

OFFERTORY GIFTS Thank you for your generous offerings last week which amounted to £1233.99online giving last month came to £3995 and £730 from the card machine. Those who use the card machine may find it has not been functioning properly this past few weeks but I think the matter is resolved now (again!) but check your own bank statements. St. Philip's Offertory amounted to £188.00 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**

The new set of envelopes begins this weekend so make sure you have your set.

CHURCH CLEANING IN ST PETERS Team 1 are on duty this week.

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

ALL HALLOWS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

All Hallows is an 11-18 Catholic College with a strong moral and spiritual ethos. The Governors invite applications for the post of College Chaplain from practising Catholics in good standing with the Church. The College Chaplain provides spiritual and pastoral support to students and staff of the College. This position is seen as crucial in fulfilling the College's mission. The Christian faith and commitment of the College Chaplain will play a central role in bearing witness to this mission and maintaining the distinctive Catholic nature of the College.

Job description and person specification along with application documents can be found on All Hallows Catholic College website: <https://www.allhallows.org.uk/contact-us/associate-staff-vacancies>

ST. SIMON'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL is looking to recruit **two permanent teachers**, to begin in September 2025. One position is for a main scale teacher and the other is for a TLR, to lead Key Stage 1. For further information, please click on the link <https://www.st-simons.stockport.sch.uk/vacancies-1>
Visits to our school are warmly welcomed. Please spread the word to anyone you know who may be interested in working at our fabulous school

ABBA TRIBUTE calling all you Dancing Queens (and Fernando's) , ABBA are coming to St. Peter's Parish Centre on Saturday 3rd May, doors open at 7.00 pm. Tickets are £15 including food, DJ ABBA Quiz and more...tickets are limited so get yours now. Call Rita on 07483114783

The CAFOD Family Fast Day Collection will be a **Retiring Collection on Easter Sunday**. You can give direct using the link cafod.org.uk/envelope

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

My name is Tim Smart and I have completed the Big Lent Walk (200km) and received £1100 in sponsorship up to now. You can continue sponsoring me as I will continue my walk throughout Lent. My online page is: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/fundraising/tims-fundraising-page1754>

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST PETER'S and ST PHILIP'S

Palm Sunday April 12/13. Usual Sunday Masses with Blessing of Palms at all Masses Monday Tuesday and Wednesday, Mass in St Peters each day at 12 noon and on Wednesday at St Philip's at 9 15
Wednesday April 16th Chrism Mass at St Anthony's Woodhouse Park at 7 00 p.m.

Holy Thursday April 17th Mass in both Churches at 7 00 p.m.

Watching at Altar of Repose in St Philip's until 9 00 p.m, and in St Peter's until 11 00 p.m.,

Good Friday April 18th Liturgy of the Passion at 3 00 p.m. In **BOTH** Churches

Holy Saturday April 19th

THERE WILL BE NO CONFESSIONS ON HOLY SATURDAY

Blessing of Food in Polish at 12 noon in St Peter's

The Easter Vigil in St Peter's **only** at 8 30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

Masses in St Peters 8 30, 10 00 and 11 30 a.m. (**NO EVENING MASS**)

Mass in St Philip's at 10 00 a.m.

SYRO MALABAR COMMUNITY

Holy Thursday Mass at 9 00 a.m.

Good Friday Liturgy at 10 00 a.m.

Holy Saturday at 9 00 a.m. and 8 30 p.m.

ALTAR SERVERS - MASSES FOR HOLY WEEK- Signup Sheets are in the Sacristy for the Masses during Holy Week - please sign up for any Masses you can attend and offer your valuable service.

We look forward now to celebrating Holy Week and Easter with all that this entails. There are 'slots' for readers to sign up for with the various lists in the sacristy and for Eucharistic Ministers. I would like to do the Washing of the Feet this year so will be looking for 12 'volunteers' over next weekend. You have been warned!!

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

For the use of new technologies:
Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING
ISIAH 43: 16-21

PSALM 125:
WHAT GREAT DEEDS THE LORD WORKED FOR US! INDEED, WE WERE GLAD

SECOND READING:
PHILIPPIANS 3: 8-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

GLORY TO YOU, O CHRIST, SON OF THE LIVING GOD. EVEN NOW, SAYS THE LORD, RETURN TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART, FOR I AM GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL. GLORY TO YOU, O CHRIST, SON OF THE LIVING GOD

GOSPEL READING:
John 8: 1-11

'NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU; GO, AND FROM NOW ON SIN NO MORE.'

