



# 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 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024

TWO BECOME ONE FLESH

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" "Moses allowed us," they said, "to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce." Then Jesus said to them, "It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide." Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, "The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too." People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

**Taken from Mark 10:2-16 The Twenty Seventh 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 Pharisees are putting a trick question to Jesus, as is clear in Matthew's fuller account in his gospel. They knew the Law, which permitted divorce, and they will quote this Law to Jesus. The Law allowed divorce for 'indecency', but teachers were divided about what this meant: did it mean adultery or a lesser fault? So their real question is: what does Jesus consider grounds for divorce? As so frequently in his discussions with the legal experts, Jesus' response goes beyond and much deeper than a simple answer to the question: God made man and woman such that they should bond together permanently and become one thinking, living being. The word used for one 'body', or one 'flesh', really means one entity, not a hunk of meat, but a single, vibrant personality. God's intention was not that the two should be separable again. So Jesus does not answer the question about grounds for divorce at all. It is striking that here – and on other occasions too – Jesus' authority is such that he feels able to alter the sacred Law of Moses. For the Jews the Law of Moses was God's own gift, sacred and unalterable by any human authority. By altering it, by annulling the permission for divorce under certain circumstances, Jesus is implicitly claiming divine authority. **What does Jesus teach about marriage? And what does his welcoming of the children have to say about God's kingdom?**

*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 **OPENNESS!**

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)



### Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 29th September 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/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 29th September	TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.30am	St Vincent's	Our Parish Family
		10am	St Ambrose	Richard Laurens RIP
		11am	Our Lady's	Julia (Shauney) Callaghan Anniversary
		3.30pm	St Vincent's (No Mass)	St Vincent's Feast Day Celebration
Monday 30th September	St Jerome, P, D	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Kirsty Bain, RIP
Tuesday 1st October	St Theresa of the Child of Jesus, V, R	9.30am	Our Lady's	Natalya's Father, RIP
Wednesday 2nd October	Guardian Angels	9.30am	St Vincent's	Souls in Purgatory
		12.15pm	Aquinas College	Aquinas College, Mass preceded by Adoration at 11.45am
Thursday 3rd October	Ferial	9.30am	St. Ambrose	St Ambrose Primary, Start of Year Mass
		6pm	Our Lady's	Brian Lane RIP, Ann St James' High School, Start of Year Mass Christopher McGowan RIP
Friday 4th October	St Francis of Assisi Day of Special Prayer for the Needy and Hungry of the World Family Fast Day	9.30am	St Vincent's	Cyril Beswick RIP, 20th Ann
		10.45am	Our Lady's School Hall	Our Lady's Primary School, Start of Year Mass
Saturday 5th October	St Maria Faustina (Helena) Kowalska, V BVM	9.30am	Our Lady's	Fr Michael Gallagher, RIP
		6.30pm	Our Lady's	Our Parish Family
Sunday 6th October	TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.30am	St Vincent's	Paul Wingate, Birthday
		10am	St Ambrose	Dorothy Hancock, Spec Int
		11am	Our Lady's	Julia (Shauney) Callaghan
		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 start registering with the parish office.

**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](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, 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:** 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 Matthieson, Susan Claffey.

**RECENTLY DEPARTED:** May the souls of Margaret Forester, Anne Sheridan, Bernadette Marsh, Maureen Brosnahan, Brian Thorpe, Raymond John Burke, 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, 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:** Ann Diffley, James Little, Jack Hibbert, Mary Darkin, Michael Canning, Gail Cook, Irene Garnett, Ebenezer Hope, Sarah Bohan, John Grundy, Peter Callaghan, Charlotte Lange, Frank Costello, Shirley Carrick, Dorothy Sweeney, Audrey Hardman, George Pendlebury, (Shauney) Julia Callaghan, Theresa Sanderson, John Danahar, Marie Price

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION:** Please start registering by contacting the parish office: stockport3parishes@gmail.com

**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.

**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.

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

**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.

**OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWS:** Our Mini Vinnies gathered at St Anthony's Church in Wythenshawe on Monday to venerate the relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Thank you to Shrewsbury Diocese for organising a truly spiritual and reflective event.

**Save the Date: Wednesday 9th October 9:30am-12:00pm.** Do you know anyone whose child is due to start school next September? We will be having an Open Morning for our September 2025 Reception Intake on Wednesday 9th October. Please spread the word and come and visit our amazing school!

