

Wednesday 20th April 2022 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM



Encountering Christ
Prayerfully preparing for the
Sunday Mass and praying in
particular for our school families



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 24th April 2022 - The Second Sunday of Easter

1 Relax & Remember

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. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably 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.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 24th April 2022 - Jesus in the Upper Room (John 20:19-31)

The doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you," and showed them his hands and his side. He said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you." After saying this he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained." Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, "We have seen the Lord", he answered, "Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe." Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, "Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."



3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Two aspects of this meeting with the risen Jesus are especially striking. This is the last scene of the Gospel of John, for chapter 21 is an appendix. At the end, before the concluding reflection, Thomas gives the only direct acclamation in the New Testament of Jesus as God: nowhere else is Jesus hailed as 'God', though there are other ways in which his divinity has been indicated. So in a way Thomas' greeting of the risen Christ is the climax of the New Testament. Secondly, it is striking that Jesus' final blessing is one of peace and forgiveness. The mission of all Christians is to bring these gifts to a troubled world. Throughout the Bible God is a God of forgiveness. The Old Testament consists of a series of covenants, each in turn broken by God's chosen people, but then re-created by a forgiving God. There was the covenant with Noah after the Flood, the covenant with Abraham, the covenant with Moses after the worship of the Golden Calf, and finally the new covenant is promised by Jeremiah after unfaithful Israel had been exiled to Babylon. Christianity is not for the perfect but for the sinner, who is surrounded by other sinners. As forgiven sinners we are exhorted to bring forgiveness to all those around us. How, as a forgiven sinner and part of a community of forgiven sinners, do I demonstrate the power of God's forgiveness?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB



4 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. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.



The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph

www.wednesdayword.org

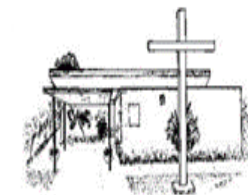
Newsletter for the Parishes of Our Lady and the Apostles, St. Ambrose and St. Vincent de Paul

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
Deacon: Rev. Moses Ibeh



17th APRIL 2022. EASTER SUNDAY

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 (for both St. Vincent's and St. Ambrose's)
(MASKS ARE NO LONGER MANDATORY BUT RECOMMENDED. PLEASE USE THE HAND SANITISER).



Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sun 17th April		Sat. 8.pm Sunday: 8:30am 9.00am 10.00am 11.00am	Our Lady's Easter Vigil (FOR ALL THREE PARISHES) Our Lady's St. Vincent's St. Ambrose's Our Lady's	Michael Leadbeater RIP Our Parish Family Our Parish Family Our Parish Family Prayer Group (Thanksgiving Mass)
Mon 18th April	MONDAY OF THE EASTER OCTAVE	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Holy Souls
Tues 19th April	TUESDAY OF THE EASTER OCTAVE	9.30am	Our Lady's	Tommy Higgins RIP
Wed 20th April	WEDNESDAY OF THE EASTER OCTAVE	9.30pm	St Vincent's	Tommy Higgins RIP
Thurs 21st April	THURSDAY OF THE EASTER OCTAVE	9.30am 7.00pm	St Ambrose Our Lady's	Allan Stanway RIP Tommy, Vincent & Caroline Higgins RIP
Fri 22nd April	FRIDAY OF THE EASTER OCTAVE	9.30am	St Vincent's	Tommy Higgins RIP
Sat 23rd April	SATURDAY OF THE EASTER OCTAVE VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	9.30 am 5.30pm 7.00pm	Our Lady's Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady's	Tommy Higgins RIP Our Parish Family Kath Gingell (80th B/d ann)
Sun 24th April	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)	9.30am 11.00am 1.00pm 2.00pm	St Vincent's Our Lady's OL- Baptism OL- Baptism	Our Parish Family Anne Jenkinson (ann) Alexander Robert Covell Henry Meller

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS! It is such a joy to see so many of us in church again, especially during this Holy Week. I am glad we are now feeling more confident to come to church as we learn to live with the pandemic. Many thanks to all who helped us have decorous and grace-filled celebrations in this solemn season. God bless you! - Fr Martin.

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 resume in April 2022

First Holy Communion: Preparations continue in school and at Our Lady's church at the 11am Mass.

RCIA: 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 at Our Lady's.

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: Lucile Ebbs, 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, Marie Kenefick, Eileen Mains, Beryl Collins, Josie Vaughan, Michael Heath, Honora Hague, Victoria Russell, Sophie Mansfield, 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, Sean O'Callaghan and Shelagh Lees.

In St. Ambrose's: June Campbell, Mavis Doggett, 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.

Recently Departed: Father David Peters. May the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Lily Glendinning, Mary Oldham, Peter Leigh, Eva Sweeney, Carl Waldron, Dierdre O'Kane, Pa Ashmore, Sheelagh Hampson, Kathleen Muldoon, James Bowen, Alex Walker, Walter Brett, Margaret Bedelia Carson, Austin Kelly, John Bradley, Christine Simms Smith, John Hales, Patrick Lawrence O'Donovan, Lisa Jane Mansfield, Vincent Morris, Mary O'Shea, Brian Cox, Rose Doyle, Fr John Gannon, Marie Maguire, Barbara Ann Currie, Peter Diffley.