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

St Peter's and St Philip's Newsletter

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LENT WEEK 5

DIVINE OFFICE PSALTER WEEK 1

ALL MASSES FROM ST PETERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE LIVE STREAM
www.churchservices.tv/stockport

Saturday 5th April 2025—St Vincent Ferrer

11-11.45 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction
12 Noon Chacko K.C.
6.00 pm Mass at St Philip's, Offerton - Monica McManus
Readings: Jeremiah 11: 18-20; Psalm 7; John 7: 40-52

Sunday 6th April 2025 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8.30 am Stanley MacGlashan RIP ORGAN
10.00am People of the Parish FOLK
11.00 am Syro Malabar Rite Mass in St. Philip's
6.00 pm Nimi Netto CHOIR
Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 125; Philippians 3: 8-14; John 8: 1-11

Monday 7th April 2025—St John Baptiste de la Salle

12 Noon Vera Atherton RIP
Readings: Daniel 13: 1-9. 15-17. 19-30. 33-62

Tuesday 8th April 2025

10.00 am **Requiem Mass** at St. Philips for Egbert Le Bon
12 Noon Philomena Rooney RIP
Readings: Numbers 21: 4-9; Psalm 101; John 8: 21-30

Wednesday 9th April 2025

9.15 am Mass at St. Philips - Special Intention
12 noon Service of Word and Communion
Readings: Daniel 3: 14-20. 24-25.28; Daniel 3: 52-56; John 8 31-42

Thursday 10th April 2025

11.00 am **Requiem Mass** for Michael Higginbottom NOTE TIME
Readings: Genesis 17: 3-9; Psalm 104; John 8: 51-59

Friday 11th April 2025

10 30 am **Funeral Service** for Janet Smith
12 Noon Blessing for Work and Family
6.00-8.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Readings: Jeremiah 20: 10-13; Psalm 17; John 10: 31-42

Saturday 12th April 2025

11-11.45 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction
12 Noon Coner Lyons Finch RIP
6.00 pm Mass at St Philip's, Offerton—Ken Savage RIP
Readings: Ezekiel 37: 21-28; Psalm Jeremiah 31: 10-13; John 11: 45-56

Sunday 13th April 2025 - PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

8.30 am Catherine Clancy RIP ORGAN
10.00am John Mercer RIP CHOIR
11.00 am Syro Malabar Rite Mass in St. Philip's
6.00 pm People of the Parish PRAISE BE!
Readings: Procession: Luke 19:28-40 Mass: Isaiah 50: 4-7; Psalm 21; Philippians 2: 6-11; Luke 22: 14-23:56

PALMS BLESSED AT EACH MASS

Your prayers are asked for:

LATELY DECEASED : **Janet Martin** whose funeral service will be at St. Peter's on 11th April at 10.30. Egbert Le **Bon** whose Requiem will be at St. Philip's Church on 8th April at 10.00 am, and **Michael Higginbottom** whose Requiem Mass will be at St. Peter's on 10th April at 11.00 am and Victor Bradley who died on Friday

Anniversaries that occur around this time: Albert Snelson, Lionel Grocott, Jean Hiller, John Begley, Eileen Lobley, John Holdaway, Bridget McCauley, Margaret Smith, Mary Ashley, Steve Whittaker, Gerard Sturme, James Cox, Robert Hargreaves, Veronica Burgess, Peter Coleman, Pauline Banham, Terence Turner, Tom Wagstaffe, Evelyn Stewart, Brigid Rowbotham, Maureen But, Coner Lyons Finch, Ulich Burke, John Mercer.

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.

Please keep in your prayers our young people preparing for First Communion. Twelve of them received the sacrament of Forgiveness for the first time on Friday evening.

GOSPEL John 8: 1-11

At that time: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say? This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She said, 'No one, Lord.' and Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you, go, and from now on sin no more.'

1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Picture the scene. Place yourself there. Notice the different people – their facial expressions, words, movements...What are your thoughts and feelings?
3. Imagine what the woman would say to her friends about Jesus.
4. Allow yourself time to talk with Jesus about all that has happened.



For Conversation:

How your community can get caught up in condemning

BEREAVEMENT GROUP Please join us on 11th April for a Lenten Lunch after the Midday Mass. The Spring/Summer Programme is now available 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.

"ASSISTED SUICIDE LETTER WRITING EVENT" 6th April 2025 TODAY

With just a few weeks to go until the final MPs' vote on the Assisted Suicide Bill, join us for a tea or coffee after Mass on Sunday 6th April in the Parish Centre to write a letter to your MP asking them to vote against the plans. All materials will be provided, just bring yourselves & your prayers. Don't miss this opportunity to make your voice heard!"

