

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

That the planet's resources will not be plundered but shared in a just and respectful manner.

St Peter's and St Philip's Newsletter

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Mother of God Local Missionary Area in Stockport



YOU ARE ALL WELCOME TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITIES

During the present emergency the churches can only open when supervised. Our churches open about 30 minutes before Mass. There is a restriction on numbers in church at any one time. All Masses, Rosaries and Exposition from St Peters are also being streamed live.

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33: 7-9

PSALM 94

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING:

Romans 13: 8-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18: 15-20

DAILY ROSARY

If anyone would like to volunteer to come and lead a daily Rosary at 7 00 p.m. then let Fr Peter know

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

will be celebrated by appointment and subject to social distancing

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - Year A

Divine Office Psalter Week III
ORDINARY TIME WEEK XXIII

ALL SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE LIVE STREAM ATTENDANCE POSSIBLE BY PRE BOOKING (See note on page 3)

Each evening the Rosary will be said at 7 00 p.m, except Sunday then at 5 00 p.m. join in on line www.churchservices.tv/stockport

Saturday 5th September

6 00 pm Vigil Mass at St. Philip's Offerton

6.00 pm Mass in Polish at St Peter's

Sunday 6th September 2020 TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10.00 am People of the Parish

6.00 pm John McCarthy RIP

Readings: *Ezekiel 33; 7-9; Psalm 94; Romans 13: 8-10;*

Matthew 18: 15-20

Monday 7th September 2020

12 noon Service of Word and Communion

Readings: *1 Corinthians 5: 1-8; Psalm 5; Luke 6: 6-11*

Tuesday 8th September 2020 - NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

12 noon Service of Word and Communion

Readings: *Micah 5: 1-4; Psalm 12: Matthew 1: 1-16. 18-23*

Wednesday 9th September 2020 - St. Peter Claver

12 noon Service of Word and Communion

Readings: *1 Corinthians 7: 25-31; Psalm 44; Luke 6: 20-26*

This evening's Rosary at 7 00 p.m. The church will be open for people to attend if you so wish.

Thursday 10th September 2020

12 Noon Service of Word and Communion

Readings: *1 Corinthians 8: 1-7,11-13; Psalm 138; Luke 6: 27-38*

Friday 11th September 2020

12 Noon Service of Word and Communion

Readings: *1 Corinthians 9: 16-19,22-27; Psalm 83; Luke 6: 39-42*

Saturday 12th September 2020 -

11 00-11 45 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12 noon Gilbert Ireland—Birthday Memories

Readings: *1 Corinthians 10: 14-22; Psalm 115; Luke 6: 43-49*

This Saturday Mass at 12 noon will also use the texts for Sunday

6 00 pm Vigil Mass at St. Philip's Offerton

6.00 pm Mass in Polish at St Peter's

Sunday 13th September 2020 TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10.00 am Peter Fox RIP

6.00 pm People of the Parish

Readings: *Ecclesiasticus 27: 30-28:7; Psalm 102; Romans 14: 7-9; Matthew 18: 21-35*

STEWARDS FOR CHURCH OPENING

We could do with some more volunteers to help with the stewarding when church is open for Mass. If you can help get in touch with the Parish Office

DATE FOR DIARY

Friday October 2nd
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9 00 a.m. To 9 00 p.m.
Pray for our parish



Your prayers are asked for

The sick - remembering, all the sick in the parish, in our hospitals and nursing homes. We also remember those who are housebound and are unable to come to Mass. We remember especially young people who are sick. Let us also keep in our prayers all those who have care of the sick and the dying at this time often putting their own lives at risk in the process..

Lately Dead: Judith Murphy who's Requiem Mass took place here last Friday,

Anniversaries that occur around this time: Tery Cunningham, Veronica Hogan, Marie Hunt, Mary Hurst, James Gaffney, Grace Plat, Celia Westhead, Norman Whittaker, Margaret Murphy, Christopher Henaghan, Ernestine Knott, David Stewart.

Prayer Intentions - We have a team of 'prayer warriors' who will pray for your intentions at this time, send your intentions to the parish office and they will be forwarded. You can also light a 'virtual' candle on the parish website.

