

# St Peter's and St Philip's Newsletter

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY

Universal –Violence against Women

For women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded



16, Green Lane, Hazel Grove, SK7 4EA Phone 0161 483 3476 Fax 419 9592  
www.stpeterscatholic.church www.churchservices.tv/stockport  
Email admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk  
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 then you should e mail david.smith7220@ntlworld.com

### ORDINARY TIME WEEK 5 Year B Divine Office Psalter Week 1

ALL MASSES 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. The Rosary is not open for people to attend but just broadcast over the internet.

### THE WORD OF GOD

**FIRST READING:**  
Job 7:1-4,6-7

**PSALM 146**  
Praise the Lord  
Who heals the broken -  
hearted

**SECOND READING:**  
1 Corinthians 9:16-19,  
22-23

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**  
Alleluia Alleluia!  
He took our sicknesses  
away, and carried  
our diseases for us

**GOSPEL READING:**  
Mark 1:29-39

**ROSARY**  
**Feast of Our Lady  
Of Lourdes**  
Please join us on line  
for the rosary on  
Thursday at 7 00 p.m.  
for the feast of  
Our Lady of Lourdes

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation*  
will be celebrated in the sacristy during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturdays and subject to social distancing

**Saturday 6th February 2021 St Paul Mikki & Companions**  
*Readings; Hebrews 13:15-17,20-21; Psalm 22; Mark 6: 30-34*

**11.00 am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
**12 Noon** Celia Ratcliffe  
**6.00 pm** Mass at St. Phillips  
**6.00 pm** Polish Mass

### Sunday 31st February- FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

**10.00 am** People of the Parish  
**6.00 pm** Martha Armstrong  
*Readings: Job 7:1-4,6-7; Psalm 146; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23; Mark 1:29-39*

### Monday 8th February 2021 St Josephine Bakhita (Pray for victims of Trafficking)

**12 Noon** Allen Family Intentiions)  
*Readings: Genesis 1:1-19; Psalm 103; Mark 6:53-56*

### Tuesday 9th February 2021

**12 Noon** John Binnie  
*Readings: Genesis 1;20-2:4; Psalm 8; Mark 7:1-13.*

### Wednesday 10th February 2021 St Scholastica

**12 Noon** Austin & Bridie Gibbons  
*Readings: Genesis 2:4-9,15-17;Psalm 103; Mark 7:14-23*

### Thursday 11th February 2021 Our Lady of Lourdes

**12 Noon** John & Wladyslawa Williams and Valerie Jones  
*Readings: Genesis 2:18-25 Psalm 127; Mark 7:24-30*

### Friday 12th February 2021 - St Agatha

**12 Noon** John Cain  
*Readings: Genesis 3:1-8; Psalm 31; Mark 7:31-37.*

### Saturday 13th February 2021

**11.00 am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
**12 Noon** Secular Clergy Fund  
**6.00 pm** Mass at St. Phillips  
**6.00 pm** Polish Mass  
*Readings Genesis 3:9-24; Psalm 89; Mark 8:1-10*

### Sunday 14th February SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

*Readings Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; Psalm 31; 1 Corinthians 10:31- 11:1; Mark 1:40-45*

**10 00 a.m.** Mary Donnelly  
**6 00 p.m.** People of the Parish

**Please remember to wear face masks and sanitise your hands coming in and going out of church and keep to social distancing including sitting away from the aisles as much as possible.**  
**Please follow the Arrow markings on the floor of the church DO NOT COME TO CHURCH IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS - SNEEZING, COUGHING, SORE THROAT ETC**

**LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 17th.**  
**THERE WILL BE MASSES AT ST PHILIP'S AT 9 15 a.m., AND AT ST PETERS AT 12 NOON AND 7 00 p.m.**



**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:** Robert Carter whose funeral is on Monday February 15th at Stockport Crematorium at 1 00 p.m.

