

THE Wednesday WORD

Encountering Christ

The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes



Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families

- 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.
- Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, 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.

1 Read

The Gospel for Sunday 3rd November 2024

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him, "Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice." Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken said, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to question him anymore.

Taken from Mark 12:28-34 The Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

2 Reflect

After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

The basic command of Judaism, which should dominate all life, was love of God above all things. Jesus audaciously adds to this another commandment of the Old Testament, the love of neighbour. This is the only case in the gospels where a scribe positively approves Jesus. Why is this the case? The scribes were the experts in the Law and its interpretation. To stress the importance and the equality of the second commandment of love Jesus uses a technique of interpretation common and approved in Israel. If two passages of scripture have a parallel sentence structure and use similar words they may be closely associated. In these two commandments, and only here in the whole of the Bible, are the words used, 'And you shall love...' with a direct object. This enables Jesus to put the command to love neighbour on the same level as the command to love God – and the lawyer approves his interpretation. The first Letter of John puts it in this way: 'No one who fails to love the brother whom he can see can love God whom he has not seen.' This was, of course, not a new commandment; it was the equality of the two commandments of love which was new.

What sort of person do you find it most difficult to love?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

3 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. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, patience, humility, joy, forgiveness, self-control, courage, generosity, faith or something else.

4 Pray for Families

This Wednesday's word for our school families is LOVE!

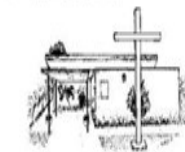
After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 27th 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')



The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity 234025

Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sunday 27th October	THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.	9.30am	St Vincent's	Philip & Veronica Martin 45th Wedding Anniversary
		10am	St Ambrose	Kirsty Bain RIP
		11am	Our Lady's	Anne Bermingham RIP
		1pm	Our Lady's	Baptisms of Jameson Paul H Sagucio and Lottie Rita King
Monday 28th October	FEAST OF SS SIMON AND JUDE AP	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Annie Quinn RIP
Tuesday 29th October	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Mary Walsh, Birthday Thanksgiving
Wednesday 30th October	Ferial	9.30am	St Vincent's	Michael Brundrett RIP
Thursday 31st October	Ferial	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Raymond Burke
		7pm	Our Lady's Vigil Mass of All Saints	Collett Sellers and Joyce Thompson, Spec Int
		7.30pm	Rosary procession	End of October Devotion (Blessing)
Friday 1st November	ALL SAINTS Holy Day of Obligation	9.30am	St Vincent's	Cypriano and Mary RIP
		10.45am	Our Lady's	Joint School Mass.
		7pm	St Ambrose	World Peace
Saturday 2nd November	COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED	9.30am	Our Lady's	Kirsty Bain RIP
		6.30pm	Our Lady's	Natalya's Father RIP
Sunday 3rd November	THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.	9.30am	St Vincent's	Dorothy Hancock 90th Birthday, Thanksgiving
		10am	St Ambrose	Our Parish Family
		11am	Our Lady's	Emmanuel and Florentina Lesole
		2pm	Our Lady's	Igbo Holy Mass

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 Mathieson, Susan Claffey.

RECENTLY DEPARTED: May the souls of Veronica Knowles, 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: Alice Rose, Fred Coop, Paul Carney, John James O'Shea, Sally Hales, June Wright, Jessica Brimble, Anne Marie Foley, Marjorie Horrocks, Edward Molloy, Veronica Jackson, Patricia Leigh, Winifride Redfern, Peter Cook, Brian McDonald, John Rigby, Mary Monica McBride, Kathleen Flaherty, Dennis Holland, Tim Kilduff, Dora Selby, Sister Hilda Gaskell, Keith James Hillard, Paddy Donnellan, Cecilia Power

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 January, please talk to Fr Martin.

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

STOCKPORT MARRIAGE CARE is running a one day marriage preparation course - Preparing Together - on the 2nd November. Further information is given on their website www.marriagecare.org.uk. Bookings are also made via the website. The next course is likely to be in March/April next year.

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.

CAFOD-DEC MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN APPEAL The conflict in the Middle East is getting worse and the families affected need our help. Please donate today to the CAFOD-DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal and support local Caritas partners in Gaza and Lebanon as they continue to provide essential food, water and shelter: cafod.org.uk/give

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.

