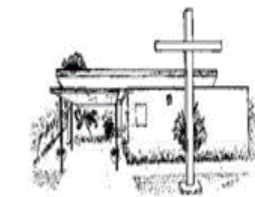


MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 56th WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS **Listening with the ear of the heart** Dear brothers and sisters, Last year we reflected on the need to “Come and See” in order to discover reality and be able to recount it beginning with experiencing events and meeting people. Continuing in this vein, I would now like to draw attention to another word, “listen”, which is decisive in the grammar of communication and a condition for genuine dialogue. In fact, we are losing the ability to listen to those in front of us, both in the normal course of everyday relationships and when debating the most important issues of civil life. At the same time, listening is undergoing an important new development in the field of communication and information through the various podcasts and audio messages available that serve to confirm that listening is still essential in human communication. A respected doctor, accustomed to treating the wounds of the soul, was once asked what the greatest need of human beings is. He replied: “The boundless desire to be heard”. A desire that often remains hidden, but that challenges anyone who is called upon to be an educator or formator, or who otherwise performs a communicative role: parents and teachers, pastors and pastoral workers, communication professionals and others who carry out social or political service. **Listening with the ear of the heart** From the pages of Scripture we learn that listening means not only the perception of sound, but is essentially linked to the dialogical relationship between God and humanity. “Shema Israel - Hear, O Israel” (Dt 6:4), the opening words of the first commandment of the Torah, is continually reiterated in the Bible, to the point that Saint Paul would affirm that “faith comes through listening” (cf. Rom 10:17). The initiative, in fact, is God’s, who speaks to us, and to whom we respond by listening to him. In the end, even this listening comes from his grace, as is the case with the newborn child who responds to the gaze and the voice of his or her mother and father. Among the five senses, the one favoured by God seems to be hearing, perhaps because it is less invasive, more discreet than sight, and therefore leaves the human being more free. Listening corresponds to the humble style of God. It is the action that allows God to reveal himself as the One who, by speaking, creates man and woman in his image, and by listening recognizes them as his partners in dialogue. God loves humanity: that is why he addresses his word to them, and why he “inclines his ear” to listen to them. On the contrary, human beings tend to flee the relationship, to turn their back and “close their ears” so they do not have to listen. The refusal to listen often ends up turning into aggression towards the other, as happened to those listening to the deacon Stephen who, covering their ears, all turned on him at once (cf. Acts 7:57). On the one hand, then, God always reveals himself by communicating freely; and on the other hand, man and woman are asked to tune in, to be willing to listen. The Lord explicitly calls the human person to a covenant of love, so that they can fully become what they are: the image and likeness of God in his capacity to listen, to welcome, to give space to others. Fundamentally, listening is a dimension of love. This is why Jesus calls his disciples to evaluate the quality of their listening. “Take heed then how you hear” (Lk 8:18): this is what he exhorts them to do after recounting the parable of the sower, making it understood that it is not enough simply to listen, but that it is necessary to listen well. Only those who receive the word with an “honest and good” heart and keep it faithfully bear the fruit of life and salvation (cf. Lk 8:15). It is only by paying attention to whom we listen, to what we listen, and to how we listen that we can grow in the art of communicating, the heart of which is not a theory or a technique, but the “openness of heart that makes closeness possible” (cf. Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, 171). We all have ears, but many times even those with perfect hearing are unable to hear another person. In fact, there is an interior deafness worse than the physical one. Indeed, listening concerns the whole person, not just the sense of hearing. The true seat of listening is the heart. Though he was very young, King Solomon proved himself wise because he asked the Lord to grant him a “listening heart” (cf. 1 Kings 3:9). Saint Augustine used to encourage listening with the heart (corde audire), to receive words not outwardly through the ears, but spiritually in our hearts: “Do not have your heart in your ears, but your ears in your heart”. [1] Saint Francis of Assisi exhorted his brothers to “incline the ear of the heart”. [2] Therefore, when seeking true communication, the first type of listening to be rediscovered is 2 listening to oneself, to one’s truest needs, those inscribed in each person’s inmost being. And we can only start by listening to what makes