

**OFFERTORY GIFTS** Thank you for your generous offerings last week which amounted to £1124.15 Online giving last month came to around £1100 per week . St. Philip's Offertory amounted to £351.78 Thank you to those who have done the on line giving. We also received £318.50 through the card machine during March 2024. The Cafod Family Fast Collection is still open for further donations ,envelopes at the back of Church .

There are a few boxes of envelopes still unclaimed in the porch.

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.**

**CHURCH CLEANING IN ST PETERS** Team 5 are on duty this week. Volunteers for St Philips are requested

**SCOUTS**

**Meeting Times for 2nd Hazel Grove Scout Group - St Peter's Scout Hut**

Brownies - Monday - 6.30pm to 7.45pm Cubs - Tuesday - 7:00pm - 8:30pm Guides - Tuesday - 7.45pm to 9.15pm Beavers - Wednesday - 6:00pm - 7:15pm Scouts - Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm

**Contact: [samantha.panjeta@ladybrookvalleyscouts.org.uk](mailto:samantha.panjeta@ladybrookvalleyscouts.org.uk) or ring Samantha on 07748308514**

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

26 July—01 August by air 25 July—02 August - overland

Full details and booking forms can be downloaded from

[www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk/BROCHURE---FORMS](http://www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk/BROCHURE---FORMS)

or speak with Fr Peter. For the YOUTH SECTION (ages 16-22) see Fr Peter

**VACANCIES IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

**ALL HALLOWS Catholic College** are advertising for a College Chaplain, more details on the notice board at the back of Church.

**ST. PHILIP'S Catholic Primary School** is looking to appoint a highly motivated and inspirational Deputy Headteacher from September 2024. More information can be found at: <https://www.stphilipsstockport.co.uk/page/vacancies/144123>

**HARRYTOWN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL:** We are currently recruiting for two Assistant Headteachers. Please visit the school website for further information – [www.harrytownschool.org](http://www.harrytownschool.org)

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY, MARPLE BRIDGE**

Is looking to appoint an inspirational and talented permanent, part time Class Teacher from 1 September 2024 working three days per week. We are willing to appoint Main Scale or Upper Pay Scale teachers, depending on skills and experience. Practising Catholics preferred. Further details and how to apply can be found here: <https://www.stmarysmarplebridge.srscmat.co.uk/our-school/vacancies/>. Closing date: 21 April 2024. **TODAY**

**FROM FR PETER**

Last week people remarked they were surprised that I hadn't mentioned that the 'boys' had won promotion at last. I thought it better to wait until they had finally got the Championship!! What a great achievement and we look forward to next season in Division 1.

Today is a Day of Special Prayer for vocations to the ordained ministries and especially priesthood so I hope you keep this intention in your prayers, not just today but every day. It is interesting to look at the profile of our diocesan clergy these days. Many of us are from overseas—Africa or India and the local born ones are getting older! The situation reached crisis point some years ago. We can no longer adequately staff the parishes we have and so we will have to look at new ways of finding priests to celebrate our Masses. Keep up the prayers! Pope Francis' message for today is included in the online version of this newsletter.

Have a good week

Fr Peter



**POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR APRIL 2024 FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN**

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**FIRST READING: ACTS 4: 8-12**

**PSALM 117 THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CORNER STONE**

**SECOND READING: JOHN 3: 1-2**

**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: 11-18**

**'THIS IS THE COMMAND I HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY MY FATHER'**

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

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

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[www.stpeterscatholic.church](http://www.stpeterscatholic.church) [www.churchservices.tv/stockport](http://www.churchservices.tv/stockport)

Email [admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk](mailto:admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk)

Fr. Peter Sharrocks [petersharrocks@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk](mailto:petersharrocks@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk)

Parish Deacon: Rev John McKay [admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk](mailto:admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk)



**EASTER WEEK III**

Divine Office Psalter Week III

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

**Saturday 20th 2024**

11.-11.45 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction  
12 Noon Marie and Paddy O'Brien 60th Wedding Anniversary  
6.00 pm Mass at St. Philips - In Thanksgiving  
6 00 p.m. Mass in Polish in St Peter's  
Readings : Acts 9:31-42; Psalm 115; John 6: 60-69

