

**Readings for Fourth Sunday of Advent 22 December 2024**

**Entrance Antiphon, Is 45: 8 – Drop down dew from above, you heavens and let the clouds rain down the Just One: let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour**

**First reading Micah 5:2-5a**

Thus says the LORD: You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 80(79):2ac, 3b, 15-16. 18-19. Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.**

**Second reading Hebrews 10:5-10**

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’’ When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings’ (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will’. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Gospel Acclamation Luke 1:38**

Alleluia, alleluia. Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. Alleluia.

**Gospel Luke 1:39-45**

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.’

**Communion Antiphon – Is 7: 14** Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**Sunday 29 December 2024 The Holy Family**

**Entrance Antiphon Lk 2: 16** The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**First reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28**

‘Samuel, as long as he lives, is lent to the Lord.’ In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, ‘I have asked for him from the LORD.’ The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, ‘As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there for ever.’ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, ‘Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.’ And he worshipped the LORD there.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 84(83):2-3. 5-6. 9-10. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

**Second reading 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24**

‘We are called children of God; and so we are.’ Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall see him as he is. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

**Gospel Acclamation Cf. Acts 16:14b** Alleluia, alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son. Alleluia.

**Gospel Luke 2:41-52**

Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the teachers. The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day’s journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, ‘Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.’ And he said to them, ‘Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

**Communion Antiphon Bar 3: 38** Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us

**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)

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 22 December 2024 & THE HOLY FAMILY 29H DECEMBER 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/channel/UC...) (for both St. Vincent’s and St. Ambrose’s)



| Date                          | Feast  | Time           | Church                                  | Mass Intention   |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------|---|--|
| Sunday<br>22nd Decem-<br>ber  | <b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>   | 5pm (Vigil)    | <b>St Ambrose</b>                       | Repose of Souls  |
|                               |  | 6.30pm (Vigil) | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Our Parish Family  |
|                               |  | 9.30am         | <b>St Vincent’s</b>                     | Peter Jeffers RIP  |
|                               |  | 11am           | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Anne Sheridan RIP  |
| Monday 23rd<br>December       | Ferial   | 9.30am         | <b>St. Ambrose</b>                      | Liam Gibbons 4th Anniversary                                   |
| Tuesday 24th<br>December      | <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b><br>  | 9.30am         | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Deceased members of the Dooley Family                          |
|                               |  | 4pm            | <b>St. Ambrose</b>                      | Our Parish Family  |
|                               |  | 4.30pm         | <b>St Vincent’s</b>                     | Private Intention  |
|                               |  | 5pm (Carols)   | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Pam and Richard McGowan Special intention                      |
| Wednesday<br>25th December    | <b>CHRISTMAS DAY<br/>THE NATIVITY OF<br/>THE LORD</b><br>Holyday of Obligation<br> | Midnight Mass  | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Catherine, Michael, Elizabeth, Joe Gould Special Intention     |
|                               |  | 9am            | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Deceased members of Higgins & McGowan Family                   |
|                               |  | 9.30am         | <b>St Vincent’s</b>                     | Paul Wingate Special Intention                                 |
|                               |  | 10am           | <b>St. Ambrose</b>                      | All our priests  |
| Thursday<br>26th December     | <b>ST STEPHEN, M</b>   | 11am           | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Michael Gallagher  |
|                               |  | 9.30am<br>7pm  | <b>St. Ambrose</b><br><b>Our Lady’s</b> | End of all Wars—World Peace<br>Deceased members of Lane Family |
| Friday<br>27th December       | <b>ST JOHN, Ap, Ev</b>   | 9.30am         | <b>St Vincent’s</b>                     | Vera Woolfall, Special Intention                               |
| Saturday<br>28th December     | <b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS,<br/>Mm</b><br>Vigil Masses  | 9.30am         | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Una Higgins, 80th Birthday                                     |
|                               |  | 5pm            | <b>St Ambrose</b>                       | All Our Sick and Housebound.                                   |
|                               |  | 6.30pm         | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Pat & Patsy Molloy   |
| Sunday<br>29th December       | <b>THE HOLY FAMILY</b>   | 9.30am         | <b>St Vincent’s</b>                     | Margaret and Tom Conway  |
|                               |  | 11am           | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | All our Altar Servers, Musicians & Volunteers                  |
| Monday 30th<br>December       | <b>Sixth Day of Christmas<br/>Octave</b>   | 9.30am         | <b>St. Ambrose</b>                      | World Peace - End to all Wars                                  |
| Tuesday 31st<br>Decembe       | <b>Seventh Day of Christmas<br/>Octave</b>   | 9.30am         | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Cindy Galizio, Major Surgery                                   |
| Wednesday 1st<br>January 2025 | <b>Mary Mother of God</b>  | 9.30am         | <b>St Vincent’s</b>                     | Tom Conway Prayers for Recovery                                |
| Thursday<br>2nd January       | <b>SS Basil the Great, P, D &amp;<br/>Gregory Nazianzen, B.D.</b>  | 9.30am<br>7pm  | <b>St. Ambrose</b><br><b>Our Lady’s</b> | Holy Souls<br>Dorothy Chamberlain RIP                          |
| Friday<br>3rd January         | <b>Friday of the Christmas<br/>Season</b>  | 9.30am         | <b>St Vincent’s</b>                     | Vincent Higgins, Anniversary                                   |
| Saturday 4th<br>January       | <b>Saturday of Christmas<br/>Season</b>  | 9.30am         | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Vincent Higgins, Anniversary                                   |
|                               |  | 5pm            | <b>St Ambrose</b>                       | Holy Souls   |
|                               |  | 6.30pm         | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Mr William Mellett & Thomas Mellett                            |
| Sunday 5th<br>January         | <b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE<br/>LORD</b>  | 9:30am         | <b>St Vincents</b>                      | Private Intention  |
|                               |  | 11am           | <b>Our Lady’s</b>                       | Baby Julia Margaret Callaghan                                  |

