

That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer

# St Peter's and St Philip's Newsletter

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www.stpeterscatholic.church www.churchservices.tv/stockport

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Fr. Peter Sharrocks petersharrocks@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk



Mother of God  
Local  
Missionary  
Area  
in Stockport

## YOU ARE ALL WELCOME TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITIES

If you wish to attend Mass at St Peters on Saturday or Sunday then you should reserve a place by e mailing admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk.

If you wish to attend Mass at St Philip's on Saturday evening the you should e mail david.smith72220@ntlworld.com



### THE WORD OF GOD

#### FIRST READING:

2 Samuel 7: 1-5.8-12.14.16:

#### PSALM 88

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

#### SECOND READING:

Romans 16: 25-27

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia Alleluia

I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL READING:

Luke 1 26-38

#### 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  
**And on Christmas Eve afternoon from 2 00 p.m. until 4 00 p.m.**

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year B

#### Divine Office Psalter Week IV

ALL SERVICES FROM ST PETERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE LIVE STREAM

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 19th December 2020

11.00 –11.45 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12 Noon Mary Morrell RIP

6.00 pm Mass at St. Philips Offerton

6.00pm Polish Mass

Readings: Judges 13: 2-7.24-25; Psalm 70; Luke 1:5-25

#### Sunday 20th December - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10.00 am People of the Parish

3.00 pm Carol Service

6.00 pm Stanley MacGlashan

Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5.8-12.14.16; Psalm 88, Romans 16: 25-27. Luke 1: 26-38

#### DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

#### Monday 21st December 2020

11 00 a.m. Requiem Mass for Eileen Jones (invitation only) E mail the office if you wish to attend

Readings: Song of Song 2: 8-14, Psalm 32;

#### Tuesday 22nd December 2020

12 Noon Hanna Casey

Readings: 1 Samuel 1: 24-28; Psalm 1 Samuel 2; Luke 1: 46-56

#### Wednesday 23rd December 2020

12 noon Beech and Mulachy Families

1 00 p.m. Funeral Service at St Philip's for Anna Valek

Readings: Malachi 3: 1-4,23-24; Luke 1: 57-66

#### Thursday 24th December 2020 - CHRISTMAS EVE

12 Noon Priest's Intentions

Readings Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 88 Acts 13: 16-17. 22-25.

Matthew 1: 1-25

Church will be open this afternoon to visit the Crib and Fr Peter will be available for Confessions

#### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

7.30—8.00 pm Carols

8.00 pm Rene and Paulette Stoerr RIP

Readings: Isaiah 9: 1-7; Psalm 95; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2: 1-14

#### Friday 25th December 2020

8.30 am Rose O'Connell

Readings: Isaiah 62: 11-12; Psalm 96; Titus 3: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-20

10.00 am People of the Parish

Readings: Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 97; Hebrews 1: 1-6; John 1: 1-18

#### Saturday 26th December 2020—ST STEPHEN. M

12 Noon Peter Carraher and John Korrane

Readings: Acts 6: 8-10.7:54-59,Psalm 30; Matthew 10: 17-22

#### Sunday 27th December - THE HOLY FAMILY

10.00 am Joan Mulcahy RIP

6.00 pm People of the Parish

Readings: Genesis 15: 1-6 21: 1-3; Psalm 104; Hebrews 11.8. 11-12.17-19,

Luke 2: 22-40.

ADMISSION FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES IS STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY OBTAINABLE FROM www.tickettailor.com/events/stpetershazelgrove

There will be no evening Rosary from after Wednesday until the following Tuesday



**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:** Celia Ratcliffe, Patricia Taylor, Eileen Jones and Anna Valek whose Funeral Service will be on Wednesday December 23rd at 1 00 p.m. at St Philip's. Eileens Requiem will be here at St. Peter's on Monday December 21st at 11 00 a.m. If anyone would like to attend then please e mail the office as numbers are limited. Patricia Taylors funeral will be at the Crematorium on Decmber 30th at 1 30 p.m.