**Anniversaries that occur around this time:** Fr Ivan Burke, Teresa Maguire, Rose Doherty, Peter Hanley, Christine Joyce, James Andrews, Nancie Sim, Cliff Hallworth, Adrian Foy, David Snellgrove and Rosemary McCartney

**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.

Thursday the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Pope Francis message for this day is in the on line version of the newsletter

~~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.~~

### 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) Mark 1:29–39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you'. He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came'. And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Imagine yourself alongside the followers of Jesus... notice the way those around you respond to all that is happening... notice your own response... What do you learn about Jesus?
3. Take time to be with Jesus in prayer, opening your heart to him...

### For Conversation:

The ways you balance prayer and activity in daily life.

*Diocese of Shrewsbury Education Service*

### CALLING ALL KNITTERS FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT!! BABY HATS FOR RWANDA

Calling all knitters! While we all have a little time on our hands I wonder whether you would like to knit some baby hats? Kate a pediatrician and Lauren a nurse went to work in a hospital in rural Rwanda for a year. The facilities were very limited and they were both shocked to find babies were dying from hypothermia. They had 4 incubators for the whole hospital and often 2 or 3 babies had to share an incubator just to keep warm. "**Hats4Rwanda**" was set up and an email to home had lots of people knitting. Boxes of hats were sent over and at the end of their year in Rwanda the hat project had reduced hypothermia and mortality significantly in the newborn. There is still a need for hats and Kate has asked if we could help. They need premature baby and newborn-baby hats. Any colour, simple beanie style or more adventurous if you want. There is a pattern on the Church website or contact Ann on 01625 874488 or ann.munnelly@gmail.com.

### ASH WEDNESDAY—FEBRUARY 17th

*Lent begins a week on Wednesday and there will be Masses at 9 15 at St Philips and 12 noon and 7 00 p.m. at St Peters. Please book in for one of these Masses as you do for the weekend Masses. This year Ashes will **NOT** be given because of the current Covid restrictions. I have ordered some small 'hand crosses' which you will be invited to take as a Lenten sign of repentance and sharing in the Lord's journey through Lent to Calvary.*

*During Lent there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each Friday evening from 6 00—8 00 p.m. and I will be available for the Sacrament of Forgiveness at that time as well as on Saturday mornings as usual.*

*We look forward to being able to celebrate Easter this year with some congregation present but I suspect there will still be restrictions on numbers able to attend our services. We will give more details about the Holy Week and Easter services nearer the time*

## HEY! HAS ANYBODY READ THIS YET? THE PARISH WEBSITE

Matthew Oates has asked to be relieved of his duties as the administrator of the parish website so we are now looking for a new administrator for our parish website. The website is a Wordpress site, and anyone able to volunteer should have experience in managing a Wordpress site, website hosting and, domain and DNS management. If you think you can help please speak to Fr Peter. We are grateful to Matthew for the time and effort he has put into developing our site and I am sure there is someone out there with the necessary expertise.

### ST PETER'S JUSTICE AND PEACE LENTEN PROJECT:

We recently met as a group via Zoom and discussed how St Peter's and St Philip's could support our three local primary schools. Having contacted the schools, we would like to request that if anyone has **an old laptop that they are not using**, could they please donate it to us so we can get it reconditioned and sent into the schools for children to use. Please deliver to Carmel O'Malley at 11, Aldwyn Crescent, Hazel Grove SK7 5HY - she will make space in her porch for a Covid safe drop off.

The schools also said there was a need for a **supply of dried foods and tinned goods** to be kept in school for when families struggle to access the local Foodbanks. We are hoping to be able to start this collection shortly - if you can please start collecting food without expiry dates, such as tinned food, cereal, beans/pulses, pasta, tea/coffee, long life milk, sugar etc. and we will let you know when and where you can safely leave it.

