

St Peter's and St Philip's Newsletter

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
 Parish Deacon: Rev John McKay admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk



Mary Mother of
 God
 Local Missionary
 area

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR 2023
 FOR FEBRUARY
 FOR PARISHES:
 WE PRAY THAT
 PARISHES, PLACING
 COMMUNION AT THE
 CENTRE, MAY INCREASINGLY
 BECOME COMMUNITIES OF
 FAITH, FRATERNITY AND WEL-
 COME TOWARDS THOSE MOST
 IN NEED.



THE WORD OF
 GOD

FIRST READING:

GENESIS 2: 7-9. 3: 1-7

PSALM 50:

HAVE MERCY ON US, O
 LORD, FOR WE HAVE
 SINNED

SECOND READING:

ROMANS 5: 12-19

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST,
 KING OF ETERNAL GLORY!
 MAN DOES NOT LIVE ON
 BREAD ALONE BUT ON
 EVERY WORD THAT COME
 FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.
 PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST,
 KING OF ETERNAL GLORY!

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 4: 1-11

**You must
 worship the
 Lord your
 God, and serve
 him alone**

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

LENT WEEK I

Divine Office Psalter Week I
**ALL MASSES FROM ST PETERS WILL
 BE AVAILABLE ON THE LIVE STREAM**
 www.churchservices.tv/stockport

Saturday 25th February 2023

11.00-11.45 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament finishing with Benediction
 12 Noon Barbara Binnie RIP
 6.00 pm St. Philips Offerton - Neil Davies RIP
 6.00 pm Polish Mass
 Readings: Isaiah 58: 9-14; Psalm 85; Luke 5: 27-32

Sunday 26th February 2023 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30 am People of the Parish
 10.00 am Thanksgiving - Parish Helpers
 6 00 pm Anne Blythe RIP
 Readings: Genesis 2:7-9. 3: 1-7: Psalm 50; Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11
**2 30 PRAYER SERVICE at St Mary's in the Market Place, Stockport for the
 Ukraine attended by the Mayor and the Bishop of Stockport. All Welcome**

Music

Choir
 Folk Group
 Barbara

Monday 27th February 2023

11.30 am Frank Heffer RIP **NOTE TIME**
 Reading: Leviticus 19: 1-2. 11-18; Psalm 18: Matthew 25: 31-46

Tuesday 28th February 2023

12 Noon Requiem Mass for Joan Bloomfield
 Readings: Isaiah 55: 10-11; Psalm 33; Matthew 6: 7-15

Wednesday 1st March 2023—St. David Patron of Wales

9.15 am Mass at St. Philips - Jenny Love RIP
 12 Noon Service of Word and Communion
 Readings: Philippians 3: 8-14; Psalm 1; Matthew 5: 13-16

Thursday 2nd March 2023

12 Noon Service of Word and Communion
 Readings : Esther 4: 17; Psalm 137; Matthew 7: 7-12

Friday 3rd March 2023

12 Noon Service of Word and Communion
 7.30 pm **MASS** Thresiamma Mathew RIP
 6 00—7.20 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 Readings : Ezekiel 18: 21-28; Psalm 129; Matthew 5: 20-26

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE NEEDY AND HUNGRY OF THE WORLD

Saturday 4th March 2023

11.00-11.45 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament finishing with Benediction
 12 Noon Patricia Kenny Birthday Memories
 6.00 pm St. Philips Offerton - Vincent Roper RIP
 6.00 pm Polish Mass
 Readings: Deuteronomy 26: 16-19; Psalm 118: Matthew 5: 43-48

Sunday 5th March 2023 - LENT WEEK II

8.30 am People of the Parish
 10.00 am Desmond Gallagher RIP
 6 00 pm People of the Parish
 Readings: Genesis 12: 1-4; Psalm 32; Timothy 1: 8-10; Matthew 17: 1-9

Music

Reynold
 Folk Group
 Barbara



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 Joan Bloomfield whose Requiem Mass is here on 28th February at 12 Noon, Peter Hinde whose Requiem Mass will also be on Monday March 6th at 12 noon, Christine Haines whose Funera lservice will be here on March 7th at 10 00 a.m. and Mary Hanley whose Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday March 15th. Leonard McDonagh

Anniversaries that occur around this time: Walter Barrett, Herbert Markham, William Sheehan, Peter Shorrocks, Sydney Bradwell, Hubert Travers, Ethel Roche, William Logue, Timothy Carroll, Josephine Slavia, Gerard Gresty, Marjorie McMahan, Janet Maddocks, John Burgess, Margaret Clayton, Kathleen Hirst, Bernard McCartney, Desmond Gallagher, Kathleen Pollit.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Parish Community Caleb Tadeusz and Sofia Valerie Romaniszyn

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.