**Sunday 21st April 2024 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8.30 am Audrey Connolly RIP Choir  
10.00 am Donal McDermott RIP Folk  
10 00 a.m Syro Malabar Rite Mass in St Philip's  
6.00 pm People of the Parish Praise Be  
Readings: Acts 4: 8-12; Psalm 117; 1 John 3: 1-2; John 10: 11-18

**DAY OF PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR VOCATIONS**

**Monday 22nd April 2024**

12 noon Sarah, Frank and Michael Parker RIP  
Readings: Acts 11: 1-18; Psalm 41; John 10: 1-10

**Tuesday 23rd April 2024 - St. George - Patron of England**

12 Noon Liz Donaghy RIP  
Readings: Apocalypse 12: 10-12; Psalm 125; John 15: 18-21

**Wednesday 24th April 2024 St. Adalbert**

9.15 am Mass at St. Philips Donal McDermott RIP  
12.00 pm Service of Word and Communion  
Readings: Acts 11: 19-26; Psalm 86; John 10: 22-30

**Thursday 25th April 2024 St. Mark**

12 Noon Deceased Members of the McKenna Family  
Readings: 1 Peter 5: 5-14; Psalm 88; Mark 16: 15-20

**Friday 26th April 2024**

11.00 Requiem Mass at St. Vincent's for John Campbell  
12.00 Service of Word and Communion  
Readings : Acts 13: 26-33; Psalm 2; John 14: 1-6

**Saturday 27th April 2024**

11.-11.45 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction  
12 Noon Peter Wilkinson RIP  
2.00 pm Nuptial Mass Tom Samari and Vianey Castillo Sosa  
6.00 pm Mass at St. Philips - Agnes Shaughnessy RIP  
6 00 p.m. Mass in Polish in St Peter's  
Readings : Acts 13: 44-52; Psalm 97; John 14: 7-14

**Sunday 28th April 2024 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8.30 am Canon John Roper RIP Organ  
10.00 am People of the Parish TOAST  
10 00 a.m Syro Malabar Rite Mass in St Philip's  
2.30 pm Disability Inclusion Relaxed Mass  
6.00 pm People of the Parish Piano



**Your prayers are asked for**

**RECENTLY DECEASED** David Harding, John Campbell whose Requiem Mass will be at St. Vincent de Paul's Church in Bramhall at 11.00 am on Friday 26th April followed by burial at Mill Lane Cemetery, John Mercer, his Requiem Mass will be here at 11.00 am on May 10th followed by burial at Mill Lane Cemetery and Kay Glazier who died on Friday morning

**Anniversaries that occur around this time:** Alice Pastorelli, Elsie and John Carney, James Quinn, Blanche Bowlas, Mary Rowbotham, Patricia Barrow, Laurence Kenny, Elizabeth Donaghy, Angela Jones, Margaret Saunders, Bernard Powell, Gerry Earlam, Dom Dunstan Bumstead OSB, Peter Wilkinson, Ernie Ball.

**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.

**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.

**John 10: 11-18**

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. 'I am the good shepherd; know my own and my own know me just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd.' The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.

1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. As you hear Jesus say these words to you, what do you think, feel, hear...What do you say to Jesus in response?
3. What does this passage say to you about Jesus? About discipleship?

**For Conversation:**

What word does the passage offer the Parish Community?

**BEREAVEMENT GROUP** on 26th April at 7.00 pm in the Meeting Room (or Hall if available) we will be having a Film Night, The King's Speech. Our Spring/Summer programme is now available, copies at the back of Church. If you would like any further information please contact the office admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk or ring Helen 07854928072. You are welcome to come to the group no matter how recently or in the past you have lost a loved one.

**ST PHILIPS FRIENDSHIP GROUP** - Meet every Friday at 10-12 am tea/coffee/biscuits . The group have now raised £350 towards Parish funds.