### Prayer request:

Our schools are a really big part of our church family and have remained open for teaching the most vulnerable students and the children of key workers throughout lockdown. Please hold our teachers, the support staff and the whole school community in your prayers:

**Thank You, Father, for technology allowing many students to continue their educations online. For virtual classrooms and technological resources. Thank You for every teacher and student adjusting to their new normal. Comfort teachers and support staff as they miss interacting with their students in person. Equip them with energy and inspiration to come alongside their students in this challenging time of crisis. Protect their health, Father, both physically and mentally. Encourage them to use their gifts and talents to find new ways to reach students.**

**OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS** If you have yet to recycle your religious Christmas cards, please save the front covers for a Christmas card project for next year (We like to plan ahead!) E mail [stpetershelpers@gmail.com](mailto:stpetershelpers@gmail.com) and we can collect them or you can drop them off at church.

### ST PETER'S BOOK CLUB:

Last month we read the *Year of Wonders* by **Geraldine Brooks** and we found it to be a lovely read - set in Eyam in 1666 when the plague reached the Derbyshire village, and the villagers decide to quarantine to stop the spread of the disease...

This month we would like to recommend:

***I am Pilgrim* by Terry Hayes** - In a cheap hotel room, Scott Murdock, a forensic expert, searches for any clues or evidence from a gruesome murder. As the story unfolds it becomes clear this is no ordinary crime thriller but much, much more.

***The Girl Who Reads on the Metro* by Christine Feret-Fleury** - set in Paris, this is a coming-of-age story about a young woman, Juliette, who dares to change her life.

***A Single Thread* by Tracy Chevalier** - Set in 1932 it tells the story of Violet Speedwell who has become a "surplus woman," one of a generation doomed to a life of spinsterhood after the Great War.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd March - we meet via Zoom. Please contact Alison McGarr on 07792 107152 or by email [ajmcgarr68@outlook.com](mailto:ajmcgarr68@outlook.com) if you would like to join us.

### SPY

Hello Everyone, if you are a young person who is in Year 7 or up we would love you to come and join St.Peter's Youth also known as 'SPY'!

**SPY** is a great way to come and meet with many other young people within the parish (& beyond!). We play games, watch videos, discuss faith, and have lots of fun.

If you would like to join us we are having a session on the 14th February at 7.30pm via **ZOOM** and we would love to see you there!

**SPY** is a great way to make new friends and is a kind and friendly group where we are all looking to deepen our faith.

Hope to see you on the 14th! - Tom (Contact me on 07523848101 if you're interested).

**MARRIAGE CARE:** If you are going through difficulties in your relationship, Stockport Marriage Care offers a confidential counselling service. You can contact us on 0800 389 3801. We are currently providing couple counselling via a secure web-cam (Zoom).

**OFFERTORY GIFTS** Thank you for your generous donations last week which amounted to £601-60p plus online giving last month came to over £1000 per week. Thank you to those who are putting their Offertory envelopes through the door and who have done the on line giving.. The collection for the Priests Retirement Fund has amounted to £1429-20p not counting those who will have given directly via the on line banking. Thank you for your ongoing generosity. **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. Many of the new sets of Offertory Envelopes have been delivered through your doors over the past few days but there are some remaining to be picked up in church or will be sent by post shortly.. 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

**SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY MASS FOR THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES** will be live streamed on church services tv, <https://www.churchservices.tv/svdpknutsford> from St Vincent de Paul, Knutsford at 9.30am on 11th February 2021. A recording will be available to watch on the church services TV website.

We will then be hosting a zoom social gathering that evening at 8pm, if you would like details to join in please email [secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk](mailto:secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk) or text/call 07451 249267.

FROM FR PETER

I distinctly get the impression that people are getting really fed up with this lockdown business but the figures published these last couple of days seem to indicate that it is having some effect so let's hang in there and hopefully we shall hear some good news from Boris soon about how he intends to lift us out of lockdown. It is good to learn how many have been offered and taken up the offer on the vaccine. Its equally interesting to hear about the various places that people have been directed to so that they could have the injection. City fans were all hoping they would get sent to the Etihad, some sad people about.! It is particularly important that we open our schools fully as soon as possible so that our youngsters can take advantage not only of learning but meeting their friends and taking part in all the activities that are offered by our schools.