First Sunday in Lent (Year A)

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord of God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' The Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Copyright...1966, 1967 & 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd, & Doubleday & Co. Inc. and used by permission.

1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage.
2. Note the words/phrases that draw your attention.
3. Temptations – for Jesus, to doubt God's Word, to doubt God's everlasting watchfulness, to worship false Gods. Spend time in quiet prayer with Jesus about the temptations that can pull you away from centring life on God.
4. For daily prayer: 'Serve God alone.' Let the phrase echo in you throughout the day.

For Conversation

The opportunities for solitude you might take this Lent to deepen your faithfulness to God's call.



ST PETER'S BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Our next Meeting will be on Tuesday 14th March at 2.00 pm in the Members Lounge. We will be having a Reflection and refreshments. If you have not joined us before and would like to please do come along, no matter how long ago or recently you lost a loved one. Contact Helen on 07854928072 or the Parish Office admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk.

Baptism Courses will take place on the following dates 16th and 30th April 2023 for more information please contact Karen at justasec55@hotmail.co.uk

Are you doing anything different during Lent ?

Perhaps you would like to consider being involved in presenting a dramatisation of the Stations Of the Cross in our church on Good Friday morning (April 7th).

Actors, readers, singers, musicians, willing beginners, and, anyone who has been involved previously, are all most welcome .

If you are interested in taking part, and would like more information, please sign up ASAP on the noticeboard at the back of church, and/or email

juliewilliams10@ymail.com

If there's enough interest to proceed, dates for practices during Lent will be arranged at suitable times.

HAND MADE CARDS

The proposals for the Parish Centre mean that it will be unavailable for most of April and May consequently you will need to plan ahead for any cards you might need. Cards, including Mother's Day and Easter cards, will be on sale in the Parish Centre after the 08.30 and 10.00 Masses on 26 Feb, 12 Mar and 26 Mar. After that I will try to make some alternative arrangements but this cannot be guaranteed. Thank you for your ongoing support.

'COME AND SEE' PARISH EVENT SUNDAY 5TH MARCH 9.30—1.00 PM

This will be a fantastic, fun and friendly way of getting to know more about many of the activities and groups at St Peter's and St Philip's. Drop in any time 9.30-1pm. Please ask others to come: your friends and family, people who may not have been for a while, or may want to know more about our church community. The poster is available on the website and on facebook to share or download. **Share a poster** with someone who might like to come along.

- Sausage butties, hot drinks and cake for **cash donations** on the day
- Over 20 tables representing over 30 groups / activities to get involved with
- Music from our choirs and musicians and activities for all ages
- A friendly welcome is guaranteed!

Come and See - we need your help!

Please email us stpetershelpers@gmail.com or church if you can help with any of the following:

- setting up the centre 8am-9.30am: many hands make light work!
- helping with refreshments or welcoming on the day
- can you bake a cake for us? Please drop off before 9.30am if possible.
- if you're already involved with a group or activity, can you help at their table? If you don't know if your activity is already represented, drop us a line.

Email: stpetershelpers@gmail.com or phone the church office.

Cuppa and Chat We had a lovely gathering again last week, thank you to all who came and all who helped in any way. Our next gathering will be on 16th March. Email stpetershelpers@gmail.com or leave a message at the church office for more information.

St Peter's Community Sponsorship Project

We are looking for 2 people (perhaps a retired couple) to help with tutoring one of the children in the family - ideally one of you will have primary experience as the main focus is on literacy and phonics. It is just 1 hour a week after school from 4pm-5pm at the house in Hazel Grove. We can be flexible about which day, but definitely not Friday. For further information, please contact Alison McGarr via email ajmcgarr68@outlook.com or by ringing 07792 107152. We would need to make sure you are DBS checked with the Diocese so expected start time would be in the spring.

WHERE IS GOD IN MY LIFE?

If you were among the 110 people at our last Footsteps event on 9 February, you'll know how well **Mary Hardiman** spoke and shared with us her thoughts on 'Where is God in my life?'

