

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 - 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 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 - Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

**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**

**The Gospel for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 - Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11)**

When they were near Jerusalem and had come in sight of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village facing you, and you will immediately find a tethered donkey and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, 'The Master needs them and will send them back directly.'" This took place to fulfill the prophecy: "Say to the daughter of Zion: look, your king comes to you: he is humble, he rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." So the disciples went out and did as Jesus had told them. They brought the donkey and the colt, then they laid their cloaks on their backs and he sat on them. Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path. The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed were all shouting: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil. "Who is this?" people asked, and the crowds answered, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

**3 Reflect**

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

Today's liturgy concentrates on two very different events, the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as Messianic King and the events of a few days later which culminated in his agonising and shameful death. This seeming end-point was to be reversed by the explosion of new life in the Resurrection after three days, an explosion which constituted God's vindication of Jesus' loving obedience and the affirmation that it has overcome and wiped out the sin of Adam, human sin. How much time did Jesus spend in Jerusalem? The Gospel of John recounts four separate visits to Jerusalem, whereas Mark (and Matthew and Luke, who follow Mark's outline) compresses all Jesus' Jerusalem ministry into one visit, inaugurated by the solemn entry, as narrated in the gospel we hear today before the procession with palms. This event is recounted by the evangelists in the light of their fuller understanding of Jesus after the Resurrection. We see the colourful, festive atmosphere of crowds going up to Jerusalem, waving palm branches as banners in their enthusiasm and singing as they march. Jesus and his disciples join in. But it may be only later that the significance of this event was grasped: this entry was the fulfilment of the prophecy of Zechariah about the Messiah coming into his inheritance, to complete his God-given mission and to proclaim peace to the nations. Matthew especially, writing for a community steeped in Judaism, actually quotes the prophecy and also the psalm-verse about 'him who comes in the name of the Lord'. He stresses that Jesus is this Son of David, whose eschatological kingship is about to be established.

Next week is known as Holy Week: how and when will you take time to listen to God and grow in holiness?

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, and 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

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT-26th March 2023

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](http://Stockport Parishes - YouTube) (for both St. Vincent's and St. Ambrose')

SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO VIEW THIS WEEK'S PARISH  
NEWSLETTER DIGITALLY



Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sunday 26th March	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	6.30pm	Vigil Mass Our Lady's	Our Parish Family
		8.30am	St. Ambrose	Our Parish Family
		9.45am	St Vincent's	George May RIP
		11.00am	Our Lady's	Bridget Mary Ward RIP
Mon 27th March	Ferial	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Private Intention
Tues 28th-March	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Loyola Martin (Special intention)
Wed 29th-March	Ferial	9.30am	St Vincent's	Peace in the Ukraine
Thurs 30th March	Ferial	9:30am	St Ambrose	Ceris Jones—Private Intention
		7.00pm	Our Lady's	Private intention
Fri 31st-March	Ferial	9.30am	St Vincent's	Barbara Wharmby (RIP-ann)
		7.00pm	St Vincent's	Stations of the Cross
Sat 1st April	Ferial	9.30 am	Our Lady's	Brian & Margaret Marshall RIP
		6.30pm	Vigil Mass Our Lady's	Our Parish Family
SUNDAY 2nd APRIL <i>Hosanna to the King</i>	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD	8.30am	St. Ambrose	Henry Colgan RIP (Anniversary)
		9.45am	St Vincent's	Sheila Hindle (Anniversary)
			St Vincent's	Baptism— Jasmine Onuoha
		11.00am	Our Lady's	John Seaton RIP
		1.00pm	OL- Baptism Igbo Holy Mass	Baptism—Mason McDonagh Private Intention

There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every weekday morning from 8:30am—0930hrs.  
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 start on the 16th, 23rd & 30th April 2023.