**Anniversaries that occur around this time:** Colin Hyde, Katherine Greene, Alan Schofield, Elizabeth Magliocco, Mary Tallis, Sally Samways. Vera Rhodes, Brendan Holbery, John Toye, James Foley, Agnes Cryer, Charles Hallsworth. The Stephenson Family and all victims of the Lockerbie Disaster

**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.

*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.*

#### 4th Sunday in Advent (Year B)

##### Luke 1:26-38

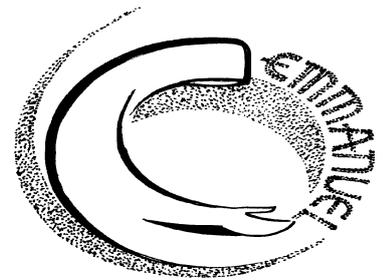
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Imagine the scene...God choosing, taking the initiative...Mary's appearance, her reaction to the angel, her response...Notice your response as you listen, your thoughts and feelings...
3. In prayer, take time to respond to God coming among us in the body of Christ.

##### For Conversation:

The risk of saying Yes to God



#### THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

This time last year Pope Francis issued a letter about the importance of the crib. The last paragraph reads

Dear brothers and sisters, the Christmas crèche is part of the precious yet demanding process of passing on the faith. Beginning in childhood, and at every stage of our lives, it teaches us to contemplate Jesus, to experience God's love for us, to feel and believe that God is with us and that we are with him, his children, brothers and sisters all, thanks to that Child who is the Son of God and the Son of the Virgin Mary. And to realize that in that knowledge we find true happiness. Like Saint Francis, may we open our hearts to this simple grace, so that from our wonderment a humble prayer may arise: a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who wished to share with us his all, and thus never to leave us alone.

The full text of the comparatively short letter is on the Vatican website

[.https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2019/12/01/0953/01938.html#en](https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2019/12/01/0953/01938.html#en)

**BOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES AND CAROL SERVICE AT ST PETERS**  
*There are a few spaces left for this afternoon's Carol Service and for 8.30 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day. The other Masses are now full.*  
*Please do not come if you have not got a ticket.*  
*All Masses will be streamed live at the usual place*  
**www.churchservices.tv/stockport**

**This can also be accessed via the Parish Website.**

**BEREAVEMENT GROUP** Our next Zoom meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd December 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 know more about any of the Zoom meetings please get in touch.

Helen 07854928072 helenlyons1957@hotmail.co.uk

Rachel 07724749217 rachelemckay@icloud.com.

**ST. PETERS'S PARISH BOOK CLUB** We all enjoyed *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett - a book which spans five decades and explores the idea of losing a mother and gaining an 'evil stepmother.' For December, we have decided to read *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, which is a story about Agnes, William Shakespeare's wife and the loss of their son Hamnet. The novel is described as 'a luminous portrait of a marriage which has at its heart the loss of a beloved child.' We would also like to suggest *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, which is about a girl who is blind living in France during the Second World War. *The Familiars* by Stacey Halls is also highly recommended with its focus on the real-life Pendle Hill Witch Trials. We will meet again just before Christmas, on **Tuesday 22nd December at 7.30pm** via Zoom - if you would like to be invited to join the meeting please contact Alison McGarr on 07792 107152 or email [ajm-cgarr68@outlook.com](mailto:ajm-cgarr68@outlook.com)

#### ST PETER'S HELPERS

St Peter's Helpers are still here to make friendly phone calls to people who might appreciate this. Do you know someone who would benefit from this? We are also providing an 'emergency essential shopping / errands service', for those people who are suddenly unable to get to the shops, due to sudden illness or the need to self isolate. Get in touch with us on [stpetershelpers@gmail.com](mailto:stpetershelpers@gmail.com) or if you do not have email, please call the church office on 0161 483 3476.

#### SHINE MAGAZINE DELIVERY

If you received a copy of Shine at Easter via St Peter's Helpers, a copy of the Christmas edition of Shine will be delivered to you automatically in the week before Christmas. If you didn't get one last time and you're not getting out to church at present and would like to have a copy of Shine delivered, please register or ask someone to register for you at

<https://forms.gle/yDydtobv2s2gBRnb7>

The magazine will be distributed at Mass at Christmas and next weekend.

