

1 - It overturns a fundamental principle of law and medicine

‘Assisted dying’ is the intentional ending of the life of a patient by a doctor (‘euthanasia’) or a patient ending their own life with a lethal drug supplied by a doctor for this purpose (‘assisted suicide’). These practices violate the prohibition of intentional killing, which is ‘the cornerstone of law and of social relationships.’ Affirmed by Hippocratic Oath and World Medical Association, and of course by the Commandment, ‘Thou shalt not kill’.

2 - Changing the law changes things for everyone

Everyone eligible must now live with this as a possibility. Some will feel that, once eligible, they have to justify their existence. Assisted suicide and euthanasia are not isolated individual acts but social practices. In Canada doctors are obliged to raise this even if a patient has not asked, including patients who cannot get the health or social care they need.

3 - People feel pressure to end their lives because they feel they are a burden to others

Nicholas Tonti-Filippini said that, ‘fear of being a burden is a major risk to the survival of those [of us] who are chronically ill.’ In Oregon assisted suicide because of fear of being a ‘burden on family, friends / caregivers’ increased from 13% in 1998 to 54.2% in 2021. Matthew Parris has said that society ‘simply cannot afford’ to care for older people and there ‘may one day be the kind of unspoken hint that everybody understands. And that’s a good thing’[!]

4 - It normalises taking your own life for some categories of people Assisted and unassisted suicide not always so different.

Assisted and unassisted suicide are not always so different. Some people who attempt suicide are older or have an incurable illness. Legalising assisted suicide undermines the imperative of suicide prevention, that ‘every suicide is a tragedy’. Data from the USA shows that change in the law is associated with a significant increase in conventional suicide in the population (6% overall, 13% among women).

5 - Once legalised it expands far beyond what was originally intended

‘Assisted dying’ expands in numbers (in Canada 13,241 deaths in 2022) and in eligibility criteria. In Belgium first adults then it was extended to children, in the Netherlands extended to people with dementia who can no longer consent, in Canada extended to people whose death is not ‘reasonably foreseeable’, in Colombia extended to people not ‘in the terminal phase’, in Oregon physician-assisted suicide for ‘terminal illness’ has been extended to anorexia, hernia and arthritis. It begins as a ‘narrow’ law but leads to something worse.

6 - It jeopardises funding and provision of palliative care

Belgium palliative care provision increased at first (from 2002 to 2011) but since 2012 it has fallen behind non-euthanasia countries. In 2022, New South Wales promised \$743 million over 5 years, but 2023 palliative care annual budget was cut by \$249 million. Palliative care must compete for funds with ‘assisted dying’. It causes moral distress to doctors and nurses who leave the profession. In Canada at least one hospice closed.

7 - All the more dangerous given the state of the NHS and social care

Even if someone believes ‘assisted dying’ is ethically acceptable in principle, it could not be implemented safely unless adequate alternatives were in place. People cannot be offered lethal drugs within days if they have to wait months for health and social care, as Health Secretary Wes Streeting has said, it would not be ‘a real choice’.

8 - It is a greater threat to those who already face discrimination

Watch Liz Carr’s documentary ‘Better Off Dead’ where a succession of disabled people say that they have been told that, ‘if my life was like yours then I’d want to kill myself’. In a recent national poll, people were asked ‘Would you want your MP to vote for or against legislation to make assisted dying legal in the UK?’ Only 43% of people said ‘vote for’. Support slightly higher among NHS workers (49%) but lower among people with life limiting or terminal illness (41%), slightly higher among White British (46%) but lower among Asian British (24%) and Black British (24%). Those who have experienced discrimination in access to healthcare can see the dangers more clearly.

Footnotes

On problems with the term ‘assisted dying’, see D.A. Jones, Defining the Terms of the Debate: Euthanasia and Euphemism, Anscombe Bioethics Centre (October 2021).

Report of the Select Committee on Medical Ethics (HL Paper 21-I of 1993-94), paragraph 237. See also L. Gormally, Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Seven Reasons Why They Should Not Be Legalised, Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics (1997); J. Keown, Physician-Assisted Suicide: Improving the Quality of the Debate, Policy Exchange (2023).

