

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR 2023
FOR MAY
FOR CHURCH MOVEMENTS
AND GROUPS

We pray that Church
movements and groups may
rediscover their mission of
evangelisation each day, placing
their own charisms at the
service of needs in the world



THE WORD
OF
OF GOD

FIRST READING:
ACTS 2: 14.36-41

PSALM 22:
THE LORD IS MY
SHEPHERD; THERE IS
NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

SECOND READING:
1 PETER 2: 20-25

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!
I AM THE GOOD
SHEPHERD SAYS THE
LORD; I KNOW MY OWN
SHEEP AND MY OWN
KNOW ME
ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL READING:
JOHN 10: 1-10

I am the
gate of the
sheepfold

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

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

Saturday 29th April 2023—St. Catherine of Siena

11.00 –11.45 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction
12 Noon Kath Gingell-Birthday Memories (Mass with Sacrament of the Sick)
6.00 pm Mass at St. Philips - Edward Holdaway Birthday Memories
Readings: 1 John 1:5 - 2:2; Psalm 102; Matthew 11: 25-30

Sunday 30th April 2023 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30 am Barbara Martin RIP
10.00 am Jimmy Murphy RIP
6.00 pm People of the Parish
Readings : Acts 2: 14. 36-41; Psalm 22; 1 Peter 2: 20-25; John 10: 1-10

Music

Organ
Folk Group
Junior Choir

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Pope Francis' message for today is available on the on line version of this newsletter

Monday 1st May 2023 - St. Joseph the Worker

12 Noon Service of Word and Communion
Readings: Acts 11: 1-18; Psalm 41; John 10: 11-18

SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR HUMAN WORK

Tuesday 2nd May 2023-St. Athanasius

12 Noon Service of Word and Communion
Readings: Acts 11: 19-26; Psalm 86; John 10: 22-30

Wednesday 3rd May 2023 - Ss Philip and James

12 Noon Service of Word and Communion
Readings: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-8; Psalm 18; John 14: 6-14

Thursday 4th May 2023 - The English Martyrs

12 Noon Service of Word and Communion
Readings: Acts 7: 55-60; Psalm 30; Matthew 10: 17-20

Friday 5th May 2023

12 Noon Renata Broda RIP
6.00 - 8.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Readings : Acts 13: 26-33; Psalm 2; John 14: 1-6

Saturday 6th May 2023

NO CONFESSIONS NOR MASS AT MIDDAY TODAY

6.00 pm Mass at St. Philips - People of the Parish
Readings: Acts 13: 44-52; Psalm 97; John 14: 7-14

Sunday 7th May 2023 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30 am Bill and Muriel Christie RIP
10.00 am Peter Carrahar RIP
6.00 pm John and Elsie Carney RIP
Readings : Acts 6: 1-7; Psalm 32; m1 Peter 2: 4-9; John 14: 1-12

Music

Choir
Folk Group
Barbara

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

CELEBRATING THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

There will be a special service in the afternoon of Sunday May 7th at St Mary's Parish Church in Stockport Market Place to celebrate the Coronation of the King. Beginning at 4 00 p.m. It will provide an opportunity for Christians of all church traditions from across Stockport, to unite in prayer for King Charles III, whilst joining in praise and worship to the King of kings

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: Elizabeth Donaghy whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Friday May 12th at noon

Anniversaries that occur around this time : Bill Christie, Joan Whitam, Edward Gaughan, Therese Hanson, George Thornley, Frances Oulton, Barbara Martin, Doris Head, Elizabeth O'Reilly, Maureen Kennern, Alexander Murphy, Terence McConville, Tony Devoy, June Whittaker, Stanley Mitchell, Peter Carrahar, Moira Drain, Kenneth Lupton, Helga Bartley, Sheila Durdey, Jose' Matos, Pamela Autherson, Margaret Barrow, Mary Jackson, May McCormack, William Gingell, Cecilia Hillier, Josephine Sherry.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Parish Community Max Edward Whalley and Oluwafunmilade Zachariah R. Akin -Olawale

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 (currently meeting in the Sacristy)

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

John 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.