PRAYER FOR SYNOD 2021-23: We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

During **APRIL** We pray with Pope Francis for **Health Care Workers** who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

On May 1st at 2pm Mary Langton will do a presentation on 2 Kings. Hope you can come or watch on line via Bramhall Methodist Church web site.

From Bishop Mark: 'DIOCESAN LISTENING PHASE - The closing celebration of the Diocesan Listening Phase took place at the Cathedral on 3rd April. Copies of the Diocesan Synthesis together with the Episcopal Discernment were distributed to the parishes at the beginning of last week together with my thanks to all who have participated in prayer, in local meetings or by personal written reflections'.

Shrewsbury Diocese Mass for Missio— Missio Diocesan Director sends invitation for Missio Mass to be celebrated by the Bishop of Shrewsbury and National Director of Missio on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7pm. St Michael & All Angels Church, New Hey Rd, Woodchurch, Birkenhead CH49 5LE. Refreshments follows at St Michal's Primary School. To assist with planning please email theresa@missio.org.uk

MARY'S MEALS- Mary's Meals UK Mary's Meals will be running our 'Pray in May' campaign again this year. Mary's Meals has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support us. We are inviting churches across the UK to join us in prayer to celebrate the wonderful work of Mary's Meals and give thanks that we are now reaching more than 2 million children with a nutritious meal in 20 countries every school day. For more information, resources and contact details: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/prayinmay>

Ukrainian Crisis:- Useful links for people supporting those coming to the UK. **Helping with displaced Ukrainians' concerns or worries** https://thrivedn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Thrive-LDN-Helping-with-displaced-Ukrainians-concerns-or-worries-v0.1_singles.pdf **Free travel scheme for Ukrainians arriving in Greater Manchester** <https://tfgm.com/ukraine> **Cultural Sensitivity Information** <https://www.kingston.gov.uk/downloads/file/1736/cultural-sensitivity-guidance-for-homes-for-ukraine-hosts> **Another approved matching service** <https://www.roomforrefugees.com/> If anyone is thinking they would like to support a family coming to the UK and is interested in meeting others who are undertaking this themselves please contact Lucy at the office so we can arrange to meet and support each other.

Last weekend's collections (excludes standing orders): **OLATA- £614.87 & Easter Flowers £129.47**
St Ambrose - £692.64 St Vincent- £310.56 THANK YOU.

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

DAY OF DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION IN STOCPORT—This special celebration will be held on Sunday 24 April 2022 at Our Lady's Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be at 3pm and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated at 3.30pm. You are invited to recite the 9 day Novena Prayers and Chaplet commencing on Good Friday. The Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet can be found at <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena>. Copies will be made available on the day too. Please spread the word!

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW PARISHIONERS—Please remember to introduce yourself to Fr Martin, if you are new to the parish, and do indicate if you wish to volunteer for any role in the parish. Perhaps you exercised a particular ministry in your previous parish, or now feel able to, we would be delighted to have your services. You are welcome to our parish family!

MARRIAGE CARE—Marriage Care Announces Return of Face-to-Face Relationship Support Services: 'After nearly two years of running services via webcam alone, we are gearing up and looking forward to seeing and serving couples in-person again. We will be following Government COVID-19 guidance and encouraging all involved to adopt the recommended COVID safe behaviours, where appropriate. In supporting couples and families. You can visit the Marriage Care website at: www.marriagecare.org.uk'

Our Lady's News

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

Children's Liturgy & 1st Communion Preparation Classes - will take place during the 11am Mass. Please bring the children to learn and pray with us.

TEA & COFFEE – no Coffee Morning on Easter Sunday, 17th April.

Ian & Cath's Family Group are meeting in the Guild Room on Wednesday 27th April 2022 from 7pm to 9.15pm for nibbles, a chat, session planning and the usual game of bingo for a hamper. The plan is to revert back to monthly gatherings from then on.

Thank you.— 'Una, Martin and all the family would like to thank you for the love, and wonderful support shown to us in so many different ways during the very sad loss of Tommy (RIP) including all three parishes and a special thanks to Fr Martin and all the priests that made the requiem mass so special for us all.'

St Ambrose News

The Piety stall - Piety stall has lots of new items for sale including some lovely new children's bibles and christening gifts, many cards, rosary beads, prayer cards and Easter cards. We also have a book case with some lovely books for the children to read if they wish to, just return when they have finished reading.

There are still some ...**Diocesan Yearbooks** available at £5.00 each.

Books- There is a Library at the back of church with a good selection of books available to borrow. Feel free to have a look and write your name in the register supplied to record any book borrowed. Thank you.

St Vincent News

Please check the times of the services over the Easter period, Easter Sunday 9am.

Upcoming events - Food collection at Mass in May for Chelwood Foodbank Plus and an International Mass followed by a shared table "Brunch" in June. Details to follow shortly.

These are the links for online giving to the Parishes:

For Our Lady's parishioners, the link is:

<https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/ourladyandtheapostlesdioceseofshrewsbury2127>

For St. Ambrose parishioners, the link is:

<https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/stambroseadswooddioceseofshrewsbury2185>

For St. Vincent's parishioners, the link is:

<https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/stvincentdepaulbramhalldioceseofshrewsbury2608>

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, Adswood Road, Stockport, SK3 3QA, St. Vincent de Paul, 29 Handley Road, Bramhall, Stockport, SK7 3E

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