**A WEEK OF ACCOMPANIED PRAYER.** This weekend sees the beginning of the week of accompanied prayer so please keep the participants and guides in your prayers

**OUR NEXT FOOTSTEPS EVENT**

We continue our 2024 programme of inspiring talks on **Thursday 2 May at 7.30pm** when we'll welcome back a familiar face to Footsteps, **Anthony Delaney** from the Ivy Church in Didsbury. He suggests we consider **'The art of survival – how to get through whatever you have to go through.'** It's a message he has been speaking on in various settings including in the Middle East in recent months so it sounds like it will be very thought provoking. Anthony is a former police officer, now an ordained minister, an author, speaker and broadcaster – and a local chap too! We meet in the **parish centre** in an informal café-style setting with drinks, nibbles and a warm welcome as we continue our Christian faith journey. See you there!

**DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE**

This year's Diocesan Mass for Marriage will take place on Saturday June 8th, 12 noon at Saint Columba's Church Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. If you would like to celebrate a special anniversary in 2024 please send the following details names, address and which anniversary you are celebrating, (this would be 25,30,0,50,60 or 1st) to the parish office (admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk) as soon as possible

**FR BERNARD McDERMOTT**

Fr Bernard will be celebrating 50 years of priesthood this year and one of his celebrations will be at All Saints Church, Ashton on Mersey, Sale—one of Fr Ned Wall's parishes—on Sunday April 21st at 5 00 p.m. Fr Bernard extends an invitation to all who wish to join him for this occasion **TONIGHT**

We will be celebrating the Centenary of the parish on Saturday June 29th with Masses with the Bishop at 12 noon followed by a buffet in the Parish Centre. We have invited priests who have served in the parish as priests of deacons and former head teachers of our schools as well as the present ones. I hope that you will keep this date free and come along and join in the celebrations.

On the same weekend we will be having a Centenary Flower Festival which will commence on Friday June 28th running through till the Sunday evening—further details of this event will be available over the coming weeks.

**HAND MADE CARDS** Birthday and occasion cards will be on sale after the 08.30 and 10.00 am Masses on: Ap 28 April, 26 May, 09 June, 23 June. There is a wide variety of hand made cards (many of which can be personalised on request) at very reasonable prices (50p - £2.50). All proceeds go to charitable causes. Last year, £1600 from card sales, plus £400 donated by parishioners, went to support families within the Parish and £140 went to parish groups. Thank you for your on-going support.

**Recycle your Easter Cards**

We would be grateful for any of your Religious Easter cards to help in the making of cards for Easter 2025. Please leave them in the office or at the back of Church.

**THE PIETY STALL** have a good selection of cards on sale at the back of Church, also gifts for Baptism, Communion, Confirmation and other occasions . Help is very much needed on a Sunday for a few minutes before and after the Masses, if you would like to volunteer please contact Helen in the office. The **price of Mass cards** has to be increased to **£1 per card** and this is the first increase in 17 years that I am aware of!! The Mass offering remains at your discretion.

**HOLY YEAR 2025—PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI**

Next year will be a Holy Year—these are held every 25 years. We will be organising a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi beginning on Easter Monday April 21st until the following Monday April 28th. We will spend a few days in Rome before going up to Assisi. The cost is £1495 per person sharing with a single supplement of £200. per person. Fr Peter has the full itinerary for anyone who is interested along with booking forms.

**JOURNEY THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT**

The journey through the Old Testament with David O'Neill continues and it's not too late to join ... we set off again last Thursday, and will be continuing on the 18th and 25th April. The theme for these sessions is "3 Prophets: Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah": please bring a Bible (Jerusalem Bible even better if you have this translation). Look forward to seeing you if you're free. For more information speak to David or Deacon John.

**DISABILITY INCLUSION GROUP - Relaxed Mass, next Sunday 28th April at 2.30pm**

We are arranging a 'relaxed' mass for those who struggle to attend our regular Sunday Mass. On Sunday 28th April we will have a shorter, relaxed mass, which we are hoping will be more appropriate for those who find our regular services too challenging. We will have support from someone who can Sign the mass, a breakout area, low stimulus music and reduced content.

We are trying something new, so please spread the word if you feel you or a family member/friend would enjoy this service.