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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 there, listening to Jesus. Notice your thoughts, feeling...
3. Allow yourself to hear Jesus calling you by name and saying 'I have come that YOU may have life, and have it to the full.' Take time to be with Jesus, to respond...
4. How might you live this promise of fullness of life this coming week?

For Conversation:

How your parish community discerns the Shepherd's voice amongst the many differing voices.



ONLINE ALPHA

Feeling like a new start? New to church? Feeling like a boost? Want to rekindle your faith or just curious? Alpha Online is back! The online Alpha sessions will be starting on Wednesday 19th April 2023 from 8 PM - 9.00PM via Zoom. The sessions are informal - we'll watch a short film and then there's chance to share your thoughts and feelings or if you prefer just listen. Have your snacks and drinks available for while you're watching from the comfort of your own home! We have now started and it is going well, please pray for those taking part. To sign up click on the link or for more information speak to Deacon John or call Rachel on 07724 749217. <https://forms.gle/wdwCavztDVGdhv6H9>

BAPTISM COURSE the next course will be on 18th and 25th June 2023, please contact Karen at justasec55@hotmail.com for more information.

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP is on this Tuesday evening 7.30pm in the parish meeting room. Do come along and join this friendly, growing group as we lay down our worries, share our intentions and pray the Rosary. All welcome!

ST PETER'S HELPERS - New Volunteer recruitment launch

Would you like to volunteer with us? We are relaunching our volunteer registration with a simple online form: [St Peter's Helpers Volunteer Form](https://sites.google.com/view/st-peters-helpers/home) also available on our website <https://sites.google.com/view/st-peters-helpers/home> We will have a small number of paper forms at the back of church (please put completed forms in the box at the back of church). If you are currently one of our volunteers, please register again on our new system. More information: email stpetershelpers@gmail.com

ST PETER'S BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Our next Meeting will be on May 9th when we will be going to Mass at the Holy Spirit Church in Marple. They are looking forward to us joining them for refreshments afterwards and giving them some information about our Bereavement Group. Mass is at 7.00 pm, if you require a lift please contact Helen. The address is 24 Leigh Avenue, Marple, SK6 6DF.

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.

CHESTER MYSTERY PLAYS We have now booked 35 tickets for Saturday 8th July, the Matinee starts at 1.00 pm, the coach will leave The Anchor Pub on the A6 at 11.00 am. We will return at approximately 5.30 pm. The cost including the coach is £45. Please confirm that you are coming by YES or NO on the notice at the back of Church, If you have not put your name down and would like to go please let the office know, it may be that there is a place or you may be put on a reserve list. Payment can be made by BACS/Card Machine (Reference 'MYSTERY') or cheque (made out to St. Peter's Church) by May 28th please.

SAVE THE DATE READERS

If you are a reader in the parish you are invited to come to the parish centre on **Saturday, 24th June from 9 until 11.45am.** Mary Hardiman will lead a **special reflection** for all involved in this ministry, whatever your age or experience. Others who are considering becoming a reader are also welcome to come along. Breakfast will be provided.

It would be helpful if you could let us know whether or not you are able to attend by emailing

mary.hardiman@sky.com

Please make a note of the date now, so you don't miss it.

ANOTHER DATE TO SAVE is the 2nd July 2023, daytime, more details will follow shortly. Something for all the family!

NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Now that we are offering the chalice to everyone again we need to appoint some new Eucharistic ministers so I would like to ask for nominations and volunteers for this important ministry. If you are nominating someone then ask them beforehand if they are willing to serve in this way!

LAMBS will be on **TODAY** 30th April in the Meeting Room from 4.00 pm - 6.00 pm with a Coronation Theme and Disco, for more information contact Kath Coll 0161 456 0881.

ST PETER'S BOOK CLUB

We would like to recommend **Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus** - a book about Elizabeth Zott who is a chemist trying to succeed in 1960's corporate America. Her male colleagues cannot get past the fact that she's a woman, acknowledging her only long enough to steal her work! It's a lively read, funny and sad at the same time. Our second choice is **Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr** which is a tale, connecting five characters, over hundreds of years through their relationship to a single book. Doerr describes this book as 'part fairytale, part fool's errand, part science fiction, part utopian satire ..' Also, **The Island of Missing Trees by Elif Shafak** which is set between the 1970's and more recent times, between Cyprus and London. It is a story about the turbulent history of Cyprus and communities torn apart by war, partition, religion and migration. It is dedicated 'To immigrants and exiles everywhere, the uprooted, the rootless, And to the trees we left behind, rooted in our memories..'

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

THE LATE GREAT 'JIMMY MURPHY' - STATUE FOR JIMMY

On Wednesday 3rd May at 5.00 pm a statue of Manchester United Legend, Jimmy Murphy, will be unveiled at Old Trafford. Jimmy was United's Assistant Manager to Sir Matt Busby and was known as the "STARMAKER", the genius behind the Busby Babes, and was renowned for his sterling work after the Munich air crash. A resident of Poynton, Jimmy often attended Mass at St. Peters, his family are Parishioners here.

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.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND FEBRUARY 2024

Details are on the diocesan website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/diocesan-pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land-2024/>

OFFERTORY GIFTS Thank you for your generous offerings last week which amounted to £1383.21 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 £117.99 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

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

CHURCH CLEANING Team 2 are on duty this week

CHURCH CLEANING

We are in need of volunteers to help clean our lovely church. Could you spare a couple of hours every six weeks? Why not join one of our teams?(Choice of mornings on Monday, Tuesday, Friday or Saturday). We are looking for people of all ages - no experience necessary !! It could be a great way to make friends and even keep fit!! For more details contact Margaret [07504 708981](tel:07504708981)

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

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.

JOB VACANCIES- St. Hugh & St John Timperley A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Secretary at St Hugh & St John commencing July 2023. The role is for 20 hours per week @ £13 per hour. Completed CV's should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Closing date Friday 26 May 2023. More details can be found on the Diocesan website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>

CARDINAL LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL in Middleton are looking for a RE teacher Details are on the school website www.clrchs.co.uk/school-information/vacancies

PPT MEETING the next Parish Pastoral Team meeting will be on Monday 22nd May

STEPPING HILL HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY VOLUNTEERS

The Chaplaincy Team is hoping to recruit a number of people to join our existing team of volunteers who visit the hospital wards.

We are offering a four-week course (one afternoon per week) which will introduce people to the principles and practice of hospital chaplaincy. Those who complete the course will be invited for an interview to explore their suitability to join the Chaplaincy Service as a volunteer.

The course is offered free of charge and will take place on the main hospital site. It will be on Thursdays, 2:00 to 4:00 pm, from June 8th to June 29th.

If you are interested in attending the course or would like more information, please contact the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Team on 0161 419 5889 or chaplaincy.spiritualcareteam@stockport.nhs.uk. Or speak to Father Peter, who will give you a Job Description.

From Fr. Peter

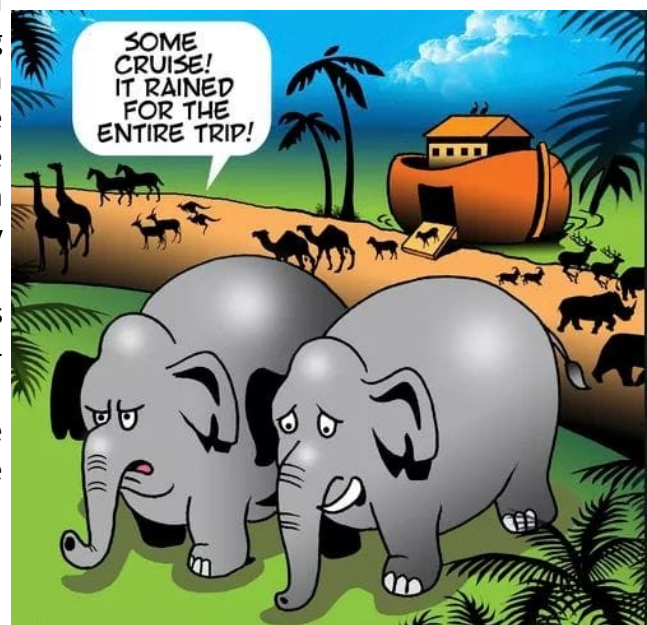
A group of us are off to Walsingham this week where we will remember the parish in our prayers. Those who are travelling have had all their instructions so don't be late for the coach on Monday morning. I was reading the other day about a couple who were on a 'dream cruise' but arrived back at the port late and the ship left them behind. You have been warned! I am looking forward to seeing Walsingham because this will be my first visit there.

