



## 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 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024 THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee - or of Tiberias - and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover. Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, "Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?" He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, "Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, "There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?" Jesus said to them, "Make the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, "Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted." So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, "This really is the prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

Taken from John 6:1-15 The Seventeenth 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.

In this Sunday's Gospel, John's version of the miraculous feeding reminds us of the Last Supper, when Jesus 'said the blessing' over the bread. Since John's gospel has no account of the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, this feeding account is particularly significant. The feeding is also described as one of the 'signs' which Jesus works. The first part of the Gospel of John is often called 'the Book of Signs' because Jesus works a number of signs which show who he truly is. First there is the sign at the marriage-feast of Cana, where the sign of turning the water into wine is a sign of the messianic banquet. Other signs are the raising of the royal official's son, a sign of Jesus' gift of life, and the cure of the blind man in the temple, a sign of Jesus' gift of light and revelation. Several of the signs are followed by an extended discourse, explaining the meaning of the sign, as this feeding sign is followed by the discourse on the Bread of Life, explaining the significance of Jesus' gift of himself as the Bread of Life, the Wisdom of God received in the Eucharist.

Why is this miracle called a sign? What is it a sign of?

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 **HELP!**

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.**

## 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)

Assistant Priest: Fr. Moses Ibeh

### Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 21st July 2024

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) (for both St. Vincent's and St. Ambrose')



The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity 234025

Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sunday 21st July	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.30am	St Vincent's	Maria Zofia Opeldus RIP
		10am	St Ambrose	Exam Success—Thanksgiving.
		11am	Our Lady's	Joe Mollard RIP
		1pm	Our Lady's Baptism	Baptism Felicity River Thompson
		2.30pm	Our Lady's Baptism	Baptism Archie and Evelyn Hill
Monday 22nd July	FEAST OF ST MARY MAGDALENE	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Eva Timlin RIP
Tuesday 23rd July	FEAST OF ST BRIDGET, R DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR EUROPE	9.30am	Our Lady's	Our Lady's Primary, Whole School Thanksgiving Mass. Sofia Hazelwood, Spec Int
Wednesday 24th July	Ferial	9.30am	St Vincent's	Beatrice RIP (Fr. Blaise's sister)
Thursday 25th July	ST JAMES, Ap	9.30am	St. Ambrose	End of All Wars and World Peace
		7pm	Our Lady's	Mr A H Arthur Bailey RIP
Friday 26th July	Ss Joachim & Ann, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.30am	St Vincent's	Sheila Bidulp, Spec. Int.
Saturday 27th July	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Robin and Carmel Dunford, Spec. Int
		6.30pm	Our Lady's	Our Parish Family.
Sunday 28th July	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.30am	St Vincent's	Veronica Martin (Thanksgiving for my Baptism)
		10am	St Ambrose	Paul Byrne (Birthday Ann.)
		11am	Our Lady's	Patrick Moore RIP (1st Ann)
		1pm	Our Lady's Baptism	Baptism Savannah Mtonga
		2.30pm	Our Lady's Baptism	Baptism Aoife, Alfred, Albert Wynne

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.

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.

SAFEGUARDING LEADS FOR THE THREE PARISHES :- 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 — Marie Byrne [ma.byrne1@ntlworld.com](mailto: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, Denise Corlett, Jane Coupes, Michael Philbin, Mary Metcalfe, Taya, Angela Mullin, Hayden Longworth, Peter Stanway, McKenzie Kiely, Pauline Hinson, Eileen McGahan, Barbara Murphy, Michelle Philips, Maureen Brosnahan, Kelly Brosnahan, Zach Tierney, Irene Cox, Lee Abernathy, Janice Cook, Annie Topping, Theresa Burrows, Marie Kennefik, Nora Reade.

**IN ST. AMBROSE'S:** Joan Constable, Roy Porter, Adeel, Vera Gallagher, Michael Gallagher, Molly Lane, Matthew Donegani, Michael Nealon, Colin Burns, Cerys Jones, Richard Laurens, June Campbell, Mavis Doggett, Khia Whitehead, Mary Sein, Paul Thuoc, Andrew Way, Mary Young, Veronica Norbury, Imelda Judge, Veronica Lane, Joanna Winter, Paul McClure, Helen Jenkins, Helen Leasor, Terry Glynn, Leaf Matthieson, Susan Claffey.