This week we shall celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and for once I shall be here to do so! Our Mass will be at 12 noon and then our on line rosary at 7 00 p.m. will give two opportunities to celebrate the feast and to pray for the townspeople of Lourdes who are feeling the economic effects of the lockdown with the cancellation of so many pilgrimages. You can also join in the celebrations in Lourdes—albeit on a much reduced scale this year—by going to the Lourdes website and clicking on Lourdes 'TV'. The principal Mass for the feast will be at 9 00 a.m. our time from the St Pius X Basilica. This years meetings of pilgrimage directors are being done on line so its a virtual feast all round. Already a number of this year's British pilgrimages have been cancelled but not ours at the moment. Whilst it is pretty definite we won't take 'VIP's' to the hospital in Lourdes the Bishop hopes to have some smaller pilgrimage at the end of July. Watch this space for more details as and when they become available. I got this in an e mail the other day, it tickled me but I hope you don't get any ideas!

Dear Fr.

*I know your sense of humour Fr. and I thought the following story would amuse you. At virtual Mass today my mind wandered a little during your short talk. My mind went back 60 odd years to a time when uncle Vincent visited grandma's, where I lived. One Sunday he said Mass in Eccleston, Lancs. and gave the sermon. After he'd been talking for a certain length of time a little bell rang. He looked down just as a little odd man was placing a small bell on the bench in front of him. However, he carried on with his sermon and, after few minutes he heard the bell tinkling again! He looked over at the culprit and asked him what that was for? He replied, "It's fo'thee to shut up!!"*

*It seems that the parish priest had started the custom because he, the priest, was prone to going on for too long!!*

*It tickled uncle Vincent!...he had a good sense of humour? (Uncle Vincent was a Passionist Priest)*

*That's all for this week, cheer up it will soon be Lent!!*

*Fr Peter*



## **MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE XXIX WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2021**

***"You have but one teacher and you are all brothers" (Mt 23:8). A trust-based relationship to guide care for the sick***

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

The celebration of the XXIX World Day of the Sick on 11 February 2021, the liturgical memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes, is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities. We think in particular of those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, the effects of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. To all, and especially to the poor and the marginalized, I express my spiritual closeness and assure them of the Church's loving concern.

1. The theme of this Day is drawn from the Gospel passage in which Jesus criticizes the hypocrisy of those who fail to practise what they preach (cf. *Mt 23:1-12*). When our faith is reduced to empty words, unconcerned with the lives and needs of others, the creed we profess proves inconsistent with the life we lead. The danger is real. That is why Jesus uses strong language about the peril of falling into self-idolatry. He tells us: "*You have but one teacher and you are all brothers*" (v. 8).

Jesus' criticism of those who "preach but do not practise" (v. 3) is helpful always and everywhere, since none of us is immune to the grave evil of hypocrisy, which prevents us from flourishing as children of the one Father, called to live universal fraternity.

Before the needs of our brothers and sisters, Jesus asks us to respond in a way completely contrary to such hypocrisy. He asks us to stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them (cf. *Lk 10:30-35*).

2. The experience of sickness makes us realize our own vulnerability and our innate need of others. It makes us feel all the more clearly that we are creatures dependent on God. When we are ill, fear and even bewilderment can grip our minds and hearts; we find ourselves powerless, since our health does not depend on our abilities or life's incessant worries (cf. *Mt 6:27*).

Sickness raises the question of life's meaning, which we bring before God in faith. In seeking a new and deeper direction in our lives, we may not find an immediate answer. Nor are our relatives and friends always able to help us in this demanding quest.