us unique in creation: the desire to be in relationship with others and with the Other. We are not made to live like atoms, but together. **Listening as a condition of good communication** There is a kind of hearing that is not really listening, but its opposite: eavesdropping. In fact, eavesdropping and spying, exploiting others for our own interests, is an ever-present temptation that nowadays seems to have become more acute in the age of social networks. Rather, what specifically makes communication good and fully human is listening to the person in front of us, face to face, listening to the other person whom we approach with fair, confident, and honest openness. The lack of listening, which we experience so often in daily life, is unfortunately also evident in public life, where, instead of listening to each other, we often “talk past one another”. This is a symptom of the fact that, rather than seeking the true and the good, consensus is sought; rather than listening, one pays attention to the audience. Good communication, instead, does not try to impress the public with a soundbite, with the aim of ridiculing the other person, but pays attention to the reasons of the other person and tries to grasp the complexity of reality. It is sad when, even in the Church, ideological alignments are formed and listening disappears, leaving sterile opposition in its wake. In reality, in many dialogues we do not communicate at all. We are simply waiting for the other person to finish speaking in order to impose our point of view. In these situations, as philosopher Abraham Kaplan notes, [3] dialogue is a duologue: a monologue in two voices. In true communication, however, the “I” and the “you” are both “moving out”, reaching out to each other. Listening is therefore the first indispensable ingredient of dialogue and good communication. Communication does not take place if listening has not taken place, and there is no good journalism without the ability to listen. In order to provide solid, balanced, and complete information, it is necessary to listen for a long time. To recount an event or describe an experience in news reporting, it is essential to know how to listen, to be ready to change one’s mind, to modify one’s initial assumptions. It is only by putting aside monologues that the harmony of voices that is the guarantee of true communication can be achieved. Listening to several sources, “not stopping at the first tavern” — as the experts in the field teach us — ensures the reliability and seriousness of the information we transmit. Listening to several voices, listening to each other, even in the Church, among brothers and sisters, allows us to exercise the art of discernment, which always appears as the ability to orient ourselves in a symphony of voices. 3 But why face the exertion of listening? A great diplomat of the Holy See, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, used to speak of the “martyrdom of patience” needed to listen and be heard in negotiations with the most difficult parties, in order to obtain the greatest possible good in conditions of limited freedom. But even in less difficult situations, listening always requires the virtue of patience, together with the ability to allow oneself to be surprised by the truth, even if only a fragment of truth, in the person we are listening to. Only amazement enables knowledge. I think of the infinite curiosity of the child who looks at the world around them with wide-open eyes. Listening with this frame of mind — the wonder of the child in the awareness of an adult — is always enriching because there will always be something, however small, that I can learn from the other person and allow to bear fruit in my own life. The ability to listen to society is more valuable than ever in this time wounded by the long pandemic. So much previously accumulated mistrust towards “official information” has also caused an “infodemic”, within which the world of information is increasingly struggling to be credible and transparent. We need to lend an ear and listen profoundly, especially to the social unease heightened by the downturn or cessation of many economic activities. The reality of forced migration is also a complex issue, and no one has a ready-made prescription for solving it. I repeat that, in order to overcome prejudices about migrants and to melt the hardness of our hearts, we should try to listen to their stories. Give each of them a name and a story. Many good journalists already do this. And many others would like to do it, if only they could. Let us encourage them! Let us listen to these stories! Everyone would then be free to support the migration policies they deem most appropriate for their own country. But in any case, we would have before our eyes not numbers, not dangerous invaders, but the faces and stories, gazes, expectations and sufferings of real men and women to listen to. **Listening to one another in the Church** Full text to be found Online via— <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/popes-communications-message-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**