**RECENTLY DEPARTED:** May the souls of, Margaret Porter, Eleanor Loftus, Elsy Vincent, Eunice Lee, John Millerick, Ann Mary Jones, Julie Scanlan, Eddie Hickman, Philomena Lavender, Josephine Shannon, Patricia Byrne, Brenda O'Higgins, Lavinia Alice Tracey, Patrick Ryan, Celia Cameron, John Campbell, Monica McManus, Laurence John Gallagher, Tommy Mackinlay, Dorothy Chamberlain, Marjory Lees, Mary Joyce Henderson, Veronica Morrissey, Sister Thomas More McGrath, Kirsty Bain, and all the souls of all our recently departed rest in peace.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fred Selby Snr, Jacqueline Fish, George Ansell, Linda McHugh, Fr. Andrew Grant, Joseph Edwin Watts, Mark Houston, Peter Blaydon, Dennis Draycott, Mary Costello, Edward O'Connor, Mary Costello, Michael Horan, James Graham Maloney, John Hulme, Hannah McCann

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**BAPTISM CLASSES**—The next course is 6th & 12th October (attendance on both dates is required). Book early via the parish email or phone. If you desperately need the baptism course before October, please talk to Fr Martin.

**OLATA CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** - Thursdays after 7pm Mass

**MARRIAGE COURSE**—2.11.24 at Our Lady & St Christopher Church, Romily 9.45am—4pm. [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk)

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** are held before every morning Mass in our three parishes. Please join us.

**FOREIGN CURRENCY**— Please put spare notes or coins in to the big jars in all 3 churches for SVP charitable projects.

**THE NATIONAL EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS WILL TAKE PLACE AT ST MARY'S SEMINARY, OSCOTT** on Saturday 14th September. The Catholic Church in England and Wales, Bishops, Priests, and Lay People from all Dioceses, will gather at St Mary's College, Oscott for a day of renewing and deepening devotion to the Eucharist. Activities include: Carlo Acutis presentation, Rosary walk in the grounds, Pilgrimage walk, Scripture encounter, Museum visits, International Eucharistic Congress links, Lectio Divina Workshop. **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be available throughout the afternoon in the College Chapel. **Spaces are very limited.** If you would like to attend this Congress, please email the parish office during this coming week. Your names will be sent to the Diocese. If they are oversubscribed, there will be lottery for tickets to attend the event (a small amount of tickets are allocated to each parish). There will be a Diocesan coach picking up at three or four locations within the diocese (TBC and depending on attendees). Arrival must be by Diocesan coach. More details are on the poster - see noticeboard.

**FR MARTIN'S BOOK, 'LIFE IS ALWAYS WORTH LIVING' is still available** - Please help spread the word to stop this attack on the dignity of human life and the protection of the most vulnerable. If you would like to support this effort by donating books, please contact Fr Martin.

**NEW DAWN PILGRIMAGE 2024** - This year's New Dawn Pilgrimage will take place from Monday 5th to Friday 9th August at the National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham. New Dawn is a family event with a programme of Liturgy, Sacraments, praise and worship, keynote speakers, workshops, children/youth ministries and more. Further information can be found on the enclosed poster and website at [www.newdawn.org.uk](http://www.newdawn.org.uk)

**PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM IN REPARATION & PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE** - Right Rev Dr David Oakley Bishop of Northampton. 3 August 2024. Commencing 12 noon in Chapel of Reconciliation, Pilgrimage Mass. Further details: [prolifepilgrimage.org](http://prolifepilgrimage.org)

**FOURTH WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY - SUNDAY 28TH OF JULY 2024** We will celebrate this day in honour of all grandparents and elderly members of our congregation next week. This is the closest Sunday to the feast of St Anne and St Joachim, which we celebrate the Friday before on the 26th of July 2024. Pope Francis has written a message especially for this occasion and the Diocese has created a booklet that includes his message and a prayer prepared for the day.

Please pick up the booklet and prayer cards from the back of the Church and you will find other resources on the Diocesan website. Catholic Grandparents Association: <https://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/> National Office of Vocation <https://www.ukvocation.org/grandparentsday> Reflection of St Joachim and St Anne Grandparents of Jesus <https://youtu.be/GCoBAGD97Uo>. Please send us any ideas on how we might celebrate our grandparents and seniors on this special day!

**CALLED TO THE PRIESTHOOD**— Have you considered a vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? For more information see our website at [shrewsburyvocations.org](http://shrewsburyvocations.org). If you would like to explore God's call for your life and learn about other opportunities for discernment, please email the diocesan vocations director at [vocationsdirector@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:vocationsdirector@dioceseofshrewsbury.org). For more resources, [www.ukvocation.org](http://www.ukvocation.org) and [www.ukpriest.org](http://www.ukpriest.org)

**BISHOP SIMEON NWOBIA'S VISIT**— The newly appointed bishop of Fr Martin and Fr Moses' home diocese in Nigeria will be visiting and staying with us from 10th August to 1st September, before proceeding to Rome for the annual September orientation course for newly ordained bishops. We pray he has a safe trip and a joyful time in the UK.