Contact: [inclusionstpeters@gmail.com](mailto:inclusionstpeters@gmail.com)

**OUR LADY AND THE APOSTLES PILGRIMAGE 2024** is to Poland. The dates are 23 - 27 Sept 2024 and cost is £630, 1/2 board (sharing). Flights are from Manchester to Krakow. We will be visiting St Mary's Basilica, the Bishops palace, Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, Auschwitz, Jasna Gora Sanctuary and many other optional visits. Pilgrimage Spiritual Lead: Fr. Martin Onuoha Contact [unitedheartspilgrims@gmail.com](mailto:unitedheartspilgrims@gmail.com) for more information.

**PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK**

Please see notice at the back of Church

**DIOCESAN APPOINTMENT**

Damian Cunningham whom some of you will know from when he was head at Harrytown is stepping down from his role as Director of Schools for the Diocese so the Diocese is seeking to recruit a Director of Schools and applications are now open. Details of the role and the application process can be found at <https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/director-of-schools-birkenhead-2040730>

**SPY (St Peter's Youth)** are meeting on Sunday 28th April after 6PM Mass in the Parish Centre Meeting Room.

Open to all young people of high school age and above.

We have young people from year 7 through to college age who attend regularly. Come along for Faith sharing, friendship and fun and of course food! (7pm - 8.30 pm) All welcome and this is part of the Confirmation programme



**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
FOR THE 61st WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

[21 April 2024]

***Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace***

Dear brothers and sisters!

Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life. Hearing that divine call, which is far from being an imposed duty – even in the name of a religious ideal – is the surest way for us to fulfil our deepest desire for happiness. Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find ourselves.

This Day, then, is always a good occasion to recall with gratitude to the Lord the faithful, persevering and frequently hidden efforts of all those who have responded to a call that embraces their entire existence. I think of mothers and fathers who do not think first of themselves or follow fleeting fads of the moment, but shape their lives through relationships marked by love and graciousness, openness to the gift of life and commitment to their children and their growth in maturity. I think of all those who carry out their work in a spirit of cooperation with others, and those who strive in various ways to build a more just world, a more solidary economy, a more equitable social policy and a more humane society. In a word, of all those men and women of good will who devote their lives to working for the common good. I think too of all those consecrated men and women who offer their lives to the Lord in the silence of prayer and in apostolic activity, sometimes on the fringes of society, tirelessly and creatively exercising their charism by serving those around them. And I think of all those who have accepted God's call to the ordained priesthood, devoting themselves to the preaching of the Gospel, breaking open their own lives, together with the bread of the Eucharist, for their brothers and sisters, sowing seeds of hope and revealing to all the beauty of God's kingdom.

To young people, and especially those who feel distant or uncertain about the Church, I want to say this: Let Jesus draw you to himself; bring him your important questions by reading the Gospels; let him challenge you by his presence, which always provokes in us a healthy crisis. More than anyone else, Jesus respects our freedom. He does not impose, but proposes. Make room for him and you will find the way to happiness by following him. And, should he ask it of you, by giving yourself completely to him.

*A people on the move*

The polyphony of diverse charisms and vocations that the Christian community recognizes and accompanies helps us to appreciate more fully what it means to be Christians. As God's people in this world, guided by his Holy Spirit, and as living stones in the Body of Christ, we come to realize that we are members of a great family, children of the Father and brothers and sisters of one another. We are not self-enclosed islands but parts of a greater whole. In this sense, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations has a synodal character: amid the variety of our charisms, we are called to listen to one another and to journey together in order to acknowledge them and to discern where the Spirit is leading us for the benefit of all.

At this point in time, then, our common journey is bringing us to the Jubilee Year of 2025. Let us travel as *pilgrims of hope* towards the Holy Year, for by discovering our own vocation and its place amid the different gifts bestowed by the Spirit, we can become for our world messengers and witnesses of Jesus' dream of a single human family, united in God's love and in the bond of charity, cooperation and fraternity.

This Day is dedicated in a particular way to imploring from the Father the gift of holy vocations for the building up of his Kingdom: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Lk 10:2). Prayer – as we all know – is more about listening to God than about talking to him. The Lord speaks to our heart, and he wants to find it open, sincere and generous. His Word became flesh in Jesus Christ, who reveals to us the entire will of the Father. In this present year, devoted to prayer and preparation for the Jubilee, all of us are called to rediscover the inestimable blessing of our ability to enter into heartfelt dialogue with the Lord and thus become pilgrims of hope. For "prayer is the first strength of hope. You pray and hope grows, it moves forward. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. Hope is there, but by my prayer I open the door" (*Catechesis*, 20 May 2020).