#### FIRST FORGIVENESS AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Over the past couple of weeks a number of our young people have received the Sacrament of Forgiveness for the first time. They should have received it much earlier but now we have begun to catch up. This weekend, on Saturday, Amelia Shanahan-Hardy and Ethan Knowles will receive Holy Communion for the first time and on Wednesday at the midday Mass Zach Cabrejas will be receiving. Congratulations to them and we keep them and their families in our prayers

#### VACANCY FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADTEACHER

St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Wellington Road, Nantwich, CW5 7DA

01270 685353

[www.stannes.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.stannes.cheshire.sch.uk)

Headteacher

L12 – L18 (Salary to be agreed on appointment)

Group 2

Permanent

Start date: September 2021

NOR: 210

**OFFERTORY GIFTS** Thank you for your generous donations last week which amounted to £398 with other donations of £410 plus around £1000 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.. **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

**Church Cleaning:** Team 4 are back on duty this week

**CAFOD** £30.00. Thank you. **DETAILS OF THE CAFOD FUN RUN** can be found at [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk). This year people are being asked to take to the streets in their own locality on December 27th to walk, run or toddle 5 kms, or whatever distance you wish

### **FOUNDATION GOVERNORS REQUIRED IN OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

Our Catholic schools are a vital part of our parish communities, and by law diocesan schools have governing bodies made up of various categories of governor - the majority of which are Foundation Governors. Foundation Governors are practising Catholics who are appointed by the Bishop to help support him in ensuring the 'Catholicity' of a school amid all the other objectives that are required by Law. If you feel able to offer your services please contact Sue Blackwell, Governance Support Officer for the Diocese, via [sue.blackwell@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:sue.blackwell@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) or telephone 0151 652 9855. The required forms can also be downloaded from the diocesan website [www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org). Click on main Education heading and click on Foundation Governors from the dropdowns which will appear on the left hand side. If you do have any problems please contact Sue using the contact details above.

### **CARITAS- SHREWSBURY**

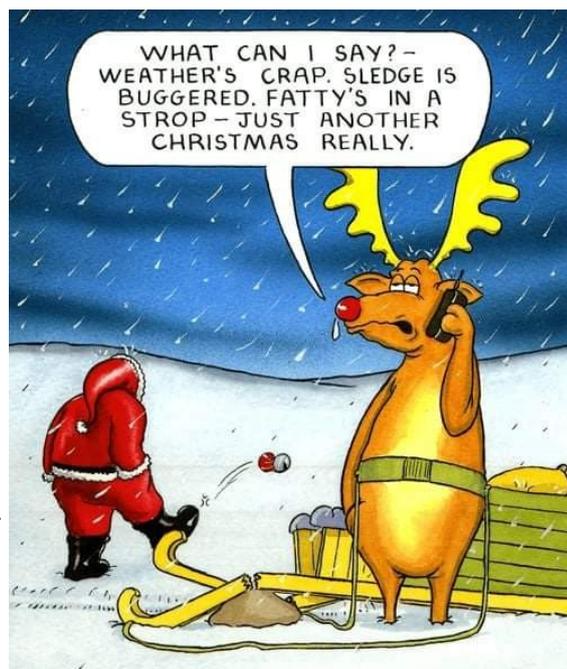
"Caritas urgently require ESOL (English for speakers of other languages )volunteers for our Tuesdays' session to teach refugees and asylum seekers." Volunteers help refugees and Asylum seekers to improve their English. Experience in teaching will be desirable. However, we will provide training as it's only a conversational class. At the moment the sessions are done on Zoom but in 'normal' times they will be at St Aidan's Centre in Northern Moor, Wythenshawe

THANK YOU Carmel and Peter Dwerryhouse would like to thank all who have supported them this past year, in so many ways, and wish you all a most blessed Christmas.

### **FROM FR PETER**

Well the feast is nearly upon us and it will be a welcome moment when we can celebrate the birth of the Saviour albeit in the circumstances in which we find ourselves. You will see from the notes inside that apart from the 8 30 Mass on Christmas Day our other Christmas Masses are all booked up. **PLEASE DO NOT COME IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A TICKET.** It was disappointing but not unexpected that Stockport was not moved down to Tier 2 the other day. We are reminded that there is still a bit of a struggle ahead before we can get back to any sense of normality. Our church will be open on Christmas Eve afternoon if anyone wishes to come and visit the Crib which will be blessed at the midday Mass. This is especially for those who have not been able to get a ticket for one of the Christmas Masses. I shall also be around if anyone wants to celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness. I hope you like the decorations in church and thanks to all the knitters and the those who put the decorations up. We also have a couple of banners on the outside of church which are lit up at night. It all helps to give a festive air to the place especially with the drab weather we have been having over the past few weeks.