**First Holy Communion:** Preparation classes have started. Please ensure that all 1st Communion candidates attend Mass every weekend and join the children's liturgy. Important dates: **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** - Sun 25th June (11am)

**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.

**CONFIRMATION:** Next date to be announced.

**SAFEGUARDING LEADS FOR THE THREE PARISHES ARE AS FOLLOWS:-** St Vincent's—Judy Carey [carey.judith@yahoo.com](mailto:carey.judith@yahoo.com) OLATA Ged Murtagh -[geraldmurtagh@outlook.com](mailto:geraldmurtagh@outlook.com)  
St Ambrose—Karen Tatton [thetattons@ntlworld.com](http://thetattons@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:** McKenzie Kiely, Una Higgins, Eileen McGahan, Winifred Thomas, Veronica Morrissey, Barbara Murphy, Michelle Philips, Maureen Brosnahan, Kelly Brosnahan, Zach Tierney, Irene Cox, Lee Abernathy, Janice Cook, Annie Topping, Theresa Burrows, Josephine O'Hagan, Denise Corlet, Nora Reade, Marie Kenefick, Beryl Collins, Josie Vaughan, 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.

**IN ST. AMBROSE'S:** Michael Nealon, Colin Burns, Cerys Jones, Richard Laurens, June Campbell, Mavis Doggett, Khia Whitehead, Eleanor Loftus, Mary Andrusiak, Carl Stanley, C. Wootton, Mary Sein, Paul Thuoc, Andrew Way, Mary Young, Veronica Norbury, Imelda Judge, Veronica Lane, Joanna Winter, Paul McClure, Helen Jenkins, Helen Leasor, Terry Glynn.

**RECENTLY DEPARTED:** May the souls of Paloma Garcia, Wynne Astle, James Toolan, and all the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

### Anniversaries

Kathleen Hodkinson, Alan Thorpe, Margaret O'Callaghan, Leo Corcoran, John Tumblety, Nellie Horan, Kathleen Brett, Jessie Crooks, Eileen Mary Seery, Martin Anthony Connor, Joan Finnerty, Kathleen Hadfield, Mary Phyllis Hampson, Monsignor Bernard Bell, Margaret Horton, Vivienne Johnson, Barbara Mary Wharmby, Joan Riley, Clifford Woods, (Baby) Tommy Harris.

**IN MARCH—FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE-** We pray for those who suffer harm from members of the church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

**DAY OF DIVINE MERCY** This special celebration will be held on Sunday 16 April 2023 at Holy Angels Church, Hale Barns. Church will be open from 1.30pm, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be from 2.00pm and Confessions from 2.00pm. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be read 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> For more information please contact Holy Angels at [office@holyangelscatholicchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@holyangelscatholicchurch.co.uk)

**THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY** would like to recruit a Membership Support Officer (MSO) for the Shrewsbury Diocese. A part time role (15 hours per week) working as part of the SVP Membership Team, to support member recruitment and development, provide general support for members and be the link between local Conferences and National Office. The role is home based but requires the ability to travel around the diocese to make recruitment appeals, work with existing groups, attend meetings and meet with interested parties where appropriate. Own transport essential and travel expenses are paid. For further information and details of how to apply, contact Lance Philpott, Head of Membership at [lancep@svp.org.uk](mailto:lancep@svp.org.uk) Closing date for applications is Sunday 16 April 2023.

**Online course on Vatican II:** Part III The Church. The first podcast on Lumen Gentium is now available at [dioceseofshrewsbury.org](http://dioceseofshrewsbury.org), together with 3 handouts for downloading or printing: An Introduction to LG; A visual presentation of its 8 chapters; An outline of issues addressed in it. A leaflet outlining the content of all of the podcasts in the series is available in the parish. Should you have difficulty accessing this material, any questions or reflections, please don't hesitate to call Barbara Davies on 07730 526821.

**Message from Bishop Mark**—The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord will be celebrated on Saturday and our thoughts turn to March 25 of last year, when, in union with all the Bishops of the world, the Church and humanity were consecrated, especially Russia and the Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Let us never tire of entrusting the cause of peace to the Queen of Peace. I therefore wish to invite each believer and community, especially prayer groups, to renew the act of consecration to Our Lady every March 25, so that she, who is a Mother, may keep us all in unity and peace. And let us not forget, in these days, battered Ukraine, which is suffering so much.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** - All are invited to join us in the meditations on the passion of Our Lord this holy season of Lent. This week's stations will be at St Vincent's at 7pm.

**STEPS TO MAKING A GOOD CONFESSION**— Parishioners have asked for a refresher on how to go to confession. Please pick documents with steps at the back of church. Sufficient opportunities will be provided this Lent for Confessions.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** can be obtained from the Gift Aid Coordinator of each parish or through the Parish Office. We thank the many who give through Standing Orders and Online.