The biblical figure of Job is emblematic in this regard. Job's wife and friends do not accompany him in his misfortune; instead, they blame him and only aggravate his solitude and distress. Job feels forlorn and misunderstood. Yet for all his extreme frailty, he rejects hypocrisy and chooses the path of honesty towards God and others. He cries out to God so insistently that God finally answers him and allows him to glimpse a new horizon. He confirms that Job's suffering is not a punishment or a state of separation from God, much less as sign of God's indifference. Job's heart, wounded and healed, then makes this vibrant and touching confession to the Lord: "I had heard of you by word of mouth, but now my eye has seen you" (42:5).

3. Sickness always has more than one face: it has the face of all the sick, but also those who feel ignored, excluded and prey to social injustices that deny their fundamental rights (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 22). The current pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in our healthcare systems and exposed inefficiencies in the care of the sick. Elderly, weak and vulnerable people are not always granted access to care, or in an equitable manner. This is the result of political decisions, resource management and greater or lesser commitment on the part of those holding positions of responsibility. Investing resources in the care and assistance of the sick is a priority linked to the fundamental principle that health is a primary common good. Yet the pandemic has also highlighted the dedication and generosity of healthcare personnel, volunteers, support staff, priests, men and women religious, all of whom have helped, treated, comforted and served so many of the sick and their families with professionalism, self-giving, responsibility and love of neighbour.

A silent multitude of men and women, they chose not to look the other way but to share the suffering of patients, whom they saw as neighbours and members of our one human family.

Such closeness is a precious balm that provides support and consolation to the sick in their suffering. As Christians, we experience that closeness as a sign of the love of Jesus Christ, the *Good Samaritan*, who draws near with compassion to every man and woman wounded by sin. United to Christ by the working of the Holy Spirit, we are called to be merciful like the Father and to love in particular our frail, infirm and suffering brothers and sisters (cf. *Jn* 13:34-35). We experience this closeness not only as individuals but also as a community. Indeed, fraternal love in Christ generates a community of healing, a community that leaves no one behind, a community that is inclusive and welcoming, especially to those most in need.

Here I wish to mention the importance of fraternal solidarity, which is expressed concretely in service and can take a variety of forms, all directed at supporting our neighbours. "Serving means caring ... for the vulnerable of our families, our society, our people" (*Homily in Havana*, 20 September 2015). In this outreach, all are "called to set aside their own wishes and desires, their pursuit of power, before the concrete gaze of those who are most vulnerable... Service always looks to their faces, touches their flesh, senses their closeness and even, in some cases, 'suffers' that closeness and tries to help them. Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people" (*ibid.*).

4. If a therapy is to be effective, it must have a relational aspect, for this enables a holistic approach to the patient. Emphasizing this aspect can help doctors, nurses, professionals and volunteers to feel responsible for accompanying patients on a path of healing grounded in a trusting interpersonal relationship (cf. *New Charter for Health Care Workers* [2016], 4). This creates a covenant between those in need of care and those who provide that care, a covenant based on mutual trust and respect, openness and availability. This will help to overcome defensive attitudes, respect the dignity of the sick, safeguard the professionalism of healthcare workers and foster a good relationship with the families of patients.

Such a relationship with the sick can find an unfailing source of motivation and strength in the *charity of Christ*, as shown by the witness of those men and women who down the millennia have grown in holiness through service to the infirm. For the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection is the source of the love capable of giving full meaning to the experience of patients and caregivers alike. The Gospel frequently makes this clear by showing that Jesus heals not by magic but as the result of *an encounter, an interpersonal relationship*, in which God's gift finds a response in the faith of those who accept it. As Jesus often repeats: "Your faith has saved you".

5. Dear brothers and sisters, the commandment of love that Jesus left to his disciples is also kept in our relationship with the sick. A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned.

To Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Infirm, I entrust the sick, healthcare workers and all those who generously assist our suffering brothers and sisters. From the Grotto of Lourdes and her many other shrines throughout the world, may she sustain our faith and hope, and help us care for one another with fraternal love. To each and all, I cordially impart my blessing.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 20 December 2020,  
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Franciscus*