Thank you to those who have already sent cards and gifts for Christmas and I hope that you all get some special time with family and friends next weekend whilst observing the various restrictions that remain in place because of the Pandemic because, as Boris says, we have to be jolly careful!! Let us also keep in mind those who have to work over Christmas especially the NHS staff, Police and Emergency workers. I hope you like this weeks cartoon, excuse the language but I thought it was too good to miss! Keep the cartoons coming! Happy Christmas.



*Fr Peter*

WEEK THREE. "MY SOUL GLORIFIES THE LORD

ADORATION

REFLECTION: Mary, forgetful of self and, aware that Elizabeth needs help, sets off to visit her cousin. This journey is dangerous. She leaves her parents and Joseph, telling them nothing about herself or what has happened.

God has spoken; she has had a message; she will do what needs to be done and she leaves God to sort out the time of revelation for all those others who will be concerned and involved.

On arrival she is greeted by her older cousin in a most effusive manner.

'How is it that the

Mother of my Lord should come to me?'

Look at Mary. Does she look embarrassed, over-whelmed? Does she contradict or brush off the praise?

No, she accepts it for what it is, a prayer of adoration and praise of God and she in turn begins to quote a prayer from the Scriptures. She prays words similar to those used by Hannah by Miriam and by Deborah, in the old Testament. When we read their prayers of praise, we can see the source and origin of the Magnificat.

HANNAH'S PRAYER

"My heart rejoices in the LORD;  
in the LORD my horn is lifted high.  
My mouth boasts over my enemies,  
for I delight in your deliverance.

"There is no one holy like the LORD;  
there is no one besides you;  
there is no Rock like our God.

"Do not keep talking so proudly  
or let your mouth speak such arrogance,  
for the LORD is a God who knows,  
and by him deeds are weighed.

"The bows of the warriors are broken,  
but those who stumbled are armed with strength.  
Those who were full hire themselves out for food,  
but those who were hungry are hungry no more.  
She who was barren has borne seven children,  
but she who has had many sons, pines away.

"The LORD brings death and makes alive;  
he brings down to the grave and raises up.

The LORD sends poverty and wealth;  
he humbles and he exalts.

He raises the poor from the dust  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;  
he seats them with princes  
and has them inherit a throne of honour.

“For the foundations of the earth are the LORD’s;  
on them he has set the world.  
He will guard the feet of his faithful servants,  
but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.  
“It is not by strength that one prevails;  
those who oppose the LORD will be broken.  
The Most High will thunder from heaven;  
the LORD will judge the ends of the earth.  
“He will give strength to his king  
and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

Mary, in her moment of greeting and subsequent praise of God turned to these well-known  
Canticles.

And that’s a lesson for us. When we need help with words, the psalms and the canticles of  
Scripture are a good source of inspiration.  
But note, Elizabeth adores God in Mary’s womb. Mary adores God for his goodness to her.  
Their prayers are adoration.

As communion in prayer is deepened and our relationship with God made closer it leads to a  
state which needs, inspires and even elicits adoration, praise, thanksgiving. It brings a total un-  
ion with God which results in a state of glorification of God. Thoughts of our self, of our  
needs and wants disappear. Worship pre-dominates and suffuses our heart. God is God and we  
adore and love Him. We have gone from  
ENQUIRY TO SUBMISSION TO ADORATION.

EXERCISE: SET ASIDE ABOUT HALF AN HOUR.  
LIGHT A CANDLE.

ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE WITH YOU IN YOUR TIME OF REFLECTION.  
READ AND PONDER THE WORDS OF THESE HOLY WOMEN AND PRAISE GOD. MAKE  
THESE WORDS APPLICABLE TO YOUR OWN LIFE, YOUR OWN SITUATION. IN OTHER  
WORDS, MAKE THEM PERSONAL.