*Pilgrims of hope and builders of peace*

Yet what does it mean to be *pilgrims*? Those who go on pilgrimage seek above all to keep their eyes fixed on the *goal*, to keep it always in their mind and heart. To achieve that goal, however, they need to concentrate on *every step*, which means travelling light, getting rid of what weighs them down, carrying only the essentials and striving daily to set aside all weariness, fear, uncertainty and hesitation. Being a pilgrim means setting out each day, *beginning ever anew*, rediscovering the enthusiasm and strength needed to pursue the various stages of a journey that, however tiring and difficult, always opens before our eyes new horizons and previously unknown vistas.

This is the ultimate meaning of our Christian pilgrimage: we set out on a journey to discover the love of God and at the same time to discover ourselves, thanks to an interior journey nourished by our relationships with others. We are *pilgrims because we have been called*: called to love God and to love one another. Our pilgrimage on this earth is far from a pointless journey or aimless wandering; on the contrary, each day, by responding to God's call, we try to take every step needed to advance towards a new world where people can live in peace, justice and love. We are pilgrims of hope because we are pressing forward towards a better future, committed at every step to bringing it about.

This is, in the end, the goal of every vocation: to become men and women of hope. As individuals and as communities, amid the variety of charisms and ministries, all of us are called to embody and communicate the Gospel message of hope in a world marked by epochal challenges. These include the baneful spectre of a third world war fought piecemeal; the flood of migrants fleeing their homelands in search of a better future; the burgeoning numbers of the poor; the threat of irreversibly compromising the health of our planet. To say nothing of all the difficulties we encounter each day, which at times risk plunging us into resignation or defeatism.

In our day, then, it is decisive that we Christians cultivate a gaze full of hope and work fruitfully in response to the vocation we have received, in service to God's kingdom of love, justice and peace. This hope – Saint Paul tells us – "does not disappoint" (*Rom* 5:5), since it is born of the Lord's promise that he will remain always with us and include us in the work of redemption that he wants to accomplish in the heart of each individual and in the "heart" of all creation. This hope finds its propulsive force in Christ's resurrection, which "contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force. Often it seems that God does not exist: all around us, we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and cruelty. But it is also true that in the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 276). Again, the Apostle Paul tells us that, "in hope we were saved" (*Rom* 8:24). The redemption accomplished in the paschal mystery is a source of hope, a sure and trustworthy hope, thanks to which we can face the challenges of the present.

To be pilgrims of hope and builders of peace, then, means to base our lives on the rock of Christ's resurrection, knowing that every effort made in the vocation that we have embraced and seek to live out, will never be in vain. Failures and obstacles may arise along the way, but the seeds of goodness we sow are quietly growing and nothing can separate us from the final goal: our encounter with Christ and the joy of living for eternity in fraternal love. This ultimate calling is one that we must anticipate daily: even now our loving relationship with God and our brothers and sisters is beginning to bring about God's dream of unity, peace and fraternity. May no one feel excluded from this calling! Each of us in our own small way, in our particular state of life, can, with the help of the Spirit, be a sower of seeds of hope and peace.

*The courage to commit*

In this light, I would say once more, as I did at World Youth Day in Lisbon: "*Rise up!*" Let us awaken from sleep, let us leave indifference behind, let us open the doors of the prison in which we so often enclose ourselves, so that each of us can discover his or her proper vocation in the Church and in the world, and become a pilgrim of hope and a builder of peace! Let us be passionate about life, and commit ourselves to caring lovingly for those around us, in every place where we live. Let me say it again: "Have the courage to commit!" Father Oreste Benzi, a tireless apostle of charity, ever on the side of the poor and the defenseless, used to say that no one is so poor as to have nothing to give, and no one is so rich as not to need something to receive.

Let us rise up, then, and set out as pilgrims of hope, so that, as Mary was for Elizabeth, we too can be messengers of joy, sources of new life and artisans of fraternity and peace.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 21 April 2024, Fourth Sunday of Easter.*

FRANCIS