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

FOOTSTEPS EVENT ON THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER - The next event in the programme of inspiring talks will be on Thursday 7 November at 7.30pm in the parish centre of St Peter's, Green Lane, Hazel Grove SK7 4EA with Mary Hardiman. Her counselling work currently involves dealing with trauma in two North West prisons. Footsteps welcome you to join with other Christians in an informal, relaxed, café-style setting with drinks and nibbles all to help us on our faith journey.

MARY'S MEALS CHRISTMAS CONCERT - Saturday 23rd November 7.30pm, doors open 6.30pm, St Bede's College, Alexandra Park Road, Manchester, M16 8HX. Step in from the winter chill for an evening of joyful music featuring The Sacred Heart Choir. Hear from Mary's Meals founder and Sunday Times best-selling author, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, browse seasonal stalls and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies. All proceeds help Mary's Meals serve nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries. (please note this event will have a BSL interpreter) Tickets £12 (inc refreshments) from Eventbrite: averyjoyfulchristmas.eventbrite.co.uk or call 0800 698 1212 or email info@marysmeals.org

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

NEW SINGING GROUP— **VOICES NEEDED**—Come along to Our Lady's and join our new singing and musicians group—headed by our very own Noel on guitar—in preparation for singing our Sunday Masses. Practice holds every Monday evening between 6-7.30pm in Our Lady's church. Music is an important part of worship and praise to God. Please come along and join us.

PAPER AND CHRISTMAS CRAFT MATERIALS—A large quantity has been donated to help raise funds for Fr Martin's Medical Mission. If you are interested to have any of this please contact Mark Kernburg 07827628261.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES FROM 1ST DECEMBER: We agreed to change our Mass time at St Ambrose from 8.30 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 reschedule St Ambrose and St Vincent's Masses. We will continue to have the four weekend Masses as follows:

Saturday 6.30pm—Our Lady and the Apostles
Sunday 8.45am—St Ambrose's
9.45am—St Vincent's
11.00—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.

OCTOBER DEVOTION TO OUR LADY:- At Our Lady's Church, 7:30pm nightly. Please join the children for their last October devotion rosary this Wednesday, 7.30pm. On Thursday, 31st, after the 7.00pm vigil Mass of All Saints at Our Lady's, we will have a rosary procession followed by blessings marking the end of this year's October devotion. Please mark your diary and join us.

FIRST SATURDAY MARIAN DEVOTION at Our Lady's after 9.30am Mass, on 2nd November. Please come along. This devotion offers the faithful an opportunity to express their love and fidelity to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and, by extension, to Jesus Christ. Our Lady appeared to Lucia in 1917 and said "Behold, my daughter, my Heart encircled with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Give me consolation, you, at least; and make known on my behalf that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all who on the First Saturday of five consecutive months confess their sins, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the purpose of making reparation to my Immaculate Heart."

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 thereafter.

JANUARY 2025 MEDICAL OUTREACH MISSION—A GoFundMe page for Fr Martin's next Free Medical Outreach in Nigeria 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. 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>.

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 signing by the priest after each Mass.

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

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. **PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR A REGISTRATION FORM.** Mass attendance cards are at the back of church and need signing by the priest after each Mass.

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 - 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. **PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR A REGISTRATION FORM.** Mass attendance cards are at the back of church and need signing by the priest after each Mass.

ALTAR FLOWERS - this week have been donated by Veronica and Philip Martin to celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary.

MONDAY 28TH - 10AM - Service of Word and Communion followed by Prayer Group

THURSDAY OCT 31ST - Light Party at Ford's Lane Church 5.30 -7pm. A fun children's alternative to Trick or Treat. Games, crafts and disco for 5-11yrs

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY MASS - Our 19th Annual Remembrance Sunday Service will be held on Sunday 10th November. If you have a relative who died in conflicts or anyone who has died in the last 12 months, and would like to take a candle to the altar, please let Veronica Martin know by November 8th. Names submitted after this date will not be included on the list.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Christingle Service Sunday December 15th 3pm and Outdoor Crib afternoon Wednesday December 18th 3-4pm

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.