### 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 Keneffik, Nora Reade.

**IN ST. AMBROSE'S:** Emma Prior, Walt Tomlin, Roy Porter, Adeel, Vera 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 David Kyle Sloan, Patricia Wynne, Christopher Hung Kan-Hai, Warren Walton, Michael Gallagher, Michael David Smith, Jack Birch, Veronica Norbury, Elizabeth West, Veronica Knowles, Margaret Forester, Anne Sheridan, Raymond John Burke, Stuart Thorneycroft, Bernadette Marsh, Maureen Brosnahan, and all the souls of our recently departed rest in peace.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Liam Donnellan, Margaret Collier, Peter William Kane, Joe Sweeney, Sheila M. Hillard, Jim Ryan, John Hales, Margaret McDonald, Teresa Guerin, Martha McKee, James Loftus, Lucy Goulden, Winifred Shields, Christopher Hampson, Irene May Fox, Dominique Davies, Alice Finlay, Margaret Sidebotham, Rose Ann Gough, Agnes Kiely, Terry Kelly, David Pinnington Fr Paul Glendinning, Donald Hardicre, Evelyn McCoy, Thomas O'Connor, John Patrick McLoughlin, Ada Peers, Edward Wild, Alan Carlson, Mary Carney, Maureen Dabble, Fr Joseph Glendinning, George King, Cissie Barratt, Stephen William Barrow, Frank W. Finnerty, Veronica Chatterton, Trevor Roy Francis, Anne Garner, Eileen Allen, Francis Henahan, Arthur Curley, K.C. Chacko, David Murphy, Kathleen Donaldson, Edward King, Emmie Barber, Vincent Higgins, Janet Woods, Kathleen McDonagh, Ronald Taylor, Julia Margaret Callaghan, Bridget Teehan, William Mellett, Thomas Mellett, Norah Finchett,

**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 with the parish office. 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.

**CHRISTMAS FUN RUN** Friday 27th December in Bollington Join CAFOD for the annual Christmas Fun Run in Bollington! Wear your festive fancy dress and take on this joyful run to support communities around the world to lift themselves out of poverty. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors over the Christmas period, whilst also contributing to a good cause. Adult, child and family entrance fees are available. Whether you walk, run or jog, every step makes a difference. We also need volunteers to help on the day. please contact [events@cafod.org.uk](mailto:events@cafod.org.uk) or [kkeenan@cafod.org.uk](mailto:kkeenan@cafod.org.uk) for more information.

**Carol Service** Many thanks to all who attended and helped at the evening carol service, especially Noel and the group who provided the wonderful music. £663.50 was raised for Our Lady's parish.