See J. Hughes, I. Finlay (eds.), The Reality of Assisted Dying: Understanding the Issue. Open University Press (2024), for discussion of this and other aspects.

M. Parris, ‘We Can’t Afford a Taboo on Assisted Dying’, The Times (29 March 2024). Similar remarks were previously made by Baroness Mary Warnock – see S. Doughty ‘Old people with dementia have a duty to die and should be pushed towards death, says Baroness Warnock’, Daily Mail (20 September 2008).

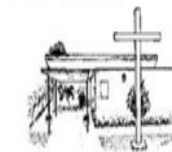
World Health Organisation, Preventing suicide: A global imperative. Geneva: WHO (2014), page 2.

D.A. Jones, Suicide Prevention: Does Legalising Assisted Suicide Make Things Better Or Worse?, Anscombe Bioethics Centre (2022). See P. Casey, interview with A. Doherty: ‘Does Assisted Suicide Influence the Rate of Non-Assisted Suicide?’.

Oregon Death with Dignity Act 2021 Data Summary, page 14, footnote 3. See also C. Roff and C. Cook-Cottone, ‘Assisted death in eating disorders: a systematic review of cases and clinical rationales’, Frontiers in Psychiatry, 15 (2024) 1431771.

House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee, Assisted Dying / Assisted Suicide. Second Report of Session 2023–24, paragraph 142.

Opinion UK25298 – Dignity in Dying – Nationally Representative Table (12 March 2024), question 2.



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, 24th 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](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 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 Baptism | Baptism of Jacob Kurlo, Alia-Claire & Regan Moore |
| Monday 25th November | St Catherine of Alexandria, V.M (Optional Memorial) | 9.30am | St. Ambrose | World Peace and End to All Wars |
| Tuesday 26th November | Ferial | 9.30am | Our Lady's | Natalya’s Father |
| Wednesday 27th November | Ferial | 9.30am | St Vincent's | Norton, Smith and Higgins Families |
| | | 1.45pm | Aquinas College | Mass preceded by Adoration Holy Souls |
| Thursday 28th November | Ferial | 9.30am | St. Ambrose | Deceased Members of Green Family |
| | | 7pm | Our Lady's | Christine Mullin RIP |
| Friday 29th November | Ferial | 9.30am | St Vincent's | Souls in Purgatory |
| Saturday 30th November | ST ANDREW, Ap Patron St of Scotland Vigil Mass | 9.30am | Our Lady's | Collins and Hodge Families |
| | | 5pm | St Ambrose | Our Parish Family |
| | | 6.30pm | Our Lady's | Fr. Jean Patrice Coulon, Spec Int |
| Sunday 1st December | THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 9.30am | St Vincent's | George Carroll RIP, Ann |
| | | 11am | Our Lady's | Maurice Higgins RIP |
| | | 2pm | Our Lady's | Igbo Holy Mass |
| | | | Our Lady's Baptism | Baptism, Ikem Micah Offor, at 2pm 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: 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 Thorneycroft, 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: Lucy Ann Core, Christopher Dohert, Aleksander Hertsko, Annie McKee, Georgina Webb, Joe Selby, Frank Maguire, Samuel Fidler, Eileen Fleming, Mary Hawcroft, Kathleen Mulligan, Lynda Anderson, Timothy Robert Ascough, Steven James Neill, Mary Jewsbury, Maurice Higgins, Eliza Bohan, Winifred Mary Ryan, Madeleine O'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.

OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWS - Well done to our Year 3 children who were enrolled on the Sacramental Programme on Sunday - we will remember you in our prayers.

OUR LADY'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR: FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 5:30PM-7:30PM. Please join us for festive fun, including tombolas, 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.

ASSISTED DYING RESOURCES :- A video of a zoom event put on for the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pKBNU4jlC4> and a short (18 minute) video produced by Being Catholic TV for the Bishops' Conference of which presents the arguments well. It includes interviews with Cardinal Vincent Nichols and various palliative care doctors. <https://repolitics.org/do-no-harm-a-new-short-documentary-on-assisted-suicide/>

EIGHT REASONS WE MUST NOT LEGALISE 'ASSISTED DYING' by Professor David Albert Jones of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre in Oxford. Please see the back of this newsletter.

