

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all

# St Peter's and St Philip's Newsletter

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Mary Mother of God  
Local Missionary area



## THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING:  
NUMBERS 6:22-27:

PSALM 66:  
O GOD BE GRACIOUS  
AND BLESS US

SECOND READING:  
GALATIANS 4: 4-7:

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:  
ALLELUIA ALLELUIA!  
AT VARIOUS TIMES IN THE  
PAST AND IN VARIOUS  
WAYS, GOD SPOKE TO OUR  
ANCESTORS THROUGH THE  
PROPHETS; BUT IN OUR  
OWN TIME, THE LAST  
DAYS, HE HAS SPOKEN TO US  
THROUGH HIS SON  
ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL READING  
LUKE 2: 16-21

**When the eighth day came they gave him the name Jesus**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated in the Sacristy on Saturday mornings during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**CHRISTMASTIDE**  
**Divine Office Psalter Week II**  
**ALL MASSES FROM ST PETERS WILL**  
**BE AVAILABLE ON THE LIVE STREAM**  
[www.churchservices.tv/stockport](http://www.churchservices.tv/stockport)

### Saturday 31st December 2022—Seventh Day of Christmas Octave

11.00-11.45 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament finishing with Benediction  
12 Noon Patrick O'Grady  
Readings: 1 John 2: 18-21; Psalm 95; John 1-1821

### Sunday 1st January 2023— Mary Mother of God

10.00 a.m. Ben Peters RIP  
10.00 am Mass at St. Philips - Vincent Roper RIP  
12 Noon People of the Parish  
Readings: Numbers 6: 22-27; Psalm 66; Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 16-21

### Monday 2nd January 2023 - St. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

12 noon Jo Senior RIP  
Reading: 1 John 2: 22-28; Psalm 97; John 1: 19-28

### Tuesday 3rd January 2023-Tuesday of the Christmas Season

12 Noon Ian Charles RIP  
Readings: 1 John 2: 29-3:6; Psalm 97; John 1: 29-34

### Wednesday 4th January 2023 - Wednesday of the 3 Christmas Season

9.15 am Mass at St. Philips - Alice and Phillip Sainter  
12 Noon Service of Word and Communion  
Readings: 1 John 3: 7-10; Psalm 97; John 1: 35-42

### Thursday 5th January 2023 —Thursday of the Christmas Season

12 Noon Mass for Wyn Hayes RIP  
7.00 pm Vigil Mass of the Epiphany at St. Philips—Patrick O'Grady RIP  
Readings: 1 John 3: 11-21; Psalm 99; John 1: 43-51

### Friday 6th January 2023—Epiphany of the Lord (HOLIDAY OF OBLIGATION)

12 Noon Daniel Begley Birthday Memories  
7.30 pm Pat Dorrian RIP  
Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalm 71: Ephesians 3: 2-3. 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12

### Saturday 7th January 2023 - Saturday after Epiphany

11.00-11.45 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament finishing with Benediction  
12 Noon Ken Pryce RIP  
6.00 pm St. Philips Offerton - Monsignor Peter O'Neill RIP  
6.00 pm Polish Mass  
Readings: John 5: 14-21: Psalm 149; John 3: 22-30

### Sunday 8th January 2023 - The Baptism of the Lord

8.30 am People of the Parish  
10.00 am Frank and Catherine May RIP  
6 00 pm Louis Granelli  
Readings: Isaiah 42: 1-4.6-7; Psalm 28; Acts 10: 34-38;

### EMERITUS POPE BENEDICT XVI

As we go to print the death of Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI has been announced. We commend his soul to God, and pray that he may rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Fr Peter and Deacon John thank you for your gifts over Christmas and kindness and support over the past year and wish you all a very happy New Year**

**DO NOT COME TO CHURCH IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS - SNEEZING, COUGHING, SORE THROAT ETC**

*Your prayers are asked for*

**Sick** - remembering, all the sick in the parish especially those 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** Geoff Fitton (Father of Dave Fitton) Neil Davies