**STANDING ORDERS AND GIFT AID:** Parishioners have been asking for guidance on regular giving to the parish. Please find, at the back of the Church, Standing order forms to be completed and passed on to your bank or used to set up the standing order using your online banking. You will find also the Gift Aid Declaration form to be completed and returned to our Gift Aid Coordinator.

<b>Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b> <i>Children to lead Palm Sunday</i>	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	6.30pm 8.30am 9.45am 11.00am	<b>Vigil Mass at Our Lady's</b> <b>St Ambrose</b> <b>St Vincent's</b> <b>Our Lady's</b>	<b>Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday</b> <b>Palm Sunday Mass</b> <b>Palm Sunday Mass</b> <b>Palm Sunday Mass</b>
<b>Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b>	7.00 pm	<b>Our Lady's (FOR ALL THREE PARISHES)</b>	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and Watching
<b>Fri 7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	3.00pm 3.30 pm	<b>Our Lady's (FOR ALL THREE PARISHES)</b> <b>St. Vincent's (FOR ALL THREE PARISHES)</b>	<b>Celebration of the Lord's Passion &amp; Veneration of the Cross</b> <b>Celebration of the Lord's Passion &amp; Veneration of the Cross</b>
<b>Sat 8<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	11.00 am. 8.00 pm	<b>Our Lady's (Polish)</b> <b>Our Lady's (FOR ALL THREE PARISHES)</b>	Blessing of Food for Easter <b>Easter Vigil/Mass</b>
<b>Sun 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	8:30am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am	<b>Our Lady's</b> <b>St. Vincent's</b> <b>St. Ambrose'</b> <b>Our Lady's</b>	<b>Easter Sunday Mass</b> <b>Easter Sunday Mass</b> <b>Easter Sunday Mass</b> <b>Easter Sunday Mass</b>

**LENT 2023 - A DAY FOR THE EUCHARIST** on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 10am-2pm at St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton Street, St Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EJ. A time of catechesis, fellowship, and prayer. No booking is necessary. Bring a packed lunch and drinks will be available. See poster in Church for the full schedule. All are welcome, and we especially encourage readers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to attend.

**Thanks**— Father Martin thanks everyone for all your kind thoughts and prayers as he recovers from ill health.

### Our Lady's News

**THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP**—has now resumed, during the 11am Mass.

**TEA AND COFFEE:** In the guild room after 11 am mass. All donations made during Lent 2023 (22.02.23 - 09.04.23) will be passed on to Francis House Children's Hospice in support of their work with young people, and their families, who are living with life-threatening and life shortening conditions.

**WASHING OF THE FEET ON MAUNDY THURSDAY**—four volunteers needed from Our Lady's.

**NEW ONLINE GIVING LINK:** <https://donate.myдона.com/our-lady-the-apostles> Or please scan this QR



### St Ambrose News

**PIETY STALL**—gifts and lovely books come and browse the stall.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WEEKDAY MASSES** will be held in the Sacristy due to heating costs and cold weather. Also, the live stream will not be available during these weekday masses. Please note the Children of St Ambrose School attend mass during term time on a Thursday and mass is held in the church when they are present due to numbers.

**THE NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR 2023/24:** are available at the back of church. Please take the box with your name on it. If you would like a box, but are not yet in the Gift Aid scheme, please see Marge Newbrook at the back of church. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

### St Vincent News

**THE PORCH IS ALMOST FINISHED.....**

**EASTER LILIES** - DONATIONS FOR THE EASTER FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE, NAMES AND DONATIONS TO THE FLOWER GROUP AFTER MASS

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** - 7PM FRIDAY 31ST MARCH AT ST VINCENT'S, INCORPORATING SIEGER KODER IMAGES TO HELP US TO PRAY. ALL WELCOME

**TAIZE EVENING** - TUESDAY APRIL 4TH (HOLY WEEK) AT 7.30PM AT ST VINCENT'S. EVERYONE IS WELCOME

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** - 4 VOLUNTEERS FROM ST VINCENT'S NEEDED TO HAVE THEIR FEET WASHED



**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.*

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