Shields, Hilda McDonald, James Stephen Riley, Annie Hassett, Peter Shields Snr., Terry Kilduff, James (Jim) Hawthorn, Phyllis Mary Roberts, Maureen Sylvia Lohbach, Carl Aaron Forshaw, Angela Pugh, Gerald Pinninton, Vincent Gerald Adamson, Thomas Joseph Connell.

FIRST FORGIVENESS/FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Please let the office know immediately if you would like to register your child for these Sacraments in 2025. Please register for the programmes by contacting the parish office - stockport3parishes@gmail.com and completing the required form. Mass attendance cards are at the back of church and needs to be signed 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 January, please talk to Fr Martin.

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 - Adjourned till next spring.

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.

Planning Ahead - Christmas 2024 Mass Times

Tuesday 24 th Dec	Christmas Eve <i>Vigil Masses for Christmas</i>	4.00 pm 4.30 pm 5pm (4.45 pm carols) Midnight Mass	St Ambrose (Children's Mass) St. Vincent's (Children's Mass) Our Lady's (Children's Mass) Our Lady's
Wed 25 th Dec	The Nativity of the Lord	9.00am 9.30am (9.15am Carols) 10.00 am (9.45am Carols) 11am (10.45am Carols)	Our Lady's St. Vincent's St. Ambrose Our Lady's

ST AMBROSE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL are holding a Stay and Play session for children who will be starting Reception in September 2025. Tuesday 19th November from 2:00 - 2:30. Please contact school on 0161 480 8466 to book your place.

OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWS—We are delighted with our Key Stage Two SATs results this year. We achieved 83% for our combined Reading, Writing and Mathematics scores, which puts Our Lady's in the top 8% of schools in the country. In addition, our Greater Depth combined scores for Reading, Writing and Mathematics was 21%, which puts Our Lady's in the top 6% of schools in the country. Well done everyone for your hard work! **Did you know?** We now offer Wraparound Care from 8:00am-6:00pm. Please contact the School Office. **Save the Date (1):** Thursday 21st November 9:30am-12:00pm. Open Morning for our September 2025 Reception Intake. Please spread the word and come and visit our amazing school!

Save the Date (2): Our Lady's School Christmas Fair: Friday 29th November 5:30pm-7:30pm. Join us for festive fun, including tombola's, Irish coffees, Games Room and, of course, Fr Christmas himself!

Fr Martin's Book 'Life is always worth living: Assisted Dying or Living' is still available in our churches and on Amazon.

Oppose Assisted Suicide - A significant number of Members of Parliament remain undecided on this vote. Let's do all we can to raise awareness of the implications of this bill before the crucial parliamentary vote scheduled for Friday 29th November. **TELL YOUR MP** in Hazel Grove, Cheadle & Stockport to Oppose Assisted Dying. Please review this online petition [https:// www.change.org/OpposeAssistedDyingStockport](https://www.change.org/OpposeAssistedDyingStockport) and consider signing and please share the link. We have put a hard copy of the petition at the back of church for you to sign, if you are unable to sign online. The signed petitions from our churches will be forwarded to MPs.



ST JAMES CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, PARISHIONER CHRISTMAS PARTY: As we approach the joyous season of Christmas, St James' school are delighted to invite parishioners to the annual Parishioner Christmas Party at St James Catholic High School in Cheadle Hulme. This festive event will take place on Friday, 13th December, starting at 11:15am. The morning promises to be filled with festive cheer, including refreshments, raffles, and entertainment. St James Catholic High School would be honored to share this occasion with parishioners. To help them to prepare, kindly RSVP by 1st December to the Parish Secretary. They look forward to welcoming you to St James and sharing in the warmth and spirit of Christmas together!

SUNDAY MASS TIMES FROM 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: We agreed to change our Mass time at St Ambrose from 5pm on Saturday to 8.30am on Sunday, and then later, from 8.30am to 10am, for as long as we had Fr. Moses. As we cannot be sure of the availability of our retired priests for Mass covers every weekend, it has become necessary to revert to St Ambrose's initial schedule.