We are also asked to keep the King in our prayers this week as he prepares for his Coronation on Saturday. We will be celebrating the Coronation next Sunday with a good lunch!

After the Coronation we will be turning our attention to the celebration of the centenary of the parish and we should be able to keep that going for a good twelve months ...at least.

Have a good week, I intend to!

Fr Peter



Message of the Holy Father for the 60th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 26.04.2023

Dear brothers and sisters, dear young people!

This is now the sixtieth time that we are celebrating the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, established by Saint Paul VI in 1964, during the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. This providential initiative seeks to assist the members of the People of God, as individuals and as communities, to respond to the call and mission that the Lord entrusts to each of us in today's world, amid its afflictions and its hopes, its challenges and its achievements.

This year I would ask you, in your reflection and prayer, to take as your guide the theme "Vocation: Grace and Mission". This Day is a precious opportunity for recalling with wonder that the Lord's call is grace, complete gift, and at the same time a commitment to bring the Gospel to others. We are called to a faith that bears witness, one that closely connects the life of grace, as experienced in the sacraments and ecclesial communion, to our apostolate in the world. Led by the Spirit, Christians are challenged to respond to existential peripheries and human dramas, ever conscious that the mission is God's work; it is not carried out by us alone, but always in ecclesial communion, together with our brothers and sisters, and under the guidance of the Church's pastors. For this has always been God's dream: that we should live with him in a communion of love.

"Chosen before the creation of the world"

The apostle Paul opens before us a remarkable horizon: in Christ, God the Father "chose us before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Eph 1:4-5). These words allow us to glimpse life at its fullest: God has "conceived" us in his image and likeness and desires us to be his sons and daughters. We were created by love, for love and with love, and we are made for love.

In the course of our lives, this call, which is part of the fibre of our being and the secret of our happiness, comes to us by the work of the Holy Spirit in ever new ways. It enlightens our minds, strengthens our wills, fills us with amazement and sets our hearts afire. At times, the Spirit comes to us in completely unexpected ways. So it was for me when, on 21 September 1953, as I was on my way to an annual school celebration, I was led to stop by a church and go to confession. That day changed my life and left a mark that has endured to the present day. God's call to the gift of self tends to make itself known gradually: in our encounter with situations of poverty, in moments of prayer, when we see a clear witness to the Gospel, or read something that opens our minds. When we hear God's word and sense that it is spoken directly to us, in the advice given by a fellow brother or sister, in moments of sickness or sorrow... In all the ways he calls us, God shows infinite creativity.

The Lord's initiative and his gracious gift call for a response on our part. Vocation is "the interplay between divine choice and human freedom",^[1] a dynamic and exciting relationship between God and the human heart. The gift of vocation is like a divine seed that springs up in the soil of our existence, opens our hearts to God and to others, so that we can share with them the treasure we ourselves have found. This is the fundamental structure of what we mean by vocation: God calls us in love and we, in gratitude, respond to him in love. We realize that we are beloved sons and daughters of the one Father, and we come to see ourselves as brothers and sisters of one another. Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, when at last she "saw" this clearly, exclaimed, "At last I have found my calling: my call is love. Indeed, I have found my proper place in the Church... In the heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be love".^[2]

"I am a mission on this earth"

God's call, we said, includes a "sending". There is no vocation without mission. There is no happiness and full self-realization unless we offer others the new life that we have found. God's call to love is an experience that does not allow us to remain silent. Saint Paul says, "Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!" (*1 Cor* 9:16). And the First Letter of John begins with the words, "What we have heard and seen, looked at and touched – the Word made flesh – we declare also to you, so that our joy may be complete" (cf. 1:1-4).

Five years ago, in the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, I spoke to every baptized person, saying, "You need to see the entirety of your life as a mission" (No. 23). Yes, because each and every one of us is able to say: "I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273).

Our shared mission as Christians is to bear joyful witness wherever we find ourselves, through our actions and words, to the experience of being with Jesus and members of his community, which is the Church. That mission finds expression in works of material and spiritual mercy, in a welcoming and gentle way of life that reflects closeness, compassion and tenderness, in contrast to the culture of waste and indifference. By being a neighbour, like the Good Samaritan (cf. *Lk* 10:25-37), we come to understand the heart of our Christian vocation: to imitate Jesus Christ, who came to serve, not to be served (cf. *Mk* 10:45).