**Anniversaries that occur around this time:** Charlotte Bell, Lois Parker, Robert Gorden, John Killeen, Felicity Kane, Mary Hennigen, Edna Kerwin, Ian Gresty, Joseph Kan Hai, Joseph Dixon, Olive Newcombe, Bernard Collins, Kieran O'Toole, Otto Senn, Anna Senn, Mike Bews, Margaret Hester, Alwyn Davies, Ken Pryce, Jimmy Flynn, Theophane Jones, Jack Edwards, Patrick Broadhurst, Colin Oldham

**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

**Centering Prayer Group** meet in the parish centre every Tuesday morning at 11. 15 am. All welcome.

**Mary Mother of God (Year A) Luke 2:16-21**

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told. When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

1. Read through the passage slowly noting the words, phrase that draws your heart.
2. Place yourself alongside Mary at the scene in Bethlehem. Take time to ponder all that is happening, praying as your heart is drawn.



**For Conversation:**

The times you, like the shepherds have given glory or praise to God

**OFFERTORY GIFTS** Thank you for your very generous Offerings on Christmas Day. Online giving last month came to over £1100 per week as well as £369 via the card machine.. Thank you to those who are putting their Offertory envelopes through the door and to those who have done the on line giving. St. Philips Offertory amounted to £

If you are putting several weeks collection in at the same time you only need to use one envelope. . 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 number

**GIFT AID** if you Gift Aid your donation to St. Peter's and have moved house, or for whatever reason your circumstances have changed could you please let Hughie Hardiman know by either emailing k13rey@sky.com or leaving your details in the office for Hughie's attention.

**CHURCH CLEANING** Team 3 are on this week

**READERS** There is a list in the Sacristy for volunteers to read during January 2023

**ST SIMON'S SCHOOL** are hoping to recruit a School Business Manager to join their successful team in February 2023. There has been an increased salary range awarded to the post. For more information, please click on the following link <https://www.st-simons.stockport.sch.uk/vacancies-1/> Please share the link with friends and family who you think may be interested.

**CHRISTMAS TREES** it has been decided to leave the wonderful display of Christmas Trees up until 6th January, please collect your tree on the 7th January between 9.00 am and 10.30.

**Shrewsbury Diocese Year Books** are on sale at the back of Church £6.00 each

**BAPTISM COURSE.** The next preparation course for those who wish to have their children baptised begins next Sunday with attendance at 10 00 a.m. Mass

**SPY (St Peter's Youth)** meets again on Sunday 8th January after 6 PM Mass in the Parish Centre Meeting Room. Open to all young people from year 7 upwards.

**COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS**

We shall shortly begin to offer the chalice with the Precious Blood at Mass again. I hope that the Eucharistic Ministers will be happy to take up their ministry again. You may find the following article helpful which was brought to my attention recently.

## It's time to bring back receiving Communion from the chalice

On Sunday, May 22, I received the precious blood at a small Dominican priory. When the time came for Communion, I stepped forward and received the host on my tongue, then the priest placed the chalice in my hands. I lifted the chalice to my lips and, for the first time in two years and two months, I took and drank. As I knelt afterward, slightly taken aback by this moment of grace, I found myself thinking of why we call this blood “precious.” In Latin it is actually “most precious”—*pretiosissimus*. To say that it is the *most* precious is to say that it is of the highest value, the greatest worth and the most honour. But after two years without it, I fear we are forgetting what is so precious about Christ's blood and the reception of Communion in both forms. When I was a child, my mother taught me not to receive from the chalice. Jesus was fully present in both the consecrated host and the consecrated wine, so you did not really need to receive both. My mother was, in a real way, right. To receive the body is to receive Christ fully; to receive the blood is to receive Christ fully. *And yet*, to receive only one is to miss something important. Since the beginning of Covid-19, we have been missing that something. Withholding the chalice was a worthwhile precaution (even if there is little reason to believe drinking from the common cup brings a high risk of contracting Covid-19). But as restrictions on daily life during the pandemic continue to be dropped, the time has come to reconsider this sacramental restriction and recommit to the preciousness of receiving from the chalice of salvation. The preciousness of reception in both kinds is grounded in Jesus' Last Supper. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says to his apostles: “Take and eat; this is my body.” But he does not stop there. “Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you’” (Mt 26:27). For Jesus, the presence of both body and blood was crucial to the liturgy he celebrated and initiated. In celebrating the Last Supper, Jesus acted with intention, prioritising what is essential to the liturgy: bread, wine, eating, and drinking. In commemorating the liturgy he initiated, we carry forward Christ's intention in our reception.

