

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR 2023
FOR MARCH
FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE:
WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO
HAVE SUFFERED HARM FROM
MEMBERS OF THE
CHURCH;MAY THEY FIND
WITHIN THE CHURCH HERSELF
A CONCRETE RESPONSE TO
THEIR PAIN AND SUFFERING

St Peter's and St Philip's Newsletter

1

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



THE WORD OF
GOD

FIRST READING:
GENESIS 12: 1-4

PSALM 32:
MAY YOUR LOVE BE
UPON US, O LORD, AS WE
PLACE ALL OUR HOPE IN
YOU

SECOND READING:
2 TIMOTHY 1: 8-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
PRAISE AND HONOUR TO
YOU, LORD JESUS!NOW IS
THE THE FAVOURABLE
TIME;THIS IS THE DAY OF
SALVATION.PRAISE AND
HONOUR TO YOUR, LORD
JESUS!

GOSPEL READING:
MATTHEW 17; 1-9

This is my
Son the
Beloved.
Listen to him

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

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

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; 2 Timothy 1: 8-10; Matthew 17: 1-9

Music

Reynold
Folk Group
Barbara

Monday 6th March 2023

12 Noon Requiem Mass for Peter Hinde
Reading: Daniel 9: 4-10; Psalm 78: Luke 6: 36-38

Tuesday 7th March 2023 Ss Perpetua and Felicity

10.00 am Requiem Mass for Christine Haines
Readings: Isaiah 1: 10. 16-20; Psalm 49;Matthew 23: 1-12

Wednesday 8th March 2023 - St. John of God

9.15 am Mass at St. Philips - Mary Allen RIP
12 Noon Service of Word and Communion
Readings: Jeremiah 18: 18-20;Psalm 30; Matthew 20: 17-28

Thursday 9th March 2023—St. Frances of Rome

12 Noon Neil Davies RIP
Readings : Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Psalm 1; Luke 16: 19-31

Friday 10th March 2023

10 00 a.m Thanksgiving Joy **NOTE TIME**
6 00—8.00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Readings : Genesis 37: 3-4. 12-13. 17-28; Psalm 104; Matthew 21: 333-43

Saturday 11th March 2023

11.00-11.45 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament finishing with Benediction
12 Noon Almut Livesey RIP
1.30 pm Wedding Service for Iona Macdonald and Matthew Grey
6.00 pm St. Philips Offerton - Paul McDonald RIP
6.00 pm Polish Mass
Readings: Micah 7: 14-15.18-20; Psalm 102; Luke 15: 1-3. 11-32

Sunday 12th March 2023 - LENT WEEK III

8.30 am People of the Parish
10.00 am Joan Porter Intention
6 00 pm Geoff Fitton RIP
Readings: Exodus 17: 3-7; Psalm 94; Romans 5: 1-2.5-8; John 4: 5-42

Music

Choir
Folk Group
Dave & Fran

**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 Peter Hinde whose Requiem Mass will be on Monday March 6th at 12 noon , Christine Haines whose Funeral Service will be on March 7th at 10 00 a.m. and Mary Hanley whose Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday March 15th. Leonard McDonagh whose Funeral Service will be on Monday March 27th at 1.00 pm

Anniversaries that occur around this time: Bernard McCartney, Desmond Gallagher, Kathleen Pollit, Patrick Duffy, Austin McDonald, Margaret Wagstaff, Bernard Donlan, Mariette Hahn, Thomas Parker, Peter Keary ,Peter Ormerod, Keith O'Hara, Mary Wright, Vic Chesham, Alan Morgan, Mary Parker, Arnold Riddiough, Michael Kane, Frederick Carr.

Baptisms:

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.

Second Sunday in Lent (Year A)

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage pausing at the words/phrases that draw your attention, stir memories.
2. Imagine the scene... the journey up the mountainside... the sudden transfiguration of Jesus... the responses, the feelings of the disciples...
3. Place yourself with Peter, James and John – *Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here.* Spend time in quiet contemplation, simply reverencing *My Son, the Beloved.*
4. For daily prayer: '*Do not be afraid*'. Let the phrase echo in you throughout the day.

For Conversation:

The ways you make time to listen to him in the busyness of daily life



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

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.

- Sausage butties, hot drinks and cake for **cash donations**
- 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

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.

