

**OFFERTORY GIFTS** Thank you for your generous offerings last week which amounted to £1277.53 Online giving last month came to around £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. We also received £287.18 through the card machine. St. Philips Offertory amounted to £223.21 plus £340 from direct debits during the month of November. We also acknowledge a gift to the parish from St Philip's Friendship Group

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 IN ST PETERS** Team 6 are on duty this week. **Volunteers for St Philips are requested**

**St Peter's Catholic Primary School Admissions Policy 2025-26**

We are consulting on our admissions policy. Please find below a link to the relevant detail.

[Admission Arrangements Consultation 2025-26 - Stockport Metropolitan Borough Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)

**CONFIRMATION**

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in July and the preparation will begin after Christmas. Candidates who should be in **Year 8 or above** will be invited to register in the New Year and this will be announced via this newsletter.

**DIOCESAN YEAR BOOKS**

The 2024 Diocesan Year Book is now available and on sale in the porch at £6 per copy in both of our churches. In St Peter's you can pay by card.

**THANK YOU**

Thanks to all who supported the Christmas Concert in the Parish Centre last Friday evening as well as those who came along to the Carol Service in Church last Sunday afternoon.

Fr Peter and Deacon John wish to thank you all for your generosity with Christmas gifts for us both over the past couple of weeks and lots of cards. It is most heartwarming for us to have such support. Thank you to all those who help to prepare our church for the Christmas celebrations and to those who lead us in the music as well as our readers and Eucharistic Ministers. It is a great team effort! Thank you

Thank you to Fr Joe Tan from the Salesian House at Bollington who is celebrating the Christmas Masses at St Philip's and Fr Tony Myers who will be celebrating the two Masses here at St Peter's this Sunday morning.

Fr Peter and Deacon John wish you all  
the blessings and peace  
of Christmas

From Fr Peter

I hope you are all up to speed with your Christmas Preparations, if not then you haven't got much time left! I hope all your celebrations go well.

We had sad news on Friday afternoon that Fr Paul Lomas who was parish priest in Heald Green for some years and then moved to Birmingham to be near his family as he looked after his wife.

Paul died in hospital on Friday after a short illness. We remember his family in our prayers as we pray for his eternal rest reunited with his wife who died a couple of years ago.

I hesitate to mention the football but 8 -0 last Saturday was rather spectacular and we hope that there will be a repeat performance this weekend.

There are two cartoons for this week, to make up for the last few weeks.

Have a good Christmas

Fr Peter



The Year Santa Hired a Consultant

**POPE'S INTENTIONS**  
**DECEMBER 2023**  
**FOR PERSONS WITH**  
**DISABILITIES:**  
We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation

**THE WORD**  
**OF GOD**

**FIRST READING:**  
**2 SAMUEL 7: 1-**  
**5.8-12.14.16;**

**PSALM 88:**  
**I WILL SING FOR-**  
**EVER OF YOUR**  
**LOVE, O LORD**

**SECOND READING:**  
**2 ROMANS 16:**  
**25-27**

**GOSPEL**  
**ACCLAMATION**  
**Jesus is Lord**  
**ALLELUIA!**  
**Jesus shall**  
**come, ALLELUIA!**  
**See the Virgin**  
**will conceive**  
**Jesus shall**  
**come**  
**Alleluia**  
**He shall be**  
**called**  
**Emmanuel**  
**Jesus shall**  
**come, ALLELUIA!**  
**Jesus is Lord**  
**ALLELUIA!**  
**Jesus shall**  
**come, ALLELUIA!**  
**ALLELUIA!**

**GOSPEL READNG:**  
**LUKE 1:26-38**

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

*St Peter's and St Philip's Newsletter*

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**ADVENT WEEK 4**

**Divine Office Psalter Week IV**

**ALL MASSES FROM ST PETERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE LIVE STREAM**  
[www.churchservices.tv/stockport](#)

**Saturday 23rd December 2023**

11- 11.45 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction

12 Noon James Cox RIP

6.00 pm Mass at St. Philips - People of the Parish

6.00 pm St Peters - Polish Mass

Readings: Malachi 3; 1-4. 23-24; Psalm 24; Luke 1: 57-66

**Sunday 24th December 2023 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8.30 am Matthew Brazier RIP - Birthday Memories

ORGAN

10.00 am Rene and Paulette Stoerr RIP

FOLK GROUP

11 00 am St Philips - Mass in Syro Malabar Rite

Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5. 8-12. 14.16; Psalm 88: 2 Romans 16: 25-27

**Sunday 24th December 2023 - CHRISTMAS EVE—Vigil Mass**

**At St Peter's**

6.00 pm Children's Mass with TOAST - Marie McNeil RIP and Kath Thiele Int.