Baptism: We welcome into our Parish Community Frederick Alan Leigh and Elodie Grace Downey, please remember Frederick, Elodie and their families in your prayers.

To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today:

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, it is between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community, and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Take time to reflect on how your faith affects your concern for social justice.
3. Pray for guidance to discern how/where God wants you to become involved.
What word of hope does the passage offer you?

For Conversation:

One issue your parish community could work at to restore justice



ONLINE GIVING TO THE PARISH

For those Parishioners who normally give in the collection at Mass and wish to help the Parish at this time, an online donation page to allow you to donate to the Parish has been added to the Parish website. **Please be aware that a minimum donation of £5 is requested if giving in this way. The link for each of our two parishes is shown below**

The page can also be used to set up a regular monthly donation, and you can also Gift Aid your donation to help the Parish further. If you want to Gift Aid your donation, please tick the box shown on the screen even if you have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration form in favour of the Parish for regular giving made by Offertory Envelope or Standing Order.

For St Peters <https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/stpeterdioceseofshrewsbury2122>

For St Philip's use <https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donator/page/StPhilipOffertonDioceseofShrewsbury2161>

Spare space! Does anyone have space in a garage or shed that could house some carpet for the refugee programme until it is needed. If you could help please contact Carmel O'Malley on 07747145326.

ATTENDING MASS AT ST PETERS

If you wish to attend Mass at St Peters for the time being on **ANY DAY** then you **MUST** ask for a place preferably by emailing admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk. or you can phone 483 3476, but e-mailing is the best.

YOU SHOULD NOW WEAR FACE COVERING WHILST YOU ARE IN CHURCH

E mail admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk if you want to come to Mass

For Mass at St Philip's on Saturday evening the same rules apply but you should contact David Smith. david.smith7220@ntlworld.com

MASSES IN ST PHILIP'S

For the time being there will only be the Saturday evening Mass in St Philip's but I will look at it again at the end of September. The main reason for this is that we are still getting around 150 people coming to Mass during the week via the web streaming and it is not possible to do this from St Philip's. There are quite a few places where the church has not yet reopened so people are still tuning into to watch our Masses.

THE PARISH CENTRE

Last week we received 'guidelines' re the opening of the parish centre. For the time being only groups that hire (i.e. pay to use) the Centre will be allowed in. So the Hazel Grove History Group are hoping to start up again at the end of September and some other similar paying groups like Slimming World will be using the Centre but not parish groups, - don't ask me why because I don't know. Hopefully things will change soon and we will be able to use it for the Alpha course and the SPY group and our other activities.

CATHOLIC PRESS

For some time now, well before 'lockdown' the take up on the Catholic papers such as the Universe and other magazines has been low or non-existent so I have decided to stop stocking any of them. If you want a copy of any of the catholic papers then you can take out a subscription to them or ask your local newsagent to provide a copy. For the time being we shall continue to stock 'Bible Alive' but even this is now an endangered species

ST. PETER'S HELPERS—CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

A massive '**thank you**' to all those who have been practical and telephone helpers over the covid crisis so far. Since the shielding advice changed on 1st Aug, most people have been getting out and about and arranging for their own shopping and errands again. Many of our volunteers are back at work or have school and work commitments from September, so we felt this is a good time to change our way of working.

We hope to move to offering a *short term, essential shopping / errands service* for those who find themselves suddenly unable to get to the shops, due to sudden illness or the need to isolate. If you are still getting shopping from us, then we will help you to find permanent ways of doing this.

NOBODY WILL BE LEFT WITHOUT HELP IF THEY NEED IT!

PLEASE DO LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED ONGOING HELP AND WE WILL HELP YOU!

You can email us stpetershelpers@gmail.com or phone the church and leave a message.

The telephone support system has been amazing and will continue for now, but we have ideas for how we can change and improve this side of the Helpers.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE, PLEASE JOIN OUR ZOOM MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPT AT 7.30PM. You can email us to receive the link or, preferably, **sign up here** <https://forms.gle/Y72BjyGLk9BzF995A> (you can also join by phone)

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Tuesday 15th September at 2.00 pm, if you have not joined us before and would like to then please get in touch with Rachel and she will send you the link, or you can connect with us by phone. If you would like to talk to us please do not hesitate to contact us.