If you missed it, or you'd like to hear it again, you can listen to the recording of it. Simply follow this link for our parish website <https://stpeterscatholic.church/gallery/> then scroll down the page and you'll find it

PARISH CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

The refurbishment of the Parish Centre which is looking rather 'tired' at the moment will commence on March 27th and take around 6-7 week The Centre should emerge looking much better and more pleasant to use and better equipped for all of us.. When the work is in progress the Centre will be closed completely but we will keep you posted on any progress that is made and give as much notice as possible on the timetable for the works.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

This year's World day of Prayer has been written by the Christian women of Taiwan. The theme of the service is "I have heard about your faith". This year's service will be held at Hazel Grove Baptist church on Friday 3rd March at 2pm, followed by tea, coffee and cake.

Please come and join in this special day of prayer remembering especially the people of Taiwan.

LENTEN LUNCHES will start on the 3rd March, after the midday Mass, each Friday until 31st March in the Parish Centre If you would like to help by making make soup one week please contact Helen 07854928072 or in the Parish Office. We will once again be sending the proceeds to St. Philips Foodbank appeal.

CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS are on again this year from 28th June -15th July. If you would like to join a Parish Trip to see them please sign up at the back of Church. There will be more information available once we have an idea of numbers.

LAMBS ADDITIONAL NEEDS GROUP will be having a Valentines disco on Sunday the 26th of February in the Parish Centre between 4pm and 6pm There will also be a craft activity.

AN ONLINE COURSE ON VATICAN II: In response to Synodal Submissions, the Diocese is offering a **series of short podcasts** throughout Lent. Accessible on the diocesan website at dioceseofshrewsbury.org they are not time-bound and may be listened to anytime. You will also find **handouts** there on various topics, whilst a **leaflet** outlining the content of the recordings is available in the parish. If you have difficulty accessing this material or have any other questions, don't hesitate to call Barbara Davies on 07730 526821.

OFFERTORY GIFTS Thank you for your generous offerings last week which amounted to £1048.79 Online giving last month came to over £1100 per week. 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 £248 Those who usually pay by credit/debit card will be pleased to know that the card machine is now back up and running.

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

CHURCH CLEANING Team 5 are on this week

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

SHREWSBURY DIOCESE YEAR BOOKS are on sale at the back of Church **£6.00 ea**

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.

A DAY FOR THE EUCHARIST on **Saturday 1st April, 10am-2pm** at **St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine**, Tatton Street, St Petersgate, Stockport, SK1 1EJ. A time of catechesis, fellowship, and prayer. No booking is necessary. Bring a packed lunch and drinks will be available. See poster in Church for the full schedule. All are welcome, and we especially encourage readers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to attend.

PPT MEETING the next Parish Pastoral Team meeting will be on **Monday 20th March**.

IT'S GOING TO BE A BUSY YEAR!

2023 marks the centenary of the formation of our parish and, to mark this milestone, the Parish Pastoral Team have started to plan a number of events for all age groups. Events will be run from 29th June 2023 to 29th June 2024. More information will follow.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES will take place at the end of July—27th/28th—3rd/4th August depending on the method of travel. The Diocese are arranging either coach or air travel but I intend to go by train. If anyone is interested in joining me please let me know but if you wish to travel by air then the booking forms will be available this week on the pilgrimage website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk. The youth section up to the age of 22 is under the direction of the Diocesan Youth Service—symt.org.uk and those who wish to travel must book with them

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give today using the envelope or at cafod.org.uk/give and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world. **THE FAMILY FAST COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN ON EASTER SUNDAY AS A RETIRING COLLECTION**

ST PETER'S BOOK CLUB

Hopefully people enjoyed *The French House* by Jacquie Bloese and *At the Edge of the Orchard* by Tracey Chevalier.

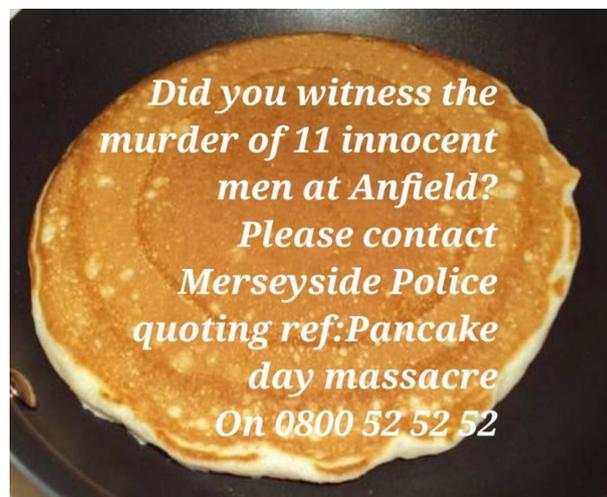
To start the Lenten journey, we have chosen **An Experiment in Love** by Hilary Mantel - this is described as an unsentimental coming-of-age novel set in 1970-71. It is about a working-class girl who escapes her dreary life in Lancashire to study at London University.. Apparently, Hilary Mantel went to Harrytown so this maybe semi-autobiographical! Our second choice is **The Marriage Portrait** by Maggie O'Farrell - taking us back to Renaissance Italy and a resilient young woman's struggle in the face of adversity.