This missionary activity does not arise simply from our own abilities, plans and projects, nor from our sheer willpower or our efforts to practice the virtues; it is the result of a profound experience in the company of Jesus. Only then can we testify to a Person, a Life, and thus become "apostles". Only then can we regard ourselves as "sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising, healing and freeing" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 273).

The Gospel icon of this experience is that of the two disciples journeying to Emmaus. After their encounter with the risen Jesus, they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the Scriptures to us?" (*Lk* 24:32). In those disciples, we can see what it means to have "hearts on fire, feet on the move".^[3] This is also my fervent hope for the coming World Youth Day in Lisbon, to which I joyfully look forward, with its motto: "Mary arose and went with haste" (*Lk* 1:39). May every man and woman feel called to arise and go in haste, with hearts on fire.

Called together and convened

The evangelist Mark relates the moment when Jesus called to himself twelve disciples, each by name. He appointed them to be with him and to be sent out to proclaim the message, to heal infirmities and to cast out demons (cf. *Mk* 3:13-15). The Lord thus laid the foundations of his new community. The Twelve were people from different social classes and trades; none of them was a person of influence. The Gospels speak too of other callings, like that of the 72 disciples whom Jesus sent out two by two (cf. *Lk* 10:1).

The Church is an *Ecclesia*, the Greek word for *an assembly of persons called and convened*, in order to form the community of missionary disciples of Jesus Christ committed to sharing love among themselves (cf. *Jn* 13:34; 15:12) and spreading that love to all others, so that God's kingdom may come.

Within the Church, all of us are servants, in accordance with the variety of our vocations, charisms and ministries. Our common vocation to give ourselves in love develops and finds concrete expression in the life of lay men and women, devoted to raising a family as a small *domestic church* and working as a leaven of the Gospel to renew the different sectors of society; in the testimony of consecrated women and men who are completely committed to God for the sake of their brothers and sisters as a prophetic sign of the kingdom of God; in ordained ministers – deacons, priests and bishops – placed at the service of preaching,

prayer and fostering the communion of the holy People of God. Only in relation with all the others, does any particular vocation in the Church fully disclose its true nature and richness. Viewed in this light, the Church is a vocational "symphony", with every vocation united yet distinct, in harmony and joined together in "going forth" to radiate throughout the world the new life of the kingdom of God.

Grace and mission: a gift and a task

Dear brothers and sisters, vocation is a gift and a task, a source of new life and true joy. May the initiatives of prayer and of activity associated with this Day strengthen an awareness of vocation within our families, our parish communities, our communities of consecrated life, and our ecclesial associations and movements. The Spirit of the risen Lord dispels our apathy and grants us the gifts of sympathy and empathy. In this way, he enables us to live each day born anew as children of the God who is love (cf. *1 Jn* 4:16) and in turn to offer that love to others. To bring life everywhere, especially in places of exclusion and exploitation, poverty and death, in order to enlarge the spaces of love,^[4] so that God may reign ever more fully in this world.

May the prayer that Saint Paul VI composed for the first World Day of Vocations, 11 April 1964, accompany us on our journey:

"O Jesus, divine Shepherd of souls, you called the apostles and made them fishers of men. Continue to draw to yourself ardent and generous souls from among the young, in order to make them your followers and your ministers. Give them a share in your thirst for the redemption of all... Open before them the horizons of the entire world... By responding to your call, may they prolong your mission here on earth, build up your Mystical Body which is the Church, and be 'the salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world' (*Mt* 5:13)".

May the Virgin Mary watch over you and protect you. With my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 30 April 2023, Fourth Sunday of Easter.

[1] *Final Document of the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops* (2018): "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, No. 78.

[2] *Manuscript B*, written during her last retreat (September 1896), *Oeuvres completes*, Paris, 1992, p. 226.

[3] Cf. *Message for World Mission Day 2023* (6 January 2023).

[4] "*Dilatentur spatia caritatis*": SAINT AUGUSTINE, *Sermo* 69: PL 5, 440-441.