DISABILITY INCLUSION GROUP: Our next meeting is on April 11th at 7.15pm in the parish rooms. Help us plan our next event and continue to explore how we can make St Peter's accessible to all. All welcome.

EASTER REMEMBRANCE LILIES The flower arrangers will be arranging the Easter Remembrance Lilies for Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase a lily in memory of a loved one, please put their names on an envelope and hand it in at Mass or the office. The cost is £1 per name. The names will be entered in a Book of Remembrance.

LENTEN LUNCHES The next Lenten Lunch will be on 11th April, after the midday Mass, There will be the usual homemade soup and a bun, plus tea/coffee and biscuits. We will be drawing the Raffle, all the money raised will once again go to St. Philip's Foodbank. Please come and join us and help raise funds for a very worthy charity, run by the dedicated Parishioners at St. Philips.

BAPTISM COURSE .

The dates for the next course are 25th May and 1st June . If you would like to book on the course please email justasec55@hotmail.com . The aim of the course is to help parents prepare for the baptism of their child and to reflect on their role as the first teachers of the faith.

ST PETER'S BOOK CLUB please see website for Book suggestions and for more information please contact Alison on 07792 107152. We will be meeting on 29th April at Topkapi in Hazel Grove 7.00 pm

HAND MADE CARDS including Easter cards are available after the 8.30 and 10.00 a.m. Masses on April 13th & 27th

SAVE THE DATE

The Spring tidy up of the church grounds will be on Saturday 10th May can you help? More details nearer the time.

BLESSING OF FOOD ON HOLY SATURDAY

Święcenie pokarmów odbędzie się w Wielką Sobotę 19- ego kwietnia o godz 12.00 w parafi Św Piotra w Hazel Grove.

The Polish Community will gather at 12 noon on Holy Saturday for the traditional blessing of food for the feast. All are welcome and thank you to Fr Roman Szczypa from the Salesians in Bollington who is coming to do this.

ST PETER'S HELPERS

Goody bag packing and deliveries 13th April (9.30-11) Bakers, we need your help please! Please drop off baked goods (no nuts please) by 9.30am. Packing 9.30-11.00, deliverers collect 11am.

ONLINE PARISH CALENDAR

We have a 'first draft' Online Parish Calendar which is temporarily hosted here <https://sites.google.com/view/st-peters-helpers/st-peters-parish-calendar>

All bookings for rooms and dates must still go to the Parish Administrator Helen Lyons, but entries for the Online Parish Calendar can be submitted here <https://forms.gle/NuDveL18hyfuxopm9> or you can send these into the parish office . Please note, the online calendar will only be updated every 1-2 weeks, please check before you travel. Groups who haven't yet given dates, please submit your dates through the form or contact the Parish Office.

SPY Meet after the 6.00 pm Mass on 6th April

SPY is for all young people attending secondary school and college. It's a fun, relaxed space to journey and explore faith with other young people, including ice breakers, games, gospel time along, outreach initiatives to support charities etc. Two of the best things the young people like about SPY is making new friendships and having chance to grow in their faith journey.

Start time: 7pm

Location: St Peter's church Parish centre

Finish around: 8.30pm

We provide refreshments and food.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Spy Dates for 2025

Sunday 13th April (Palm Sunday Mass 6 - no Spy session but the young people will be involved in the music and readings in church)
Sunday 11th May
Sunday 15th June
Saturday 21st June - Savio House Away Day

THE CENTERING PRAYER GROUP meet every Tuesday morning in the meeting room in the parish centre. We start at 11 15am and finish at 11 45am. This is a silent prayer group and if you feel this might be for you why not join us next Tuesday or indeed any Tuesday. All are welcome.

THE SCRIPTURE GROUP meet on the second and fourth week of each month. We read and discuss the readings for the following Sunday. We start at 7 30pm and finish at 9 30pm with a cup of tea and biscuit. All are welcome. Our next meeting is on Wednesday the 9th of April.

FROM SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY There will be an informal meeting on Wed 9 April at 7pm, in St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA to reflect on the role and purpose of the Hospitality, with a view to developing a more unified vision.

All members are welcome. Please email secretary @teamshrewsbury.co.uk if you would like to attend

Booking forms are available on the pilgrimage website—shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk. for this years pilgrimage at the end of July. Travel is either by air or overland by coach. Our parish group will be staying in the **Hotel Helianthe**. The flight is nearly full so book quickly if you want to fly.

FROM ST PHILIPS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

In September 2023, Bishop Mark and Diocesan Trustees confirmed the vision for Catholic education in the Diocese of Shrewsbury - that all diocesan schools would become members of one of the already established Catholic Multi Academy Trust Companies. As a result, the governing board of St Philip's Catholic Primary School will be conducting a statutory stakeholder consultation which will complete on 9th May 2025. To find out more please visit <https://www.stphilipsstockport.co.uk/page/academy-conversion/157856>

The governing board of St Philip's Catholic Primary School is looking to recruit a Health and Safety Governor to support with the continued strategic development of their wonderful school. If you would be interested in finding out more then please email the school at admin@st-philips.stockport.sch.uk.

FROM CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS
AND ALL THE BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
Pastoral Letter on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill To
be read at all Masses on 5th and 6th April 2025 Fifth Sunday of
Lent

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I wish to speak with you today about the process in which our Parliament is currently considering legalising assisted suicide through the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. As I have made clear earlier in this debate, as Catholics we have maintained a principled objection to this change in law recognising that every human life is sacred, coming as a gift of God and bearing a God-given dignity. We are, therefore, clearly opposed to this Bill in principle, elevating, as it does, the autonomy of the individual above all other considerations.

The passage of the Bill through Parliament will lead to a vote in late April on whether it progresses further. This will be a crucial moment and I, together with all the Bishops of England and Wales, am writing to ask your support in urging your MP to vote against this Bill at that time.

There are serious reasons for doing so. At this point we wish not simply to restate our objections in principle, but to emphasise the deeply flawed process undergone in Parliament thus far. We wish to remind you that it is a fundamental duty of every MP to ensure that legislation is not imposed on our society which has not been properly scrutinised and which will bring about damaging consequences.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will fundamentally change many of the key relationships in our way of life: within the family, between doctor and patient, within the health service. Yet there has been no Royal Commission or independent inquiry ahead of its presentation. It is a Private Member's Bill. The Bill itself is long and complex and was published just days before MPs voted on it, giving them inadequate time to consult or reflect upon it. The time for debate was minimal. The Committee examining the Bill took only three days of evidence: not all voices were heard, and it comprises an undue number of supporters of the Bill. In short, this is no way to legislate on such an important and morally complex issue.

One consequence of this flawed process is that many vital questions remain unanswered. Can MPs guarantee that the scope of the Bill will not be extended? In almost every country where assisted suicide has been introduced the current scope is wider than was originally intended. What role, if any, will the judiciary have in the process? We were told that judicial oversight was a necessary and vital part of the process; now we are told it isn't needed at all. What will protect the vulnerable from coercion, or from feeling a burden on family? Can the National Health Service cope with assisted suicide or will it, as the Health Secretary has warned, cause cuts elsewhere in the NHS? Can MPs guarantee that no medical practitioner or care worker would be compelled to take part in assisted suicide? Would this mean the establish-

In contrast to the provisions of this Bill, what is needed is first-class, compassionate palliative care at the end of our lives. This is already provided to many in our society but, tragically, is in short supply and underfunded. No-one should be dispatched as a burden to others. Instead, a good society would prioritise care for the elderly, the vulnerable, and the weak. The lives of our families are richer for cherishing their presence.

It is sad reflection on Parliament's priorities that the House of Commons spent far more time debating the ban on fox hunting than it is spending debating bringing in assisted suicide.

I am sure that you will share these concerns. It is now clear that this measure is being rushed without proper scrutiny and without fundamental questions surrounding safeguards being answered. This is a deeply flawed Bill with untold unintended consequences.

Every MP, and Government, has a solemn duty to prevent such legislation reaching the statute book. This, tragically, is what may happen. So I appeal to you: even if you have written before, please make contact now with your MP and ask them to vote against this Bill not only on grounds of principle but because of the failure of Parliament to approach this issue in an adequate and responsible manner.

In his Letter to the Philippians, from which we heard in the Second Reading, St Paul reflects on the difficulties and responsibilities of life. He speaks of 'pressing on' and 'striving' for the fulness of life promised in Christ Jesus. Yet he is totally confident in his struggles because, as he says, 'Christ Jesus has made me his own'.

We too have many struggles. We too know that Christ Jesus has made us his own. So we too press on with this struggle, so important in our times.
May God bless you all.

+Vincent Cardinal Nichols Archbishop of Westminster
+ Mark Bishop of Shrewsbury
together with all the Bishops of England and Wales