**GOOD BYE TO OUR SEMINARIAN, WILLIAM**— October last year we joyfully welcomed William for his six months' parish placement, which is part of his ongoing formation for the priesthood. The period was later extended by a few months, and the diocese has now decided it is time for the move to happen. The placement is an invaluable opportunity for seminarians to grow their experience of ministry under various priests and diverse parishes, whilst also expanding their knowledge of the spread and the peculiarities of the diverse regions of our diocese. It has been wonderful to have William with us, and we wish him well in his new parish, which will be the parish of Saint Philip Neri, Birkenhead. Our Coffee morning this Sunday, after the 11am Mass at Our Lady's, will be a good opportunity to say goodbye to William.

**ALTAR SERVERS' REHEARSAL AT OUR LADY'S**—All altar servers are encouraged to please arrive 10.30am for the 11am Mass this Sunday for their final rehearsal with William and preparation for this Sunday's Youth Mass.

**PARISH DAY TRIP TO SHREWSBURY** - There are some outstanding deposits to be paid—Please put your £5 deposit in an envelope and clearly mark for Shrewsbury Pilgrimage with your names. See Fr Martin if you need assistance with financing this trip. If you no longer require your seat please let us know or cancel your name on the list at the back of church. There are still a few seats left if you wish to join us you'd be very welcome. Saturday, 7 September 2024. Visit & tour Shrewsbury Cathedral followed by Mass. The afternoon is free for you to enjoy Shrewsbury Town or perhaps an afternoon stroll along the River Severn. Tickets £20, Adults, **£10 Child Subsidy**, return travel by Coach from Our Lady and the Apostles.

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

**UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE IN 10 MINUTES**— Fr Mike Schmitz' Animation of the bible story in 10 minutes <https://youtu.be/Jm3b4Q98Vx8?si=RICGfpmWfohoOWFU> An adult and child friendly overview of the bible from the beginning to the end. How does it all fit together? Follow the storyline of the bible, in an accessible way. It may be one of those light bulb moments. Just copy and paste the link into your web browser and enjoy.

**VOTIVE CANDLES** - due to increasing costs the votive candles will now be 30p each.

### OUR LADY'S NEWS

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - every Sunday in the Guild Room.

**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** after Mass this Sunday

### ST AMBROSE NEWS

**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.

**TRIP TO SHREWSBURY** - If you have not paid your deposit of £5, could you please do so now to secure your seat. You can also pay the balance at any time. Thank you.

**PREPARATIONS FOR THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - are being finalised and we hope to shortly confirm the date it will begin.

**QR CODE PLEASE USE THIS QR** for online donations for St Ambrose.

### ST VINCENT'S NEWS

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** this week are donated in memory of Maria Zofia Opeldus by Christine Nesbitt and her sister. Please stay for Coffee after Mass this morning

**TODAY SUNDAY 21ST JULY** - Join the Churches Together in Bramhall and Woodford at Bramhall Park archery lawn for Praise in the Park at 3.30pm. Activities for children and a selection of modern hymns and short reflections.

**MONDAY 22ND** - 10am Service of Word and Communion followed by Knit and Natter.

**SUMMER CHRISTIAN YOUTH ACTIVITIES** - the Youth worker at Ford's Lane church is running some sessions over the summer holidays for teenagers. If you have a free afternoon or few hours on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, he is looking for volunteer support. Please contact Jane on 07969386939 for more information.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT ST VINCENT'S** - If any children who will be in Year 3/4 from September would like to make their First Holy Communion at St Vincent's, please contact Rosy on 07941 826511 or [rth.hickman@gmail.com](mailto:rth.hickman@gmail.com)

**PARISHES IN PARTNERSHIP**—We have received the following communication from Fr Blessed, parish priest of our partner parish in Riwoto in South Sudan. The full text has been printed and can be viewed on the Parishes in Partnership notice board in St Vincent's church and you are warmly invited to spend a few moments to read Fr Blessed's letter to us all. Here is a small quote from the letter. "I can't thank you enough for being partners with us. Your love and constant support means a lot to us. We are always in need, but your companionship gives us courage that we can keep going and that things will be well. May God continue to bless and support you. Fr Blessed. St Mary Magdalene Church and School. Riwoto, South Sudan.

**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](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice).*