Helen 07854928072 helenlyons1957@hotmail.co.uk

Rachel 07724749217 rachelmckay@1cloud.com

FOOTSTEPS IS HAPPENING!

We're delighted to offer the next Footsteps event on **Thursday 24 September at 7.45pm** when **Mary Hardiman** will be opening the scriptures for us and talking about a 'God-shaped hole'. The event will take place **in church**, rather than the parish centre and places will be limited, of course. If you would like to attend, please send an Email asap to footsteps2020@mail.com stating how many from your 'household'. The event will be streamed live on www.stpeterscatholic.church/webcam so you can watch it via the internet. It will also be recorded and available the next day just further down that same page under Recordings. So there are plenty opportunities to follow our Footsteps. You can send your comments or reactions to Mary's talk to our Email address during the talk or afterwards. We'd love to hear from you.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AND WANTS TO LISTEN TO MASS -HERE ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS

To join our Mass via telephone please follow the below steps.

Call: **0131 460 1196**

An automated voice will say: "Welcome to Zoom. Enter your meeting ID followed by hash"

Without hanging up, dial the following number into your keypad: **848 5356 7011**

Then dial this key - #

The automated voice will ask for a Participant ID but you can just hold the line, after a few seconds you will be connected.

Your telephone will be muted, so while you can hear Mass, nobody else will be able to hear what you say.

Suggested time for ringing in is 5 minutes before Mass starts.

Please Note - Call charges may apply depending on the plan you have with your provider

Offertory Gifts Thank you for your generous donations last week which amounted to £634.80 plus a donation of £100 plus around £900 per week by Standing Orders and on line giving at the moment... Thank you to those who are putting their Offertory envelopes through the door and who have done the on line giving.. THE NEW SET OF OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR IN APRIL ARE STILL AVAILABLE IN THE PORCH. THEY ARE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AND THEY WILL STILL BE THERE WHEN WE GET BACK TO 'NORMAL'!

DURING THE PRESENT EMERGENCY WE STILL HAVE BILLS TO PAY!! Please continue to put your offerings in an envelope and save them until we are 'back to normal' or you can post them through the presbytery door. If you wish you can send an offering by cheque payable to St Peters Hazel Grove or do a direct transfer to:

St Peters Hazel Grove at Lloyds Bank 30 15 52 54607668 or set up a Standing Order or for St Philip's go to **St Philips Offerton 30 15 52 54674660**

If your bank asks for the name of the account it is **Shrewsbury Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees** with the above account numbers

See also the note on page 2 about on line giving via a new website

GIFT AID DONORS— will any donors who no longer pay Income Tax please notify the Parish office to ensure the accuracy of this years claim. Date of last payment will assist. Anyone who wishes to join the scheme please contact Hughie 07977414884 or email k13rey@sky.com

MASS INTENTIONS

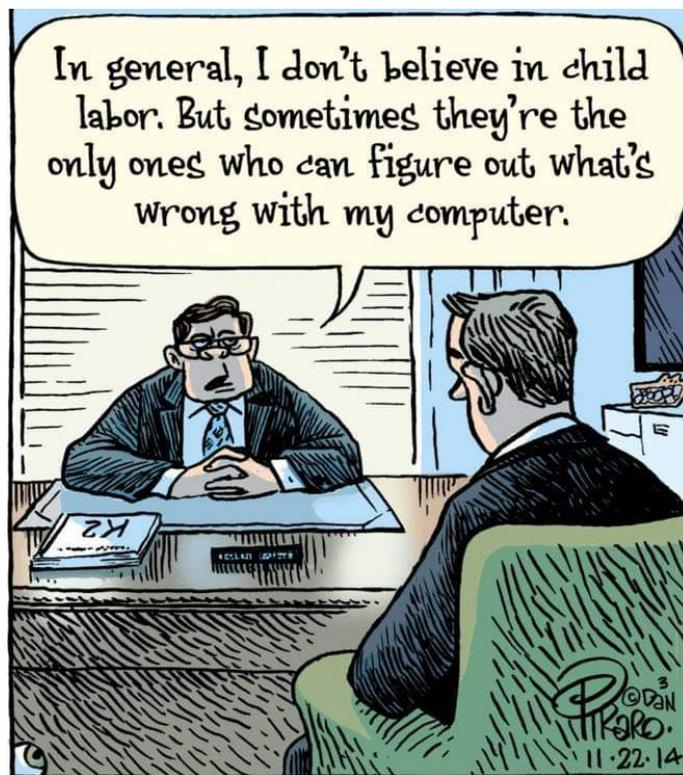
If you are making an offering for a Mass intention please make the cheque payable to **St Peter's Hazel Grove Stipend Account.**