**Our Lady's School News:** All the children have been having lots of fun at their Christmas parties this week. Term ended with a whole school visit to The Light Cinema, which was enjoyed by all - Merry Christmas everyone! School re-opens on Monday 6th January. We are having another Open Morning on Wednesday 8th January between 9:30am and 12:00pm. Any parents whose child is due to start school next September are warmly invited to visit our amazing school. Did you know? We now offer Wraparound Care from 8:00am-6:00pm. Please contact the School Office for further information.

### A Christmas Message from Father Martin

Dear Parishioners and visitors to our Parish,

Christ is born! Rejoice!

During this joyful season of Christmas, we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that in celebrating his birth you will be surrounded by peace, joy, and comfort. The Christmas message tells all of us that we are not alone; God sent his Son to save us and to be with us always. Remember that Christ shares our joys and sorrows and carries us when we fall.

At the just concluded Congress in Rome, organised by the Dicastery for Culture and Education, Pope Francis admonished us to let the light of Christ radiate through us, without drawing attention to ourselves. It was a privilege to be part of the Congress and to receive special blessings from Pope Francis on your behalf. I hope that, along with this blessing from the Holy Father, this Christmas message brings Christmas blessings to you and to your families.

Thank you to all our staff and volunteers and those who help to keep our church beautiful throughout the year; I am very grateful for your help. Also, a big thank you to all who have helped to make our Advent and Christmas Season at all three parishes a joyous and uplifting experience for all. Thank you for the Carol services, the Christingle service, the beautiful cribs, decorations, trees and flowers in our three churches.

As I leave for Nigeria after Christmas I ask for your prayers for a safe journey. You will be in my prayers too. I am grateful to all those who have donated towards the Free Medical Outreach in my village on 11th January.

A very happy Christmas to you all and God Bless,

Fr. Martin

**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).

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD** - Our Parish Christmas Card is available to buy at the back of church 3 for £1. But please don't let money be an issue, just donate what you can afford for the cards. The card is from recycled paper and gives details of our 3 Churches activities on it over the Christmas season. Please distribute this lovely card to your friends, neighbours and family, spreading the Christmas message and events to celebrate such a wonderful occasion.

**DIOCESAN YEAR BOOKS FOR THE NEW YEAR** are available from the piety stalls. Price £7.00 each a.

**11TH JANUARY 2025 MEDICAL OUTREACH MISSION** - is Fr Martin's next Free Medical Outreach in Nigeria -

A GoFundMe page is now live for donations, click on this link <https://gofund.me/181ecc20> or scan the QR code. Thank you all for your invaluable support, without which this crucial annual humanitarian project would not have thrived for the past five years. Let your shopping raise free donations. Sign up to #easyfundraising to raise free donations while you shop online with over 8,000 retailers like eBay, Argos and Sainsbury's - at no extra cost to you! Join today: <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/fr-martins-medical-outreach-mission> So far, just 19 of us have raised over £230. Please keep the programme in your prayers, as so many depend on it. God Bless.



**PARISH DIARIES 2025** are now available in all three churches. Please ensure that our housebound receive their copies.

**OFFICE CLOSURE** - The office will be closed from Tuesday 24th December until Fri 3rd January. Please leave a phone message or an email if you have an urgent request.

### 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** - 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** - Please note that there will **not** be a coffee morning on this Sunday 22nd December.

### ST AMBROSE NEWS

Parish Library at St Ambrose - There are books on subjects such as the Church, the Saints and the Rosary to borrow at St Ambrose. Please borrow any books that interest you and please expand the library by donating suitable books.



**BOXING DAY MASS**—Will be in the church, not the Sacristy.

**QR CODE** Please use this QR for online donations for St Ambrose.

### ST VINCENT'S NEWS

**THANK YOU TO** all our volunteers who made all the services in the run up to Christmas so special.

**MANY THANKS** to all who took part in the Christingle and Crib events during the week. A special thank you to the children who attended and read to us so beautifully, £68 was sent to the Children's Society for the Christingle and a good number of children and families came to see our crib displays.

**THANKS TO** all the cleaning group who have tried to give the church a deeper clean before Christmas.

Readers for the Children's Vigil Mass would be good if they want to volunteer this weekend



*Our Lady and the Apostles, Shaw Heath, Stockport SK3 8BQ; St. Ambrose, Adwood Road, Stockport, SK3 3QA; St. Vincent de Paul, 29 Handley Road, Bramhall, Stockport, SK7 3EX.*

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