

That the Lord gives us the grace
to live in full fellowship with
our brothers and sisters of
other religions, praying for one
another, open to all

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

If you wish to attend Mass at St Peters on Saturday or Sunday then you should re-
serve 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:

ECCLESIASTICUS 24: 1-2.8-12:

PSALM 147:

The word was made
flesh ,and lived among us.

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 1: 3-6.15-18

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia Alleluia!

Glory be to you, O
Christ, proclaimed to the
pagans; Glory be to you, O
Christ, believed in by the
world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING:

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 in the
sacristy during Exposi-
tion of the Blessed Sac-
rament on Saturdays and
subject to social distanc-
ing

CHRISTMASTIDE Year B

Divine Office Psalter Week 11

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

(It can't be any worse can it?)

Saturday 2nd January 2021—Ss Basil the Great B, D & Gregory Nazianzen, B,D

11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12 Noon Peter Carrahar RIP

6.00 pm Mass at St. Phillips

6.00 pm Polish Mass

Readings: 1 John 2:22—28; Psalm 97, John 1:19-28

Sunday 3rd January 2021 - SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

10.00 am Rita and Kevin Saunders 50th Wedding Anv.

6.00 pm People of the Parish

Readings: Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2. 8-12; Psalm 147; Ephesians 1: 3-6 15-18; John 1: 1-18

Monday 4th January 2021 – MONDAY OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

12 Noon The Nield Family Intention

Readings: 1 John 3: 7-10; Psalm 97; John 1: 35-42

Tuesday 5th January 2021– TUESDAY OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

12 Noon Alice and Philip Sainter RIP

7.00 pm Vigil Mass for the Epiphany of the Lord

Readings: 1 John 3: 11-21; Psalm 99; Mark 1: 43-51

Wednesday 6th January 2021– THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9.15 am Mass at St. Phillips

10.30 am Funeral Service at Stockport Crematorium for Graham Hancock (invitation only)

12 Noon Daniel Begley RIP Birthday Memories

Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalm 71; Ephesians 3: 2-3.5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12

Thursday 7th January 2021– THURSDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

12 Noon Audrey Judge RIP - Birthday Memories

Readings: 1 John 4: 19-5:4; Psalm 71; Luke 4: 14-22

Friday 8th January 2021 - FRIDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

12 Noon Requiem Mass for Celia Ratcliffe (invitation only)

Readings: 1 John 5: 5-13; Psalm 147; Luke 5: 12-16

Saturday 9th January 2021 SATURDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12 Noon Hampson Thanksgiving

6.00 pm Mass at St. Phillips

6.00 pm Polish Mass

Sunday 10th January - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10.00 am People of the Parish

6.00 pm Colleen Whittam RIP

Readings: Isaiah 42: 1-4,6-7; Psalm 28; Acts 10: 34-38; Mark 1: 7-11

Please e-mail the office if
you wish to attend Mass
on the **EPIPHANY**



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: Maureen McComville Celia Ratcliffe, whose funeral Masss will be celebrated here on Friday January 8th at noon, and Graham Hancock whose funeral will be at Stockport Crematorium on January 6th at 10 30.

Anniversaries that occur around this time: Charlotte Bell, Lois Parker, Robert Gordon, John Killeen, Felicity Kane, Mary Hennigen, Edna Kerwin, Ian Gresty, Joseph Kan Hai, Joseph Dixon, Olive Newcombe, Bernard Collins, Kieran O'Toole, Otton Senn, Anna Senn, Mike Bews, Margaret Hestor, Alwyn Davies, Jimmy Flynn, Theophane Jones, Jack Edwards, Colin Oldham, Rosemary Leonard, Mark Munroe, John B rassington, Dennis Foy.

Prayer Intentions - We have a team of 'prayer warriors' who will pray for your intentions at this time, send

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.

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself..

The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me'.

Indeed, from his fulness we have, all of us, received - yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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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 before the crib to contemplate the Christmas mystery, the coming of the Light into darkness... God's son born to make known the unseen God...

For Conversation:

The wonder and joy of Christmas - the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-us



OFFERTORY GIFTS Thank you for your generous donations last week which amounted to £782.31 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

THE COMING OF THE KINGS

Is a radio play performed by some parishioners about the events around the Nativity. Its posted on YouTube and you can find the link from the parish website under Fr Peter's opening message or if you have facebook the link is also on St. Peters Hazel Grove facebook page. Have a listen and see if you can identify who are the players.