SPY

The next gathering for the SPY youth group is on Sunday 12th March following the 6 pm Mass in the Parish centre. Open to all young people in year 7 and above. Come and meet with young people from year 7 through to college age for pizza, games and Faith. All welcome.

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.

CALLING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ! ☐ (Year 6 - Uni) 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.

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.

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 weeks. 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.

LENTEN LUNCHES will start after the midday Mass, each Friday until 24th March in the Parish Centre. If you would like to help by making 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.

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.

WALKING GROUP

The next walk will be on 19th March. Meet at Disley Station for a 10.00am start. An easy walk this time. Walk to meet the Goyt and walk through to New Mills and the millennium bridge and return via the Canal.

FOOD BANK— A heartfelt thank you to all the parishioners who have donated to the Food Bank Appeal for our Parish Primary Schools. To date since the beginning of the year, 16 extra large bags have been delivered to the schools, which have been received mostly gratefully by both staff and families. Thank you once again.

CAKE SALE FOR CAFOD thank you to all those who baked cakes for last Sunday's Cake Sale, also to those who bought them and helped sell them, we made £415 for the CAFOD Earthquake Appeal.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 1st - 4th May 2023

The balance of £250 is now due by the end of this month, please make cheques payable to St. Peter's Hazel Grove. If you pay by bank transfer or card please let the office know by email admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk. If you would like to pre book lunch at Wetherspoons The Sir John Arderne, in Newark let us know and we will sort out menu's, there are other Eateries and also nice places to have a picnic lunch.

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**

OFFERTORY GIFTS Thank you for your generous offerings last week which amounted to £1070.08 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 £241.04 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 6 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.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES for 2023/2024 are now at the back of Church.

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.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AT ST JOSEPHS, STOCKPORT

The Bishop has designated St Josephs as a Eucharistic Shrine for the diocese and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is on each day. Fr Sean, the parish priest, is looking for people who could offer to 'watch and pray' before the Blessed Sacrament for an hour each week. If you can help then please get in touch with him either by e mail stockportshrine@gmail.com or by phone 480 3164

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 are now 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—synt.org.uk and those who wish to travel must book with them.

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

FOOTSTEPS

Our next event is on **Thursday 16 March at 7.30pm** when **Anthony Delaney** suggests how we can make a difference to others in **'From lost and alone to found and at home'**. We had originally booked Anthony to come in June 2020, but Covid had other plans. Then we re-booked him for 8 September last year and just before he set out from Didsbury to come to Hazel Grove, the sad news came that the Queen had died. Undeterred, Anthony simply spoke from the heart to us. His was the reassuring voice we needed to hear that night about how our Christian faith will help us in the days to come as we adjust to life without the Queen. He quoted Biblical references and many examples from his own life of when faith has been pivotal, often interspersed with his local humour. There was so much that Anthony said as he stood before us that gently created a peace and an assurance in the room that our faith is the best gift we have received. And to listen to someone speak so eloquently, so inspiringly and with quiet authority, all off the cuff, was a real gift that we were privileged to witness.

So now, 'third time lucky' as the saying goes, we're hoping to hear him share his thoughts on making a difference to others. We hope you'll be able to join us in our informal, café-style setting in the parish centre as we explore ways to help us on our Christian journey. You'll be very welcome.

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

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP is on again this Tuesday evening, 7.30 pm in the parish meeting room. If life is feeling too busy and you need some peace, come along to our friendly group!

FROM FR PETER

I was at the Annual Conference for our Primary Headteachers, Governors and Parish Priests this week and the speaker was David Wells who lives in Devon but travels all over the country giving talks and encouraging people in their discipleship. I am hoping we can get him to come and give us a day next Lent to help us in the celebrations of the parish centenary. He is both entertaining and inspiring.

And that's a;ll for this week, hope its a good one for you and that Lent is not beginning to drag!!

Fr Peter

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR LENT 2023
*Lenten Penance and the Synodal Journey***

Dear brothers and sisters!

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all recount the episode of the Transfiguration of Jesus. There we see the Lord's response to the failure of his disciples to understand him. Shortly before, there had been a real clash between the Master and Simon Peter, who, after professing his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, rejected his prediction of the passion and the cross. Jesus had firmly rebuked him: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a scandal to me, because you do not think according to God, but according to men!" (*Mt 16:23*). Following this, "six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John his brother and led them away to a high mountain" (*Mt 17:1*). The Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed every year on the Second Sunday of Lent. During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend "a high mountain" in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline – *ascesis* – as God's holy people.

Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. This is precisely what Peter and the other disciples needed to do. To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making. We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience.

In his "retreat" on Mount Tabor, Jesus takes with him three disciples, chosen to be witnesses of a unique event. He wants that experience of grace to be shared, not solitary, just as our whole life of faith is an experience that is shared. For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus. Together too, as a pilgrim Church in time, we experience the liturgical year and Lent within it, walking alongside those whom the Lord has placed among us as fellow travellers. Like the ascent of Jesus and the disciples to Mount Tabor, we can say that our Lenten journey is "synodal", since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master. For we know that Jesus is himself the Way, and therefore, both in the liturgical journey and in the journey of the Synod, the Church does nothing other than enter ever more deeply and fully into the mystery of Christ the Saviour.

And so we come to its culmination. The Gospel relates that Jesus "was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light" (*Mt 17:2*). This is the "summit", the goal of the journey. At the end of their ascent, as they stand on the mountain heights with Jesus, the three disciples are given the grace of seeing him in his glory, resplendent in supernatural light. That light did not come from without, but radiated from the Lord himself. The divine beauty of this vision was incomparably greater than all the efforts the disciples had made in the ascent of Tabor. During any strenuous mountain trek, we must keep our eyes firmly fixed on the path; yet the panorama that opens up at the end amazes us and rewards us by its grandeur. So too, the synodal process may often seem arduous, and at times we may become discouraged. Yet what awaits us at the end is undoubtedly something wondrous and amazing, which will help us to understand better God's will and our mission in the service of his kingdom.

The disciples' experience on Mount Tabor was further enriched when, alongside the transfigured Jesus, Moses and Elijah appeared, signifying respectively the Law and the Prophets (cf. *Mt 17:3*). The newness of Christ is at the same time the fulfilment of the ancient covenant and promises; it is inseparable from God's history with his people and discloses its deeper meaning. In a similar way, the synodal journey is rooted in the Church's tradition and at the same time open to newness. Tradition is a source of inspiration for seeking new paths and for avoiding the opposed temptations of immobility and improvised experimentation.
of Saint Paul

The Lenten journey of penance and the journey of the Synod alike have as their goal a transfiguration, both personal and ecclesial. A transformation that, in both cases, has its model in the Transfiguration of Jesus and is achieved by the grace of his paschal mystery. So that this transfiguration may become a reality in us this year, I would like to propose two “paths” to follow in order to ascend the mountain together with Jesus and, with him, to attain the goal.

The first path has to do with the command that God the Father addresses to the disciples on Mount Tabor as they contemplate Jesus transfigured. The voice from the cloud says: “Listen to him” (*Mt 17:5*). The first proposal, then, is very clear: we need to listen to Jesus. Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us. And how does he speak to us? First, in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy. May that word not fall on deaf ears; if we cannot always attend Mass, let us study its daily biblical readings, even with the help of the internet. In addition to the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need. Let me say something else, which is quite important for the synodal process: listening to Christ often takes place in listening to our brothers and sisters in the Church. Such mutual listening in some phases is the primary goal, but it remains always indispensable in the method and style of a synodal Church.

On hearing the Father’s voice, the disciples “fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Rise, and do not be afraid.’ And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone” (*Mt 17:6-8*). Here is the second proposal for this Lent: do not take refuge in a religiosity made up of extraordinary events and dramatic experiences, out of fear of facing reality and its daily struggles, its hardships and contradictions. The light that Jesus shows the disciples is an anticipation of Easter glory, and that must be the goal of our own journey, as we follow “him alone”. Lent leads to Easter: the “retreat” is not an end in itself, but a means of preparing us to experience the Lord’s passion and cross with faith, hope and love, and thus to arrive at the resurrection. Also on the synodal journey, when God gives us the grace of certain powerful experiences of communion, we should not imagine that we have arrived – for there too, the Lord repeats to us: “Rise, and do not be afraid”. Let us go down, then, to the plain, and may the grace we have experienced strengthen us to be “artisans of synodality” in the ordinary life of our communities.

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 January, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul