

Readings for the Third Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Phil 4: 4-5

First reading

Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you; he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: 'Fear not, O Sion; let not your hands grow weak.
The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.'

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Responsorial Psalm

*Shout aloud and sing praise,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Is 12:2-3. 4b-d. 5-6. R3

**Second reading
Philippians 4:4-7**

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.
Alleluia.

Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Gospel

At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

Luke 3:10-18

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Cf. Is 35: 4

**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



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 15 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')

Date	Feast	Time	Church	Mass Intention
Sunday 15th December 	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	5pm (Vigil)	St Ambrose	Charles Edwards, RIP 1st Ann,
		6.30pm (Vigil)	Our Lady's	Our Parish Family
		9.30am	St Vincent's	Warren Walton RIP
		11am	Our Lady's	Aiden John Egginton—Celebration of Life.
		1pm	Our Lady's	Baptism of Olivia Adanna Abah
		3pm	St Vincent's	St Vincent's Christingle Service
Monday 16th December	Ferial	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Alan Thorpe B'day Ann,
Tuesday 17th December	Ferial	9.30am	Our Lady's	Matthew Crawley RIP
		1pm	Our Lady's Funeral	Requiem Mass, Michael Gallagher
		3.30pm	Aquinas College	Christmas Mass for Staff Pope Francis. Birthday
Wednesday 18th December	Ferial	9.30am	St Vincent's	Kirsty Bain RIP, B'day Ann
		3:15pm	Stockport Crematorium	Funeral Service, Christopher Hung Kan-Hai
Thursday 19th December	Ferial	9.30am	St. Ambrose	Christopher Hung Kan-Hai, RIP
		1.30pm	Our Lady's Funeral	Funeral Service, Michael David Smith
		7pm	Our Lady's	Kathleen McGlynn & Family, Spec Int
Friday 20th December	Ferial	9.30am	St Vincent's	Mrs Mary Lee, Spec Int
		12.45pm	Our Lady's Funeral	Requiem Mass, David Sloan
Saturday 21st December	Ferial Vigil Masses	9.30am	Our Lady's	World Peace—End to all Wars
		5pm	St Ambrose	Repose of Souls
		6.30pm	Our Lady's	Our Parish Family
Sunday 22nd December	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.30am	St Vincent's	Warren Walton RIP
		11am	Our Lady's	Anne Sheridan RIP

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 register with the parish office as soon as possible.

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 OLATA Ged Murtagh -geraldmurtagh@outlook.com
St Ambrose — Marie Byrne 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: 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 Kennefik, 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: Charles Edwards, Francis Maguire, Bill Cunningham, Joshua James Pearson, Aidan John Egginton, Anne-Marie Borrell, Ashley Jordan Potter, Keith Garnett, Patrick Joseph Kenny, Kevin McGahan, Matthew Joseph Crowley, Caleb Hodkinson, Josephine Margaret Farrell, Irene McLoughlin, Bernadette Teresa McNally, Pauline June Dexter, Christine Mary White, Mary Maguire, Catherine Kelly, Mary Purslow, Betty Jackson, Shaun James McLoughlin, Catherine Bradley, Margaret Donnellan, John, Rachel, Geraldine & Hannah Stevenson

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.

OUR LADY'S SCHOOL NEWS: Our Lady's School News: Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have performed their Nativity plays this week. Children have been practising hard to learn the songs and their lines. Well done to everyone - you were all amazing!

Joint Parish Schools Carol Service: Our Lady's, St Ambrose and St James' schools came together this week for a joint Carol Service in Our Lady's Church. It was a wonderful occasion which enabled us to reflect on Advent and the Christmas Story.

ST AMBROSE PRIMARY SCHOOL: All parishioners are warmly invited to join the school for a special Advent Liturgy led by the Year 6 children on **Friday 20th December at 9:30am**. This is a chance to come together to reflect on this special season as we prepare for the coming of Christ.

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 or kkeenan@cafod.org.uk for more information.



On Monday and Tuesday Fr. Martin attended the International Congress on the Future of Theology in Rome, where he met Pope Francis. Fr. Martin says that it was a privilege to have been invited to participate and he prays that it will bear the right fruit for the Church.

Christmas 2024 Mass Times

 Christmas Eve <i>Vigil Masses for Christmas</i>	4.00 pm 4.30 pm 5pm (4.45 pm carols) Midnight Mass	St Ambrose (Children's Mass) St. Vincent's (Children's Mass) Our Lady's (Children's Mass) Our Lady's
	The Nativity of the Lord	9.00am 9.30am (9.15am Carols) 10.00 am (9.45am Carols) 11am (10.45am Carols)



CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT will be after Mass on Saturday Mornings at Our Lady's. After Wednesday morning Mass at St Vincent's and Thursday morning Mass at St Ambrose.

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.

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.

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 £220. 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.

CHRISTMAS POSTERS AND KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS STICKERS (for your Christmas cards) are in the church, for your taking. Take as many as you wish.

COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - This Sunday, 15th December, there will be a retiring collection for Christmas Flowers after all Masses.

THE PARISH CHRISTMAS LETTER is available at the back of all our churches. Please take a copy for yourself and also for your friends and family.

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 - at the back of church has a great selection of Christmas cards, advent calendars, 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 - 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. Please note that there will **not** be a coffee morning on Sunday 22nd December.



ST AMBROSE NEWS

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS please put your donations for Christmas flowers in the box, located in the porch.

MASS IN SACRISTY - Weekday Masses will be held in the Sacristy to save on heating costs.

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

ST VINCENT'S NEWS

TODAY SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 3PM - join us for the Christingle and Carol service followed by tea and biscuits. Bring your friends.

WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 3 TO 4PM - outside Crib Event and Crib display. Write a Christmas prayer for our Prayer tree.

TRAVELLING NATIVITY - a few dates left to take the figures to your home and remember the journey of Mary and Joseph

DONATIONS FOR ALTAR FLOWERS will be gratefully received this weekend.

SVP COLLECTION BOX - bring toiletries and stationery for displaced persons in Stockport.

THANK YOU to all who supported LAMBS this year. Please see the St Vincent website for this years annual report.



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, Adwood 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.