

Always, “Life is Worth Living”... (By Rev. Martin Onuoha) Continued from the 10th December 2021.....

.....There are then absolutely clear guidelines. Euthanasia is always wrong in all circumstances. Nevertheless, there are situations where we need to tread very carefully. The Church has reiterated the real distinction between ‘ordinary’ and ‘extraordinary’ means of prolonging life and the consequently ‘proportionate’ and ‘disproportionate’ means of doing so. Yet specifying the latter remains a task. Even the exegesis of authors like K. O’ Rourke, seeing the problem as solved by the Pope’s phrase of “helping a person strive for the spiritual purpose of life” is not conclusive. Certainly, that means should be considered extraordinary which prevents a person from striving *for the spiritual purpose of life* but this could lead to assuming that some people who, for instance, have lost or never attained reasoning ability and in this sense cannot be said to strive for spiritual purpose in life (for example mentally impaired infants), might be considered unsuited to be treated for their wounds or illnesses since this is ineffective in pursuing the spiritual purpose of life. But to think like this is to fall into the Cartesian trap where the body is a mere instrument of the soul rather than an intrinsic component of the human composite. A better interpretation should underline, among other things, the criteria of *excessive burdensomeness and usefulness*. Proportionate burdensomeness will consider factors like riskiness, side-effects, excessive pain, family, age etc. For instance, some treatments like amputation may be proportionate for a youth, but not for a cancerous old woman. John Dryden, the Seventeenth Century poet, who converted to Catholicism, got gangrene in one leg and it was amputated, with no anaesthetic, but then gangrene was found in the other leg. He refused to have that amputated and died of it. In terms of usefulness, “in Catholic tradition a means has been judged useless in the strict sense if the benefits it promises are nil or useless, in a wider sense if the benefits conferred are insignificant in comparison to the burdens it poses.” We must note that this is not a fall back to the errors of the “quality of life” argument, since what is at issue here is not the person but the means. Indeed, Catholic tradition “allowed quality of life considerations if *they were related to the means themselves*” while repudiating them when applied to persons. This is a vital distinction. The whole argument against euthanasia depends upon ascertaining what is due to the ‘human subject’ as such and protecting this from unnoticed incursions into the territory of the ‘human object’. If we are objects, we can be disposed of at will for this or that alleged reason but as human subjects with innate purpose and meaning we cannot be treated as objects with a shelf life proportionate to the presence or absence of any ‘quality’. While it is appropriate in certain circumstances to distinguish the proportionate from the disproportionate, we must avoid the all too easy methodology of “proportionalism” which would authorise apparent intended evil for an alleged proportionately greater good, since the evil of murder (‘thou shalt not kill’ has precisely this specific sense) must always be avoided. Yet euthanasia has the character of murder or self-murder despite its declared good intentions (and some murderers have, not implausibly, pleaded good intentions).

There needs, however, a clear distinction to be drawn between medication (which is relative to particular circumstances) and feeding (which is intrinsic to human life). In appropriate circumstances (where it can no longer avert death or alleviate suffering) it is legitimate and good to withdraw medication. That is for the judgement of the doctor or nurse. But there are no appropriate circumstances in which feeding, if still possible, should be withdrawn and this exceeds the expertise and authority of the doctor or nurse. The distinction is especially necessary in the case of those said to be in PVS (Persistent or Permanent Vegetative State).... *To be continued....*

**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/](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)  
Deacon: Rev. Moses Ibeh



**2nd JANUARY 2022. THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

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/channel/UC...) (for both St. Vincent’s and St. Ambrose) **IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES, WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE USE THE HAND SANITISER, SIGN IN AT THE DOOR FOR TRACK AND TRACE USING THE QR CODE OR PAPER, WEAR A FACE COVERING, AND GIVE PEOPLE SOME SPACE UNTIL THE PANDEMIC IS OVER.**

Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sun 2nd Jan 2022	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	5.30pm 7.00pm 9.30am 11.00am	Vigil Mass Sat. <b>St Ambrose</b> Vigil Mass Sat. <b>Our Lady’s</b>  <b>St Vincent’s</b> <b>Our Lady’s</b>	Our Parish Family Baby Julia Margaret Callaghan (ann)  Lynn Evans (special int) Marie O’Neil RIP
Mon 3rd Jan	MONDAY OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON (The Most Holy Name of Jesus)	9.30am	<b>St. Ambrose</b>	Deceased members of Fitzpatrick Family
Tues 4th Jan	TUESDAY OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON	9.30am	<b>Our Lady’s</b>	Service of Word and Communion
Wed 5th Jan	WEDNESDAY OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON	9.30am	<b>St. Vincent’s</b>	Patricia Kenny RIP
Thurs 6th Jan	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9.30am 7.00pm	<b>St Ambrose</b> <b>Our Lady’s-</b>	Morrell Family—Private Int Service of Word and Communion
Fri 7th Jan	FRIDAY AFTER EPIPHANY (St Raymond of Penyafort, P)	9.30am	<b>St. Vincent’s</b>	Margaret Runcieman— Speedy Recovery
Sat 8th Jan	SATURDAY AFTER EPIPHANY	9.30am	<b>Our Lady’s</b>	Service of Word and Communion
Sun 9th Jan	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	5.30pm 7.00pm 9.30am 11.00am	Vigil Mass Sat. <b>St Ambrose</b> Vigil Mass Sat. <b>Our Lady’s</b>  <b>St Vincent’s</b> <b>Our Lady’s</b>	Our Parish Family William & Tommy Mellet RIP Patricia Kenny RIP Julia Higgins (ann)

There is **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** every weekday morning from 8:30am to 9:30am.  
The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is available after 9.30am Mass on Saturday morning and by appointment.

*Please pray for those preparing to receive the sacraments.*

**Baptisms:** New Baptism classes will commence in **January 2022**

**First Holy Communion:** You may begin now to enroll for next year’s classes for those not in Catholic schools. Please send names to the parish office. Would you consider volunteering as a Catechist?

**RCIA:** Are you or anyone you know **interested in joining the Catholic Church**, or just wish to learn more about the faith? Please send us an email or call the Parish Office to give your details. God Bless!

**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:** Maureen Brosnahan, Kelly Brosnahan, Zach Tierney, Irene Cox, Lee Abernathy, Janice Cook, Eileen Melia, Annie Topping, Theresa Burrows, Josephine O'Hagan, Denise Corlet, Nora Reade, Tommy Higgins, Marie Kenefick, Eileen Mains, Beryl Collins, Josie Vaughan, Michael Heath, Honora Hague, Victoria Russell, Sophie Mansfield, Mary Brett, Vivienne Goostry, John Wynne, Vincent Tracey, Ronald Fury, Veronica Gallagher, Aine O'Callaghan, Mary Murphy, Kathleen Bond, Jordan Harris, Alana Walsh, Jean Egginton, Mary Glindon and Sean O'Callaghan.

**In St. Ambrose's:** Mavis Doggett, Terry Skorzewski, Khia Whitehead, Eleanor Loftus, Mary Andrusiak, Carl Stanley, C. Wootton, Mary Sein, Paul Thuoc, Barry Lloyd, Andrew Way, Mary Young, Irene Walker, Veronica Norbury, John Holt, Imelda Judge, Veronica Lane, Joanna Winter, Pat Judge, Paul McClure, Helen Jenkins, Marie Hughes.

**Recently Departed:** May the soul of Dominique Davies, Anthony Morris and the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

#### Anniversaries

Edward King, Emmie Barber, Vincent Higgins, Janet Woods, Kathleen McDonagh, Ronald Taylor, Julia Margaret Callaghan, Bridget Tehan, William Mellett, Thomas Mellet, Norah Finchett, Bernard Selby, Douglas H.D Ralph, Robert Gordon, Eamonn Hynes, Sister Philomena Gavin, John Bohan, James Carney Snr., Ellen Tracey, Canon Joseph Harry, Irene Stanway, Brian Belshaw, Allan Brown, Ethel Rogers, Maureen & Catherine Kenny, Rose Anne Burkin, Francis Glendinning, John Teehan, Imre Toth, Lilian Costello.