We will continue to have four weekend Masses as follows:

Saturday	5pm	St Ambrose (First Mass on 30th November 2024)
	6.30pm	Our Lady and the Apostles
Sunday	9.30am	St Vincent's
	11am	Our Lady and the Apostles

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.

11th JANUARY 2025 MEDICAL OUTREACH MISSION—A date has been set for Fr Martin's next Free Medical Outreach in Nigeria - 11th January 2025. A GoFundMe page is now live for donations. For details, please click on this link <https://gofund.me/181ecc20> or scan the QR code. 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. Please keep the programme in your prayers, as so many depend on it. God bless you.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - CAROL SERVICE AT OUR LADY AND THE APOSTLES, FRI 13TH DECEMBER. Carol service with mulled wine, Gaelic coffee and other refreshments at Our Lady's, from 6:45pm. Carols 7:30-8:30pm. Entry for Adults £5, children free. **HELPERS ARE NEEDED!** - see Claire or Tecla after Mass or contact parish office. Donations for the tombola are also needed.

NOVEMBER LIST—During the month of November, we pray especially for the faithful departed. Please take a 'Month of the Holy Souls' envelope and place inside the names of your deceased parents, relatives, friends and all for whom you wish to pray. Holy Mass will be offered for them throughout the month of November and any donations will be used for Masses for Holy Souls for the following 12 months.

SILHOUETTE IN MEMORY OF OUR REGULAR PARISHIONERS - Our November transparent silhouette is now on display in Our Lady's church. It is just a reminder of those pious parishioners who sat on those pews in the past but have now passed on to the Lord. If you have someone specifically in mind, please let the office know and we will place the silhouette on their usual position in church (if you still remember) and light candles for them at one of our Sunday Masses.

MEMORIAL MASS - We would like to warmly invite you all to a Memorial Mass for all your loved ones who have died recently or over the last few years. The Mass for the deceased and their families and friends will take place on **24th November 2023** at each of the three churches. These times are: St Vincent's -9.30am, St Ambrose - 10am, and Our Lady's at 11.00am. There will be an opportunity to light candles for them after Mass.

Special Collection on Sunday 17th November - Clergy Education and Training Fund. You can also donate through the Dona Stands.

OUR LADY'S NEWS

FIRST SACRAMENTS AND CONFIRMATION—enrolment is now. **PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR A REGISTRATION FORM.** Mass attendance cards are at the back of church and need to be signed by the priest after Mass.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY -every Sunday in the Guild Room during 11am Mass.

THE PIETY STALL - at the back of church has a great selection of Christmas cards, advent calendars, 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 - 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. **PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR A REGISTRATION FORM.** Mass attendance cards are at the back of church and need to be signed by the priest after each Mass.



DONATIONS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE TOMBOLA STALL which will take place on St Ambrose Feast day celebrations, 7th December, after the 5.00pm Mass. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome. A box is available at the back of church for items for the Tombola.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT ST GEORGE'S will take place from 27th to 30th November.

MASS IN SACRISTY - 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

PLEASE STAY FOR TEA OR COFFEE AFTER MASS THIS SUNDAY. Donations of food for Chelwood Foodbank gratefully received.

Monday 18th - 10am Service of Word and Communion followed by Knit and Natter. 7.30pm Exploring Faith Group

TRAVELLING NATIVITY - the Mary, Joseph and donkey figures will again start making their way around different homes in our parish on **SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER.** Please sign up to host them during the Advent season, giving you a chance to reflect with family and friends on the real meaning of Christmas.

CHRISTIAN AID FUNDRAISER BRASS BAND CONCERT - 7pm Saturday 23rd Nov at URC, Robins Lane £7 adult entry

TOY MASS SUNDAY DEC 1ST led by our children. Please see Veronica to find how your children can take part.



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.