9.30 pm Carols

10.00 pm People of the Parish

**At St Philip's**

8.00 pm Patsy Anderson RIP

11.30 pm Mass for Syro Malabar Community

Readings: Isaiah 9: 1-7; Psalm 95; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-14

**Monday 25th December 2023 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

8.30 am St Peter's Thomas New RIP

10.00 am St Peter's Family Mass - Marie and Paddy O'Brien - Diamond Wedding Anv.

10.00 am Mass at St. Philips - John Burke RIP

Readings: Isaiah 62: 11-12; Psalm 96; Titus 3: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-20

11.30 am St Peter's Priests Intentions

Readings: Isaiah 52: 7-10; Psalm 97; Hebrews 1: 1-6; John 1: 1-18

**No evening Mass on Christmas Day**

**Tuesday 26th December 2023 - St Stephen**

12 Noon Kathleen Canning—90th Birthday

Readings: Acts 6: 8-10.7: 54-59; Psalm 30; Matthew 10: 17-22

**Wednesday 27th December 2023—St. John**

11.00 am St. Philips -Requiem Mass for Tony di Georgio

12 noon Service of Word and Communion

Readings: 1 John 1: 1-4; Psalm 96; John 20: 2-8

**Thursday 28th December 2023 - The Holy Innocents**

12 Noon Mark and Margaret Shaw RIP

Readings: 1 John 1: 5-2: 2; Psalm 123; Matthew 2: 13-18

**Friday 29th December 2023 - St. Thomas Beckett**

12 Noon: Kenneth Savage RIP

Readings: Colossians 1: 24-29; Psalm 22; Luke 22: 24-30

**Saturday 30th December 2023—Sixth day of Christmas Octave**

11- 11.45 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction

12 Noon Martin Vaughan and the Vaughan Family

6.00 pm Mass at St. Philips - Patrick O'Grady RIP

6.00 pm St Peters - Polish Mass

Readings: 1 John 2: 12-17; Psalm 95; Luke 2: 36-40

**Sunday 31st December 2023 - THE HOLY FAMILY**

8.30 am People of the Parish

ORGAN

10.00 am Joan Mulcahy RIP

FOLK GROUP

11 00 am St Philips Mass in Syro Malabar Rite

6.00 pm Raymond Long RIP



### *Your prayers are asked for*

**RECENTLY DECEASED** Tony di Georgio whose funeral will be at St Philips on 27th December at 11.00 am  
Geraldine Bramwell whose Funeral will be at Stockport Crematorium (Rowen Chapel) on Thursday January 4th at 1.00 pm. Pamela Brown whose funeral will be at the Crematorium on Friday January 12th at 1 00 p.m., Keith Ryan whose funeral will be on January 9th at 1 45 p.m at the Crematorium, Sidney Bloomfield whose funeral will on Wednesday January 10th at 12 noon at the Crematorium and we also pray for Malcom Jones (Brother of Steph Leyden) who died this week. We also received news of the death on Friday of Fr Paul Lomas formerly of Christ Church, Heald Green and who has been working in the Archdiocese of Birmingham for a while.

**Anniversaries that occur around this time:** Sally Samways, Vera Rhodes, Brendan Holbery, John Toye, James Foley, Agnes Cryer, Charles Hallsworth, Roy Engledow, Annie Kenny, Mary Morris, Winifred Hardiman, Lawrence Cregan, Vernon Whittingham, Veronica Chatterton, Christine Glazier, Robert Carter.

**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 Fr Bill Fitzgerald from Holy Spirit Marple who has had heart surgery and is now beginning convalescence. We also remember Canon John Gordon formerly of St Chad's Cheadle who is in hospital at the moment.

**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

#### **4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (YEAR B) Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end. Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.



1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Imagine the scene... God choosing, taking the initiative... Mary's appearance, her reaction to the angel, her response... Notice your response as you listen, your thoughts and feelings...
3. In prayer, take time to respond to God coming among us in the body of Christ.

#### **For Conversation:**

The risk of saying Yes to God

**BEREAVEMENT GROUP** Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th January at 2.00 pm when we will be having Reflection and Refreshments, after that we will meet on Friday 26th January for an Unwanted Christmas Gift Raffle and Winter Afternoon Tea, at 2.00 pm in the Parish Centre. If you would like any further information please contact the office admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk or ring Helen 07854928072.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE** The dates for the next course will be 7th and 21st January 2024. Please contact [justasec55@hotmail.com](mailto:justasec55@hotmail.com) to book a place on the course. The course is an opportunity to reflect on the parent's role as the first teachers of the faith and to meet other families who are also preparing for their child's baptism.