LIZ CARR'S DOCUMENTARY, ON ASSISTED DYING: BETTER OFF DEAD: is available to watch on YouTube. Please watch this very revealing and informative documentary; it is both moving and shocking. Please share the link with your friends and family. <https://youtu.be/gEysXRLTG5M>

CAROL SERVICE AT OUR LADY AND THE APOSTLES, FRI 13TH DECEMBER. 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.

SERIES OF ADVENT TALKS—You are invited to a series of talks in Advent to coincide with the launch of the New Lectionary at the Parish Hall, Holy Angels, Hale Barns, Altrincham, WA15 0HG. At 7pm on Wednesday 4th December Fr Paul Denney will speak to us about the new translation of the Lectionary that we will be using at Mass. On Wednesday 11th December Fr Marco Egawhary will talk on why it is important to pray with the scriptures and how to pray with them. Wednesday 18th December Fr David Irwin will present Dei Verbum on Divine Revelation from the Second Vatican Council. After each talk we will go into the parish church for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and Compline. All are welcome to attend. For further information please contact Natalie Orefice by email Natalie.oreface@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or telephone 07730526826.

ST JAMES CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, PARISHIONER CHRISTMAS PARTY: St James' school are delighted to invite parishioners to the annual Parishioner Christmas Party at St James Catholic High School in Cheadle Hulme. TFriday, 13th December, starting at 11:15am. To help them to prepare, kindly RSVP by 1st December to the Parish Secretary.

A CHAPLAINCY VACANCY at HMP Stoke Heath has arisen For a job description and application information: Quote Vacancy Ref: [92268](https://www.gov.uk/jobs/92268) - [Roman Catholic Ordained Priest/ Deacon, Religious Brother, Sister - MoJ](https://www.gov.uk/jobs/92268) and please contact:

Mohammed Rahman Imam & Managing Chaplain, HMP & YOI Stoke Heath, Market Drayton, TF9 2JL. Tel : 01630 636175
Closing date: 13/12/2024 - 23:55



Planning Ahead - Christmas 2024 Mass Times

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Tuesday 24 th Dec | Christmas Eve Vigil Masses for Christmas | 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 |

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.



FILM NIGHT - The Chosen Season 4 Episode 2 - Jesus and the disciples grieve the death of John the Baptist. Simon gets a new name, causing some jealousy amongst the rest of the disciples. Thomas and Ramah speak to Jesus about their marriage. Mathew and Simon both struggle with forgiveness and go to Jesus for confession. Rabbi Yusuf makes a big decision to leave Capernaum. Thursday 28th November 7:45pm after 7 pm Mass, in Our Lady's Social Club. Free to watch - if you would like to give a donation, all proceeds to Fr Martins Medical Mission.

THE SVP IN STOCKPORT have purchased 300 Vinnie Packs defined as "Cold Winter Essentials" and made available to Well-spring, the Men and Women of St Joseph, Food banks and other charities. Packs contain 2 thermal socks, a thermal hat, soap, tooth paste and tooth brush, information and other items.

MISSIO CALENDARS are being delivered now. We will be making our final collections of the year at the same time. Thank you for your generosity towards the missions.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR - interested in crafting? - Sale of Craft goods at St Vincent's 30 November 2024, 1130 - 3:30pm. Come along and pick up a bargain. At least 60% off all goods. Coffee and Mince pies also available.

OUR LADY'S NEWS

WELCOMERS NEEDED for all the Christmas Masses at Our Lady's. The main task is to greet people with a smile and say hello. Please sign up today at the back of church.

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

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHANGE OF THE SUNDAY MASS TIME AT ST AMBROSE - From Saturday 30th November, Mass will be at 5pm

DONATIONS ARE REQUESTED FOR CAKES, BISCUITS & MINCE PIES—for St Ambrose Feast day celebrations, 7th December, after the 5.00pm Mass. A box is available at the back of church for items for the Tombola. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome.

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

Monday 25th - 10am Service of Word and Communion followed by Prayer Group

Please sign up to host our **TRAVELLING NATIVITY** figures this Advent. Details of a suggested service are provided. Invite your neighbours and friends to share this time with you

YOUNG READERS AND PARTICIPANTS are needed for our **Toy Mass (Dec 1st)** and **Christingle Service (Dec 15th)**



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.