

An invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales:

This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity – “The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist.” It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as “the Sunday Obligation.”

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. “Virtual viewing” of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence.

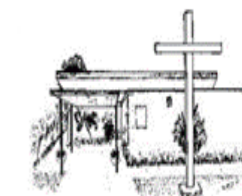
In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord’s Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person.

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

*- Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops’ Conference
Friday 6 May 2022*

**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**



22nd MAY 2022 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) (for both St. Vincent’s and St. Ambrose’s)
(MASKS ARE NO LONGER MANDATORY BUT RECOMMENDED. PLEASE USE THE HAND SANITISER).
There is **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** every weekday morning from 8:30am

Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention	
Sun 22nd May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	5.30pm	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose	(1st Holy Com) Our Parish Family Sheila Burnell (RIP) Marian Procession	
		7.00pm	Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady’s		
		7.45pm	Our Lady’s		
		9.30am	St Vincent’s		
Mon 23rd May	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady’s	Sarah & David Martin 10th Wedding Anniversary Mary Celia Abraham 1st Ann	
		11.00am	St. Ambrose	Erry McDermott RIP	
Tues 24th May	OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS (<i>Principal patron of the Diocese</i>)	9.30am	Our Lady’s	Ann Ward and Family	
Wed 25th May	ST BEDE THE VENERABLE, P	9.30am	St Vincent’s	The Ukraine.	
Thurs 26th May	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (<i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>)	9.30am	St Ambrose	Special Intention	
		7.00pm	Our Lady’s	Nancy Gibbons 1sr Ann	
Fri 27th May	ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTEBURY, B	7.00pm 7.30pm	St Vincent’s	Special Intention Fatima Film night	
Sat 28th May	FERIAL	9.30 am	Our Lady’s	Holy Souls	
		VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	5.30pm	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose	Holy Souls George Kurtz (RIP) Marian Procession
			7.00pm 7.45pm	Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady’s	
Sun 29th May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (<i>Day of special prayer for world communications</i>)	9.30am	St Vincent’s	Peter D’Souza RIP Our Parish Family Marian Procession—Crowning of Our Lady Ivy Jae Cash and Ada Ruby Gamble Annalise Jean Cullen	
		11.00am	Our Lady’s		
		12.00md	Our Lady’s		
		1.00pm	OL– Baptism		
		2.30 pm	OL-Baptism		

There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every weekday morning from 0830—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 be in July.

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 every Sunday 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: Michelle Philips, 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: Monsignor Chris Lightbound, Barry Cropper, Father Robin Sutton, Allan Stanway, Kevin McKiernan, Peter Louise Smith. May the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

Anniversaries

Ursula McGowan, Jennifer Padden, James Cameron, Ellen Mellor, Bill Walker, Kevin Hitchen, Breda Murray, Frank McGovern, Ellen McLoughlin, Margaret Merriman, John Joseph Timon, Wallace Buckley, The O'Farrell Family, James King, Thomas Davies, Veronica Ann Turner

During **May** we pray with Pope Francis for **Faith-Filled Young People:** We pray for all young people, called to live life in the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

REDECORATION OF THE GROTTO FOR THE MONTH OF MAY:
Our Lady's men at Work! Thank you Dennis and Henry!

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA—28TH SEPTEMBER TO 5TH OCTOBER: In the light of Pope Francis' reconsecration of Russia, Ukraine and the World to Our Lady of Fatima last month, we are planning a pilgrimage to Fatima with Joe Walsh Tours. Full details are on the attached poster and on the parish websites. Deposits of £250 will be required by Sunday 31st May to secure your place, with the balance due in July. The cost will be £679 per person, to include a full pilgrimage programme, direct flights from Manchester to Lisbon, transfer to Fatima, full Religious programme including tours and visits to key sites associated with the apparitions, and full board in a central hotel in Fatima for 7 nights. Please ensure you book early for this wonderful spiritual visit, as spaces can fill up quickly. Brochures and forms are available on request. Please call Sheena on 0794 237 3728 or email unitedheartspilgrims@gmail.com. You may also contact Lucy in Our Lady's parish office to collect forms or for any queries.

Stockport Prayer Breakfast Friday 27.5.22 at St Mary's Parish Church SK1 1YG. Refreshments from 0730hrs. Join Christians from across the Borough to pray for our own town, its people and churches. RSVP 24.5.22 to kevinmckenna70@ntlworld.com

IT In House Support Job Opportunity— full time IT In House Support member at the Curial Office in Birkenhead. Please see our website <http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/curia/vacancies> completed CV's to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org. Closing date Friday 17 June 2022.