#### General Notices:

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR 2022—JANUARY PRAYER— For True Human Fraternity;** We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** 18th – 25th January 2022 The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches: 'We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him. (Mt 2:2)'. The Churches Together in Cheshire Service will be held at 3.00 pm on Saturday 22nd January at Chester Cathedral. Materials may be obtained from <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christianunity-2022/>

**THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM ON SYNODALITY** The symposium will take place at Saint Mary's College, Oscott College from Friday March 11th to Saturday March 12th, 2022. A link can be found on the Oscott College homepage ([www.oscott.net](http://www.oscott.net)) to a registration page on Eventbrite for the proposed symposium entitled "Exploring the Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission,". The event is in collaboration with St Mary's University, Twickenham and will afford an opportunity to explore the teaching of the Church through an academic and theological lens. It is open to all but would very much suit anyone with an academic or theological interest. Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/exploring-the-synodal-church-communion-participation-andmission-tickets-160596058133>

**Book Club**—Bob Bartindale will be speaking on the book of Jeremiah on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm at Bramhall Methodist. If you unable to be present you can watch on live streaming or catch up later via the Bramhall Methodist Church web site.

**FR MARTIN'S NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOKS,** *Mary, Daughter Zion & Actio Divina* will be available this Christmas, published by Peter Lang, Oxford. This can be ordered on Amazon and other outlets.

**Second Collection**—for Priests' Retirement Fund will be collected on the third Sunday in January—16th of January 2022.

**Last weekend's collections** ( excludes standing orders) : **OLATA— £428.69 St Ambrose £635.43** THANK YOU!

**Offertory envelopes** can be obtained from the Parish Office or see links for online giving to the Parishes: Please check our websites

**HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR!** Thank you for Christmas offering for Father Martin.

**Fr Martin's Annual Holiday:** Fr Martin is away on holiday. All our Masses will be covered. He thanks all those who have supported his charity work back home. God bless and reward you!

**Free Medical Outreach Umunomo 2022**—established by Fr Martin, on his mother's 1st anniversary, is in its 3rd year. Umunomo Village is in the Eastern region of Nigeria and is Fr Martin's home village. Every year, during his annual holiday, Fr Martin provides a series of free clinics and outreach services for the region, including GP's, Prescriptions, Health checks, remedies for minor illnesses and eye operations. This is a fantastic opportunity to help people who otherwise would not get medical care as the main medical services are too far away from this village and unaffordable. About 20 doctors and 30 nurses are sourced to provide care for 1000 patients during this yearly outreach programme. January 2022 is the next planned Outreach. If you would like to support Fr Martin this year, please donate through the link below or instead of cards/presents this Christmas, please consider giving him a donation which will make a difference to real persons with health challenges and needs in his region. Here **Onuoha.org** is a link to the video trailer of the first outreach and **<http://tinyurl.com/supportfathermartin>** is the link to support.

**GREATER MANCHESTER CHURCHES TOGETHER ~ JOB VACANCY** Churches Together Facilitator. Here attached is the job description and details of the GMCT vacancy for a Churches Together Facilitator. The closing date for applications is 5.00 pm on 10th January 2022.

**The Universe Catholic Weekly** is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new on line newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order **your Digital** copy by going to [www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk](http://www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk) or call us on 0743661 7650 and ask for Michelle. Special offer: Only £20 for 3 months.

#### Our Lady's News

**The Piety Stall**—is now open for cards and gifts, and a selection of rosary beads.

**Children's Liturgy:** Hand sanitisers will be available and surfaces will be wiped down. The leaders will be wearing face masks as per the diocese guidance and we respectfully ask any parents/ guardians to wear a face mask if attending with children. Please can we ask that children do not attend if they have been in contact with anyone who is covid positive, have a temperature, cough or cold symptoms to avoid spreading viruses to others.

#### St Ambrose News

**SVP** welcome any used postage stamps. These can be handed in at St Ambrose.

**Thank you** to everyone who bought raffle tickets and donated prizes to our recent raffle. There is a list of winners at the back of church. A green ticket, numbers 106-110, serial number AD893204, had no name on it. If you have this ticket, please see Marge Newbrook after Mass on Saturday to claim your prize. The sum raised was £200 which has been given to Fr Martin for his charity appeal.

#### St Vincent's News

**A General Thank You** to the musicians and flower group and those who helped with organisation during the Christmas celebrations.

Have a good New Year.

**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 3E*

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