**HARRYTOWN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL** - are holding their Annual Open Evening on Thursday 03 October from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. We would particularly be pleased to welcome Year 5 & 6 pupils. There will be Headteacher talks at 5.30pm and 6.30pm.

**EXAM INVIGILATORS:** Harrytown Catholic High School are currently recruiting Exam Invigilators. Please visit the school website for more information – [www.harrytownschool.org](http://www.harrytownschool.org)

**ST JAMES' SCHOOL CHEADLE** - The governors of St James' wish to appoint an inspirational, dynamic and highly motivated Teacher of Religious Education to begin in January 2025 or sooner. For more information please visit: <https://www.stjamescheadle.co.uk/jobs>

**SPUC - LIVES WORTH LIVING** - The Prime Minister has pledged to have a vote on assisted suicide and Lord Falconer has already tabled a Private Members' Bill in the House of Lords. This lecture will be held at the Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel, Portland Street, Manchester M1 4PH from 7:30pm - 9pm on **Tuesday 22nd October** and the speaker, Dr Dominic Whitehouse, who is a palliative care consultant currently working in a hospice in Sussex, will be explaining why a change in the law would be harmful to patients, doctors and to society. **Please register online to attend at - [www.spuc.org.uk/assisted-suicide-lectures](http://www.spuc.org.uk/assisted-suicide-lectures)**

**BVM, FIRST SATURDAY MARION DEVOTIONS** - will be on Saturday, 5th October after 9.30am Mass at Our Lady and the Apostles church.

**PARTY FOR ST VINCENT'S PARISH FEAST DAY ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH** - come along for buffet and drinks. Commencing 3.30pm, Table tennis, croquet and boules in the garden for the children.

**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](mailto:stockport3parishes@gmail.com).

**SVP**—Kate Birkenhead, Membership Support Officer for Shrewsbury Diocese, will be giving a short address outlining the role of the St Vincent de Paul Society in our parishes and encouraging new volunteers to join our local group. She and local SVP volunteers will be available at the end of each Mass next weekend, 28th and 29th September at St Vincent's and Our Lady's to answer your questions and at St Ambrose on 6th October. There will also be a retiring collection for the Society to help with the work undertaken in our parishes

**JANUARY 2025 MEDICAL OUTREACH MISSION** — A GoFundMe page, set up by Max, for the January 2025 Free Medical Outreach in Umunomo is now live for donations. For details, please click on this link <https://gofund.me/181ecc20>. 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. **FR MARTIN'S MEDICAL OUTREACH MISSION'S** supporters have already shopped 135 times via easyfundraising, raising £173.57 so far. 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>.

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

**CAFOD'S FAMILY FAST DAY – HARVEST (FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER)** - Daniel, a young man in Democratic Republic of the Congo, is carving a better future for his family with carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD-funded training centre. Give to CAFOD today and you'll fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so more people like Daniel can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential. Use the envelope in available in church or give online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope).

**MARY WALSH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY** - Our Lady and the Apostles Sacristan, Mary Walsh, celebrates her 100th birthday next week. Mass at 7pm on Thursday 10th October and there will be refreshments afterwards in the Social Club. All are welcome!

**THE CHOSEN** - At 7.30pm on Thursday 3rd October after the 6pm Mass for St James High School. Come along and enjoy the next episodes in this wonderful series! Our Lady's Social Club.

## 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** - Come to Our Lady's Guild Room after 11am Mass this Sunday for tea/coffee and chats.

## 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.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - moving forwards .....awaiting a start date now.

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

**PIETY STALL** - Some lovely new children's bibles and rosary beads and bangles available. Also new holy water bottles back in stock on the piety stall at the back of church. Many thanks for your continued support.

## ST VINCENT'S NEWS

**THIS SUNDAY AT 3.30PM** - Come and join us to celebrate the Feast Day of St Vincent. A buffet tea party, time to chat and games for the younger members.

**MONDAY** - 10am Service of Word and Communion followed by Prayer Group

**SPIRIT OF ART FESTIVAL**- hosted by St Michael's church, Bramhall, takes place from 27th September to 5th October. Events to interest everyone, book your tickets.

**THANK YOU** for your generous donations for the Foodbank last weekend and thank you to the Flower Group for their beautiful display.

**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