Church Cleaning Team 2 is on duty this week.

From Fr Peter

"Not the best week for weather but it usually improves when the schools reopen!!" were my opening words last week and how true it was!. I also saw my first advert from a restaurant to 'Book early for Christmas and New Year's Eve.' It must be time for a holiday. Fr Tony Myers and Canon John Rafferty will be appearing here over the next three weekends—if its still me then something will have gone horribly wrong. I am grateful to Fr Tony and Canon John for their coming along here to help out and I know you will make them feel very welcome.

Below you will see our new parish logo which a group have been working on recently. It will be appearing on our letterheads and various forms that we use and the hope is that it will remind us of what we are about at our core values



Stay well,

stay alert,

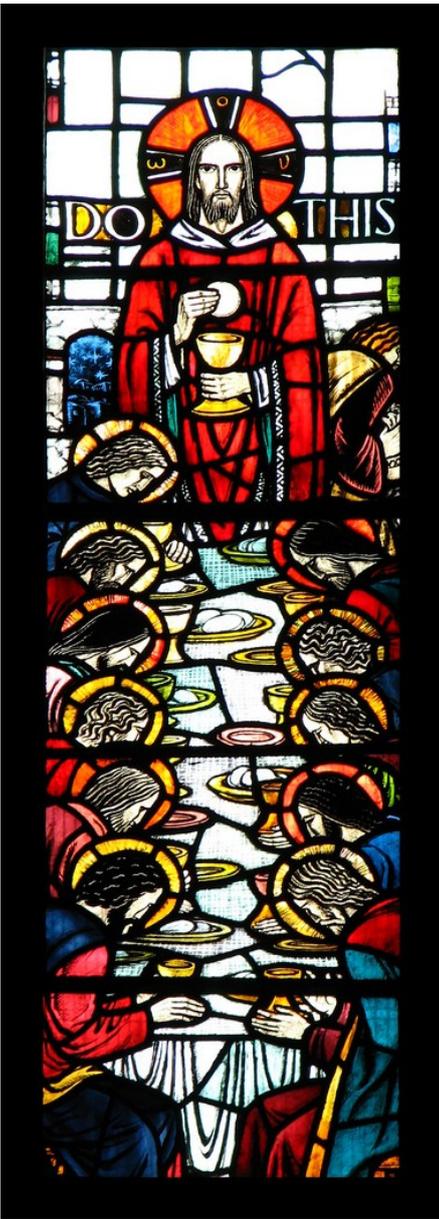
keep safe,

wash your hands

And don't forget your mask!

Fr Peter

A RETURN TO THE SACRAMENTS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION



For many the pandemic, Covid 19, has put a strain on our Church going, the practice of our faith, our reception of the Sacraments and the way we live our lives. Almost from the outset, gathering in buildings was forbidden and so, for practicing church goers, the pandemic changed our behaviour, not because we wanted it changed but because it was a necessity to keep as many as possible free of the disease. No longer could we go to our church, be present at Mass, receive Jesus in Holy Communion or adore Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Many new ideas and arrangements were planned and organised to give us the opportunity to worship, reflect, pray and keep God in mind. The use of the Internet, the radio and social media made it possible for any who wished, to keep in touch with their own local church or churches throughout the world. We've mixed and matched; we've chosen and rejected; we've approved and criticised and we've become used to doing our own thing. We've worshipped and prayed in our own way assisted by these virtual services and reflections. We've attended Masses from many parts of the world or from our own parish church. We've even made virtual pilgrimages and days of Recollection or Retreats. We've had many people and communities offering ways of keeping in touch with a life of prayer and with our God. Many feel happy with this new state of affairs and seem to feel that if this was good enough for the time of 'lockdown' it can be continued into the future.