While reception from the cup became uncommon for the laity in the Roman Rite, it was rightly restored after the Second Vatican Council. The restoration is a testimony to the proper recognition of the dignity of the laity. We too—thanks to the grace of God, the power of baptism and the contrition of our hearts—are welcome to receive, even if none of us are worthy that he should “enter under my roof.” Reception under both kinds is a deeper understanding of the eucharistic sign. This is not to say that a sacrament is *merely* a symbol. I am with Flannery O'Connor: “If it's just a symbol, to hell with it.” But believing that it is not only a symbol does not mean that the symbolic is unimportant. The symbolism matters if we are to understand and live out the substance of the Eucharist. In one important sense, the symbolism of food and drink is clear. We need the sustaining spiritual nourishment offered by bread and wine. St. Augustine, knowing that Jesus “has redeemed me with his blood,” thought about his own role as a priest in relation to the sacrament. “I am mindful of my ransom. I eat it, I drink it. I dispense it to others, and as a pauper I long to be filled with it among those who are fed and feasted.” As empty, we long for the spiritual food that fills us. As thirsty, we pray for the sacramental saturation of the deserts of our hearts. And in the experience of both, we live in solidarity with all those who lack food and drink and are called to share our food and drink with them. But why wine? Wouldn't water be a better option to express our neediness? Rehydrating with water is certainly wiser than with alcohol. True, during many historical periods, wine was safer to drink than water—which could not always be trusted. But is that really the reason people drank it? If so, Jesus could have just purified the water at the wedding feast of Cana. Instead, he made 180 gallons of wine—enough to fill about 1,000 bottles. Seems a bit excessive for hydration purposes. If wine is not about quenching parched throats, what is it for? Psalm 104 offers us the real reason: “

“Wine makes glad the hearts of men.” Bread sustains us, but wine is the stuff of celebrations, not just of weddings at Cana but of the ultimate wedding banquet in heaven. The symbolic importance of the wine is the rejuvenating joy of communion in Christ. Wine is excessive, just as God’s love for us is. As wine fills us with joy, so too does the precious blood, which washes us of our sins and fills us with joy. The reception of this joy is a summons to “be people who wish to share their joy,” as Pope Francis teaches in “The Gospel of Joy.” To receive the blood is to experience the joy of our reception into the body of Christ. We should invite others into this joy. These days are not exactly filled with joy in the world or the church. Exhausted by partisanship, anguished by gun violence and abortion, and anxious about rising costs and declining opportunities, we would like to look to the church for solace. But within the church, too, we often find scandal and embittered political partisanship. In a time of scandal and anger, of anxiety and grief, we need the joy of reception again. We need to remember what is most precious. People have continued, legitimate concerns about Covid-19 and will make decisions about their own health. Nevertheless, as we open society, we should not leave the chalice off limits. At many parishes, after Mass you can now grab a donut from a tray, pick up a Styrofoam cup of coffee and chat with fellow parishioners. But you cannot receive the precious blood. Certainly, no one should be pressured into reception from the chalice. That being said, we need to be reminded of the value of the Eucharist, and that is best done in the practice of reception. There may be ways to offset the concern of a common cup through practices like intinction, good cleaning protocols and well-trained eucharistic ministers. In doing so, the goal should be to offer both the bread of life and the chalice of salvation as Jesus did in the upper room.

**America, The Jesuit Review .... Terence Sweeney**

**From Fr Peter,**

I hope you have all had a good Christmas despite the wet weather. We have just heard of the death of Pope Benedict and will be praying for him as he goes on his final journey to the Lord. He will be remembered in this country for his visit and how despite the adverse publicity before he arrived how he won over the hearts of the people with his gentleness and his homilies. He also gave a remarkable speech to the Houses of Parliament in Westminster Hall where he called for a dialogue between believers and legislators. His favourite vocation was as a theologian and he was an outstanding one. May he rest in peace.

Happy New Year to everyone

**Fr Peter**