For anyone not able to come to church at this time we have put some photographs of the Christmas tree bunting decorating the church on the parish website. The knitting project has reminded me of the parable of the loaves and fishes: about 240 trees decorate the church another 85 (ish) went out in Christmas bags and we still had some trees that were not used! I have packed these safely away in the hopes that we will be back to normal next year and we will be able to sell them at the Christmas fair. I

ST. PETERS BOOK CLUB

Over the Christmas period we would like to recommend:

Year of Wonders - Geraldine Brooks

When an infected cloth carries the plague from London to an isolated village, Eyam, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine. Through Anna's eyes we follow the story of 1666, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition.

Paris Echo - Sebastien Faulks

American postdoctoral researcher Hannah listens to the extraordinary witness of women who lived in Paris under the German Occupation - it has been described as *ge to Paris*.

We will meet via Zoom at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 26th January - if you would like to join us please email ajm-

FROM FR PETER

After the Christmas celebrations it has been a quieter week complete with snow. Although we have gone into Tier 4 at least we can still gather for Mass in church. Let us hope and pray that this will continue. We managed some First Communions this past week and they were nice quiet celebrations helping the children to concentrate on what they were really about. There was also a good turnout for Mass on New Year's Day and according to our reports from Church Services some 485 viewers tuned in to watch our Christmas services. Given that some of the hits will have been families that is a good number. Over the whole of the year we had a total of 295, 877 'hits' viewing a total of 128,318 hours from 97 countries. It has been a worthwhile investment even without the current pandemic. I hope that the New Year will bring better news re the pandemic and that people will feel more confident in going out once they have had the vaccination which is slowly being rolled out. This will take some time but I know that our NHS workers are doing it as quickly and efficiently as they are able. We can help by observing the restrictions and also looking out for the vulnerable. Don't forget to watch out for the Wise Men who should be on the move this weekend on their journey. We can join them on Tuesday night or Wednesday lunchtime here at ST Peters or Wednesday morning in St Philip's. Please e mail into the office if you wish to attend. In the meantime take care and be 'jolly careful.'

Fr Peter



We hear the last words spoken by Mary and they are well worth remembering and not only in this context.

WEEK SIX "DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU."
RELATIONSHIP OF LOVERS

The love between Mary and Jesus was absolute, trusting and confident and this is what we should be striving for. As we grow in our personal relationship with God, with Jesus in prayer, we shall be prepared and willing to do whatever He suggests, wants, asks, desires.

Mary knew this. She passed on this trust to the servants. When we are loved and when we love totally, we become free. We are open to whatever our lover desires and longs for. We are absolutely in their hands. Our Lover, God, can ask what he wants and we are open to his suggestions and are willing to fulfil them, in love, in trust, in union with him.

This is the acceptance, the realization and the establishment of our relationship with God. This is the moment of total freedom, as we submit in love and our being becomes fully one with God.

This is the moment of deepest intimacy, the climax hoped for, the summit of our loving relationship.

This is the marriage between lovers, one Divine and one simple human being.

This is the moment of resting, of being with and in oneness with the Lover. Familiarity and confidence pervade the prayer. We now have total union with the One we love. We are one with the God who loves us. We become one with the One who loves us. This is the fulfilment of our searching. This is why God wants us to search for him in prayer.

Union is the reward. Union now. Union for all eternity.
To climb these six steps,

ENQUIRY, SUBMISSION ADORATION
ACCEPTANCE CONFIDENCE RELATIONSHIP

towards adulthood in prayer, using Mary's words, should be our goal, our ambition and our hope for, by climbing them, we shall find God.

NOT OUR IDEA OF GOD, BUT GOD HIMSELF.

Most of this is done in silence, alone without words, without repetition, without books, without long words, without constant begging or petitioning.

WE FIND GOD

IN SILENCE, IN SOLITUDE, IN PERSONAL COMMUNION.

AND GOD FINDS US

IN SILENCE, IN SOLITUDE, IN PERSONAL COMMUNION.

It's a two-way thing but God is in the driving seat and we are the learners.

EXERCISE: SET ASIDE HALF AN HOUR.

LIGHT A CANDLE.

ASK FOR THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Listen to these last words spoken by Mary: "Do whatever he tells you."

And then ask the question, "Do I listen?"

How do I know what God wants of me?

How can I know what God's will is for me?

Say these words: "Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening," and do just that!

And, just as an after-thought,

The word SILENT is an anagram of LISTEN.

In silent prayer let us listen to God.