29th MAY 2022 SEVENTH 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 29th May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Day of special prayer for world communications)	5.30pm	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose	Holy Souls
		7.00pm	Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady’s	George Kurtz (RIP)
		9.30am	St Vincent’s	Peter D’Souza RIP
		11.00am	Our Lady’s	Our Parish Family Marian Procession— Crowning of Our Lady Ivy Jae Cash and Ada Ruby Gamble Annalise Jean Cullen
		12.00md	Our Lady’s	
		1.00pm	OL– Baptism	
2.30 pm	OL-Baptism			
Mon 30th May	Ferial	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Special Intention
Tues 31st-May	THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9.30am	Our Lady’s	Brian Collins (Ann)
Wed 1st June	St Justin, M	9.30am	St Vincent's	Holy Souls
Thurs 2nd June	Ferial (ss Marcellinus & Peter Mn)	9.30am	St Ambrose	The Ukraine
Fri 3rd June	St Charles Lwanga & Companion, Mm	9.30am	St Vincent’s	Barry Cropper RIP
Sat 4th June (Our International Mass & Queen’s Jubilee)	FERIAL	9.30 am	Our Lady’s OL– Baptism OL– Baptism	Special Intention Thomas Lambe Saxon Remy Broome
		1.00pm		
		2.30pm		
Sun 5th June	VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY	5.30pm	Vigil Mass Sat. St Ambrose Vigil Mass Sat. Our Lady’s	Holy Souls (International. Mass) Our Parish Family
		7.00pm		
Sun 5th June	PENTECOST SUNDAY (Day of Special Prayer for the Church)	9.30am	St Vincent’s Our Lady’s (Internation. Mass) Commitment Forms –OLATA	Special Intention Parishioners who have supported the Higgins Family.
		11.00am		
		Our Parish		

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: Mary Kate Hope, 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

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 **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.

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 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.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES: Two vacancies have arisen within the Diocese of Shrewsbury. PA to the Director of Schools and Team member for the Shrewsbury Youth Mission team. Details for both posts can be found on the Diocesan website www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/curia/vacancies Closing date Friday 24 June. Applications should be sent to Pauline McCulloch via email recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org.

VACANCY: RETAIL SUPERVISOR SHOP AND VISTOR CENTRE—Saint Winefride's Well and Shrine

The Trustees are seeking a part time Supervisor of the Centre and Shop prepared for flexible working who is a highly motivated person who would be the first contact to visitors or pilgrims. Applications are welcomed from those with retail or customer services experience wishing to develop or diversify their interest and be part of the ongoing development and expansion of this heritage site, overseeing the repository/shop and Visitor centre.

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

Ultimate Book Club – Change of Speaker: Margaret Parker has agreed at short notice to address us on the book of Luke on Sunday 5 June at 2pm. The meeting will be at Centrepoint, Bramhall and will conclude with refreshments.

Lourdes - Overland by Jumbulance 14 July to 23rd July Helpers and nurses/Doctor required. £950—half price for nurses and young people—financial help available. Contact Tony Murphy 07881656974

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTIONS (excludes standing orders): **OLATA— £570.63 St Vincent- £171.00 St Ambrose £241.88 THANK YOU.**

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

RETIRING COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: is for World Communication Day.

TUESDAY, 31ST MAY, LAST DAY TO SEND IN YOUR DEPOSIT FOR 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.

MARIAN PROCESSION AND THE CROWNING OF OUR LADY at Our Lady's Church, this Sunday, 29th May: Please join us for a Marian procession to round up our May Devotion as we entrust ourselves, our families, and our world to Her maternal care. Feel free to collect rosary beads from the back of church if you have none. The children will lead us in the procession to crown our Lady.

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!

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. We now have a map of the world at the back of church for people to pinpoint their country of birth if it wasn't the UK.

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 Vincent News

Bird and bee boxes for sale at the back of church

Monday 30th - 10am Service of Word and Holy Communion followed by Knit and Natter

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. We now have a map of the world at the back of church for people to pinpoint their country of birth if it wasn't the UK

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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