#### **PIETY STALL**

We have a new selection of cards for all occasions for sale in the Piety Stall, Baptism, Communion, Confirmation, Sympathy and many others.

**We are very much in need of new helpers** to serve in the Piety Stall for a few minutes before and after the 8.30 and 10.00 am Masses. If you could spare any time please contact the Parish Office or speak to one of the helpers who generously give their time at the moment.

#### **CARITAS SHREWSBURY**

The current Impact Report which can also be seen on their website <https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/about/impact-reports/>

#### **STOCKPORT LIBRARIES**

Do you or someone you know struggle to visit the library due to health issues or caring commitments? Stockport's Home Library Service can deliver your choice of books, talking books and DVDs direct to your door in the Stockport area completely free of charge. For more information please contact us on 0161 474 5600 or [homelibraryservice@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@stockport.gov.uk) and speak to one of our friendly members of staff.

#### **UNDERSTANDING AUTISM GROUP**

**Save The Date : Church Open Afternoon, January 27th 2024, 2.00pm - 4.00pm**

For most of us, we look forward to our church Christmas services, the music, crowds in church, different services, the flowers, the lights all add to an excitement in church. But for some people, just one of these factors will result in increased anxiety and coming into church may be really difficult. On Saturday 27th January we will be opening the church for anyone who would like a calm, Autism friendly visit. Join us in sensory prayer. Enjoy some refreshments. More details to follow

**CAFOD's Christmas Fun Run** is back this year on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December in Bollington, Macclesfield. Is there a keen runner in our Parish who could take part and collect sponsorship from fellow parishioners? Or maybe you could get a team of budding runners (or walkers!) to take part. Individual, child and family registrations are available. To register, visit: <https://cafod.org.uk/christmasfunrun>  
We are also in urgent need of volunteers to help out on the day: <https://cafod.org.uk/volunteer/volunteering-opportunities/short-term-volunteering> There is a form at the back of Church if you would like to Sponsor Tim Smart

#### **ST PETERS BOOK CLUB**

We would like to recommend the following books:

**Behind the Scenes at the Museum by Kate Atkinson** - this is Kate Atkinson's debut novel and it is a fantastic epic that chronicles the lives of four generations of women from the late 1800's to 1992. It is set in York and it depicts working-class life spanning two World Wars with a particular focus on the lives of women and the choices they were forced to make. **Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurty** - this is a Western, it won the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and it is based on the lives of several retired Texas Rangers who attempt to drive a cattle herd from Texas to Montana in the late 1870's. A story that is rich in detail and surprisingly warm, likeable characters. **Homecoming by Kate Morton** - set in Adelaide in 1959, a body is discovered and the case goes cold until sixty years later. This is described as an epic novel that spans generations and asks us what we would do for those we love?

**Black Butterflies by Priscilla Morton** - set in 1992 and the siege of Sarajevo, Zora, an artist and a teacher, sends her husband, mother and daughter to safety in England and stays behind while the city falls.

#### **ST PETER'S CENTENARY GIN**

If you wish to purchase a bottle of Centenary Gin then use the following link and providing you order it by Thursday and click on **COLLECT** it will be delivered here at St Peters by the following weekend. You will receive an email saying its ready for collection from the shop but ignore that, it will be brought to the presbytery and kept safe for you—honest! Thank you to all of those who have purchased already and thereby helped the parish! What better excuse do you need to have a drink?

<https://www.stockport-gin.com/stpeters>

#### **SAVE THE DATES**

**REFLECTIONS ON THE HOLY LAND** - John McKay and Jonathan Goodfellow recently visited the Holy Land arriving back 2 days before the terrible events of October 7th. Come and hear something of their reflections as they experienced this beautiful land through the lens of John's Gospel. Thursday 18th January 7.30 PM in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

#### **FINDING NEW LIFE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

Most people find the Old Testament rather dead, but we know it should be important. How are we to find God's voice in such an ancient and obscure (let's be honest) book? Come and See! - a journey across the desert with **David O'Neill**. Everyone welcome starting on Thursday 25th January 7.30 PM - 9 PM in the Parish Centre. (Save the dates;- Series 1 - starts on Thursday 25th January; 1st February and then will continue during Lent on Thursdays 22nd + 29th February; 7th + 14th March.)