Also, **Pachinko** by Min Jin Lee - we recommended this last year but if you missed it, this is an epic tale of exile and race - it spans 100 years and explores the diasporic identity of a Korean family living in Japan.

We will recommend more books in March and April and will meet up again in May - if you would like to join us for a lovely meal and lively discussion (sometimes about books), please contact Alison McGarr on 07792 107152.

FROM FR PETER

No room at the Inn for me this week except for the cartoon!
Have a good week





A Lenten Pastoral Letter On our Christian Struggle

**To be read at all Masses on the First Sunday of Lent
26th February 2023**

“Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil”ⁱ. Hearing these words, we are moved by the realisation that our Lord goes into the wilderness for us. There, He confronts the deceptions which have afflicted humanity from the dawn of historyⁱⁱ. The Holy Spirit now leads us into the days of Lent to renew our struggle against deceptive spirits and the very father of liesⁱⁱⁱ; against our proud delusions and inclination to seek easy ways; and whatever comes before worshipping and serving the Lord God alone^{iv}.

The Second Vatican Council taught us with stirring words that, in this fallen world we find ourselves in a scene of battle where we must continuously strive, aided by God’s grace, to do what is right - often at much cost to ourselves^v. It would not merely be naive; it would be disastrous to think we could live the Christian life and be a faithful Catholic today without engaging in this struggle. Yet, we take courage that Christ has won the victory and gifted His Church with all the grace and truth necessary for salvation.

Each year at the beginning of Lent, I have the joy of meeting adults from around the Diocese, people drawn from different age groups and backgrounds, who are preparing to be Baptised or received into full communion with the Catholic Church. I have no need to speak to them about *becoming* a Catholic because your witness and example has led them to this great discovery. Instead, I reflect with them on how *to live* as Catholics in the spiritual struggle which marks every Christian life; and I share with them three directions for the road ahead which are the vital *signs of life* that we are living as a Catholic Christian:

The first is **Mass every Sunday**. By putting the Mass first in our lives and literally first in our week, we recognise in the miracle of love which is the Eucharist that we must live *“by every word that comes from the mouth of God”^{vi}*. For the Mystery of the Eucharist contains the Church’s entire spiritual wealth, Christ Himself^{vii}. Saint John Paul II once asked, *“Were we to disregard the Eucharist, how could we ever overcome our own deficiency?”* For in this Sacrifice and Sacrament our hearts are moved to adoration and unbounded love^{viii}.

i The second vital sign of life is to regularly confess our sins in the Sacrament of our conversion after Baptism which we call *Penance* and *Reconciliation*. In the face of every weakness and sin, we find grace and mercy in this Sacrament which Christ entrusted to His Church and place our trust in the help of God's grace as we set out anew on the path to holiness. In this way, we will always be converts!

The third is making time for prayer each day, making use of this wondrous gift to raise our mind and heart to God. Saint Teresa of Avila described the extraordinary gift of prayer as *"Nothing else than a close sharing between friends"*^{ix}. Prayer is simple and yet difficult, for it involves a battle to give time when other priorities seem more pressing. In prayer we also confront our own illusions of self-reliance as we open our hearts to all the graces God wishes to give us^x.

The Christian life demands much: not least, in the practice of charity in fulfilling our daily duties and the supreme charity of winning others for Christ and His Church. Yet, without daily prayer, frequent Confession and the Holy Eucharist at the centre of our lives, how could we ever hope to share Christ's victory? During these days of Lent, may we learn the vital lesson given by Jesus Himself when He says: *"Without me you can do nothing"*^{xi}.

May Lent be blessed for us all in rediscovering this vital truth and renewing our Christian struggle with joy.

+ *Mark*

Bishop of Shrewsbury

i Mt. 4:1

ii Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 539

iii Cf. CCC 2852

iv Cf. Mt. 4:10

v Cf. Gaudium et Spes No. 37

vi Mt. 4:4

vii Cf. Presbyterorum Ordinis No. 5

viii Ecclesia De Eucharistia Nos. 62 & 60

ix Book of Her Life 8,5

x Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 2752

xi Cf. Jn. 15:5