Vocations to the Permanent Diaconate in Shrewsbury Diocese—Are you thinking about becoming a permanent Deacon or know someone who might be thinking about a vocation to the diaconate? The diaconate formation team are holding a time of reflection for men who are thinking about a call to the ministry of service on 26.6.22 at St Anne's church Nantwich at 2pm. For more information please contact Deacon John Penny 07973375422 johncpenny@gmail.com or Deacon David Hill 07407407606 David2007hill@hotmail.co.uk

Ultimate Book Club Phil Maltby will address us on the book of Luke on Sunday 5 June at 2pm. The meeting will be at Centrepoint and will conclude with refreshments.

Last weekend's collections (excludes standing orders): **OLATA— £498.86 St Vincent- £210.40 St Ambrose £182.20**
THANK YOU.

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



GOD IN YOUR GARDEN:- All places are now taken for this year's Garden Masses, but free to reserve spaces for next year.

MAY - THE MONTH OF OUR LADY: As May is traditionally the time of devotion to Our Blessed Lady, the Catenian Association has provided a box of FREE Rosary beads at the rear of the church for anyone who does not own a set of Rosary Beads. There are also multi-coloured children's Rosaries for you to take if you would like to pray with your children or grandchildren. 'How to Pray the Rosary' cards are also included in the box. **Notable Feasts in May** - 24th Our Lady Help of Christians— 31st The Visitation.

MARIAN PROCESSION IN MAY to solicit Our Lady's maternal blessing continues after the 7pm Mass every Saturday. Please join us. The final one will be held after the 11am Mass (12 midday ish) on Sunday, 29th May. The children will lead the procession to crown Our Lady.

PENTECOST NOVENA commences this Friday. Our ongoing preparation for total consecration will double as our Pentecost preparation. Please continue to be part of it either physically or virtually through the Our Lady's livestream link.

BIRD BOXES—Available at the back of all our churches to buy today . We have on sale some Eco Bee and Bird boxes. The proceeds from all these hand made boxes will go to Fr Martin's Free Medical Outreach in Nigeria. I'm sure you will all agree that this is a most worthy cause and won't want to miss an opportunity to help the birds, the bees and the Charity. Anyone from OLATA or SV wanting to order either or both, can contact Marge Newbrook on 0161 4832662 or margeandjim@hotmail.co.uk to arrange delivery at a church of your choice. Cost £10 per box. P&P FREE!

FILM NIGHT IS BACK—St Vincent's church, Bramhall, on Friday 27th May after 7 pm mass. We will be watching a film on Our Lady of Fatima. Popcorn and refreshments will be available. Starts approx. 7:30pm for those who can't make mass first. Donations for Fr Martin's Medical Mission.

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 — Join us for tea and coffee after 11am Mass. **INTERNATIONAL MASS:-** 5 June 2011, 11am mass. Attend in your national dress. If you are willing to sing or read in your native language during mass, please text Magda on 07553552205 or speak to her after mass. Also please bring your national dish to share at the coffee morning after mass. Finger food if possible. Lets celebrate our diversity.

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School has a few places in the Reception class for September 2022. For more information or to visit the school please phone the school on 0161 480 5345.

St Ambrose News

The Piety stall - Fr Martin was delighted to receive a donation of £100 for his charity from the Piety stall this week. Many thanks to Karen Tatton and all who support the stall.

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.

Churches Together—will hold several gatherings throughout the year and one of them is the Pentecost Breakfast scheduled for Saturday 4th June 2022. We meet at St Gabriel's church on the corner of Garner's Lane and Clover Avenue from 9am for a continental breakfast of croissants, bread rolls, cheese, ham and jam along with juice and a hot drink. This will be served until 10.15 when we begin our act of worship with a guest speaker. The whole thing will be finished by 11am.

INTERNATIONAL MASS:- 4th June, 5.30pm—watch the space.

St Ambrose Catholic Primary School has a few places in the Reception and Nursery class for September 2022. For more information or to visit the school, please phone the school on 0161 480 8466.

St Vincent News

Sarah and David Martin's 10th Wedding Anniversary Please stay for tea and coffee after mass to congratulate and celebrate this joyous occasion. (There may be cake too!)

Monday 23rd 10am Service of Word and Communion followed by Prayer Group. Emmaus Zoom meeting on Monday 23rd at 7.30pm

International Mass Sunday 12th June - we will be collecting names from anyone who could read a bidding Prayer in their own language, or make a national dish we could share at a finger buffet after Mass. Contact Jane Roberts if you can help 07969386939. Please make an effort to take part in this celebration of our diversity.

Friday 27th May "Fatima" film about the appearance of Our Lady in Portugal. **After 7pm Mass.** All welcome.

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

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.