Whilst it is true that the internet has been a blessing and has helped many to pray, to worship and to feel linked to God many seem to have forgotten that we have been deprived of one of the most precious things left by Christ, the Sacraments. It is true that we can make an act of Spiritual Communion and we can make acts of contrition but neither of these can replace the Sacraments of Holy Communion or of Reconciliation.

Some will ask why. Some will reject my thoughts and tell me that I'm not keeping up with the times.

Some will say that they felt spiritually fulfilled with the internet input and see no reason to change. Some will feel that what was good enough for the 'lockdown' is good enough for the future and some others will see no reason to spend time going to a church building when they can simply open a computer. This is inevitable but sad for the Sacramental life of the church is the way to God, left to us by Jesus and the way in which we meet him personally, find his mercy, receive him and meet and share all this with our parish family.

To receive Jesus in Holy Communion, during Holy Mass, is the ultimate union with God. Jesus wanted us to know him, know him intimately and how could we be more intimate than at the time of receiving Jesus. When we receive him we hold him just as Mary held and nursed him and as Joseph cuddled him. How could we be closer to God than that and how can we think that anything could be better than that? Spiritual Communion is wonderful and is an accepted way of keeping ourselves in God's presence during the day. It is an old established devotion but it is not a Sacrament and we need the Sacraments.

The reception of Holy Communion, after months of deprivation, has been seen for many as the greatest gift they could ever receive. Once more Jesus has come into their very being, their body and their soul, in a tangible way; a way ordained by Jesus himself for he said, at the Last Supper, “Do this in memory of me.” Once more they have been able to entertain Jesus as a guest. Once more they have joined him at the Last Supper and been with him on Calvary. Once more they have shared with the disciples the supper at Emmaus and rejoiced at once more being in his presence. And, not only that but they have shared this experience with others who have been deprived and who make up the church community which was envisaged by Jesus himself when he said, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst.”

The other Sacrament we have been deprived of is the precious Sacrament of Reconciliation. Just because we couldn't visit the church does not mean that we have not offended God. It does not mean that we are suddenly free of all guilt. It does not mean that we have not rejected God in small or in more serious ways. It does not mean that the commandments and our Christian obligation to be like Christ have been suspended.

In fact, if we are totally honest, most of us will find plenty to regret and for which to feel remorse.

Again it is true that we can pray at any time for forgiveness; ask God to forgive us and try to amend our ways but there is nothing more beautiful than, having spoken of our waywardness to Christ, in the person of a priest, we hear the words of absolution spoken in the name of Jesus himself; spoken for Jesus himself.

The certainty of God's forgiveness is so beautiful and so consoling that nothing can compare.



The return to the normal practice of our faith, within the Church community is something we must seek and strive for within the limits set by those in authority. We must cling to our need for the Sacraments and the Mass as well as the need for our Christian community.

We can and should pray anywhere and at any time but the Real Presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist and his forgiving Mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation must be at the centre of our spiritual lives.

Lord, we have missed your Sacramental presence in our lives. We know that you are with us always but your gift of the Sacraments was a special one intended to give us the opportunity to be with you just as were those who walked with you in Galilee. The Eucharist joins us with you at the Last Supper and the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation puts us as close to you as the ones whose sins you forgave during your time on earth.

Grant us the gift of true faith in these blessings which you left for us in the hands of the Apostles and their successors. May we have the joy and the opportunity to receive these gifts frequently now that they are once more available. Grant us the gift of needing you Sacramentally and in the community, which makes the parish family.

SCIENCE SAYS THAT WE NEED AT LEAST 4 BASIC ELEMENTS TO SURVIVE.

1. Water
2. Air
3. Food
4. Light

AND LOOK WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS US ABOUT JESUS.

1. I am the Living Water
2. I am the Breath of Life
3. I am the Bread of Life
4. I am the Light of the World

SCIENCE WAS RIGHT, WE NEED JESUS TO LIVE.

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