



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Altrincham



DONATE

First Sunday of Lent 26th February 2023



Pope Francis' Intention for:

February:

For Parishes:

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needs and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

Pope Francis's Catechesis on the Mass

The Sunday abstention from work did not exist in the early centuries: it is a specific contribution of Christianity. According to biblical tradition Jews rest on the Sabbath, while in Roman society a day of the week was not provided for abstention from servile labour. It was the Christian awareness of living as children and not as slaves, inspired by the Eucharist, which has made Sunday - almost universally - the day of rest.

Without Christ we are condemned to be dominated by everyday weariness, with its worries, and by fear of the future. The Sunday encounter with the Lord gives us the strength to experience the present with confidence and courage, and to go forth with hope. For this reason we Christians go to encounter the Lord on Sunday, in the Eucharistic celebration.

Eucharistic communion with Jesus, Risen and ever-Living, anticipates the Sunday without sunset, when there will be no more weariness nor pain, nor sorrow nor tears, but only the joy of living fully and forever with the Lord. Sunday Mass also speaks to us of this blessed repose, teaching us to entrust ourselves during the week to the hands of the Father who is in heaven.

How can we respond to those who say that it is of no use going to Mass, even on Sunday, because the important thing is to live well, to love our neighbour? It is true that the quality of Christian life is measured by the capacity to love, as Jesus said: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35); but how can we practice the Gospel without drawing the energy necessary to do so, one Sunday after another, from the inexhaustible source of the Eucharist? We do not go to Mass in order to give something to God, but to receive what we truly need from him. We are reminded of this by the Church's prayer, which is addressed to God in this way: "although you have no need of our praise, yet our thanksgiving is itself your gift, since our praises add nothing to your greatness but profit us for salvation" (Roman Missal, Common Preface iv).

In conclusion, why do we go to Mass on Sundays? It is not enough to respond that it is a precept of the Church; this helps to preserve its value, but alone does not suffice. We Christians need to participate in Sunday Mass because only with Jesus' grace, with his living presence within us and among us, can we put his commandment into practice, and thus be his credible witnesses.

PARISH RETREAT – 27th FEBRUARY TO 2nd MARCH

This weekend we warmly welcome the Franciscans of Renewal who are with us until Thursday 2nd March for our Parish Retreat. Please follow this link to see the [full timetable](#), leaflets with the details can be found at the back of church. Everyone is invited and all are welcome - those who come every week, those who come when they can, those who haven't been for some time. You are welcome to come to everything or just the sessions and Masses you can make, even if you can only make one session please come along. On the Thursday the retreat will end with a Shared Supper in Westleigh, please come along and bring a small offering of food to share together.

	Mon 27th Feb	Tues 28th Feb	Wed 1st Mar	Thurs 2nd Mar
7.10am	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer
7.30am	Mass	Mass	Mass	
11.00am	Adoration	Adoration	Adoration	Adoration
12.15pm	Mass Talk	Mass Talk	Mass Talk	Mass Talk
6.00pm	Adoration			Adoration
7.30pm	Evening Session	Evening Session including Reconciliation	Evening Session	Evening Session Holy Spirit Mass and Shared Supper

LENT

A Journey from Lent to Easter Booklet - available at the back of church to support you through Lent.

Lenten Walk with me Booklets - a reflection for each day of Lent priced £1 from the Sacristy.

Lenten Service - 7.30pm Wednesday 8th March in church.

Lenten Alms - this years Charity is Water Aid. Water Aid ensures that everyone, everywhere has a sustainable source of clean water. For example, supporting children to have clean water and decent toilet facilities at school.

There is a wall box at the back of Church for you to donate during Lent if you wish to. Any contributions, small or large, coins or notes are always welcome. Thank you.

ECOLOGICAL FASTING FOR LENT

The CAFOD/Justice and Peace group would like to suggest that you might consider adding an ecological element to your Lenten observance, in solidarity with victims of climate change, pollution, and other damage to God's creation. If your observance also saves you money, perhaps you could consider donating some of that money to CAFOD's upcoming Lent Fast Day collection, on 4/5 March. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Eat less meat, particularly red meat. Perhaps you could have one or more meat-free days per week, or restrict yourself to chicken, which is much less harmful to the environment.
2. Use less petrol. Is there a short journey that you could do by foot or bike instead, even just one or two days per week?
3. Cut down screen time: energy-saving might not be huge, but the benefits to individual and society are considerable.
4. Fast from single-use plastics.
5. Fast from unnecessary purchases.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - LENT APPEAL 4/5 MARCH

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give using the envelope or at cafod.org.uk/give and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

LET US PRAY: A PARISH INITIATIVE - To help us listen to and talk with God

One priority identified in recent open parish meetings was how we could develop our faith as adults. In response, a group of parishioners is facilitating a series of six sessions on different aspects of prayer, rooted in our everyday experience. Each session will be offered twice, once in an evening at 7.30pm and repeated in an afternoon at 1.30pm, to allow as many people as possible to attend. Look out for the leaflet, which has more information! There will be six sessions starting with Session 1: Wednesday 15th March at 7.30pm / Friday 17th March at 1.30pm.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

- ◆ Children's Liturgy - Sunday 12th and 26th February
- ◆ Bridge - Every Monday at 2.00pm in Westleigh.
- ◆ Knit and Natter - 2nd and 16th February at 10am in Westleigh
- ◆ Mothers Prayers - Every Thursday 11.15am in Westleigh
- ◆ Playgroup - Every Monday and Friday in term time from 9.30am - 11.30am in Westleigh
- ◆ Tea and Coffee after 10am Mass - First and Second Sunday of each month
- ◆ Brownies— Tuesdays in term time at 5.45-7.15pm in Westleigh
- ◆ Rainbows— Wednesdays in term time at 6-7pm in Westleigh

Parish Safeguarding
Representatives

Helen Norwood:
07800 656966
Sheila Carr
0161 928 7432

CONFIRMATION 2023—CHILDREN IN YEAR 8 & ABOVE

Our next Confirmation Programme will begin in April 2023 for all those currently in Year 8 or above. If you would like to join this programme please read this [Confirmation Letter and Form](#) and return, along with the other documents requested, to the parish office by Friday 17th March. The form can be accessed via the Noticeboard section of our website and paper copies can be found at the back of church.

PARISH SOCIAL EVENING - THURSDAY 16th MARCH

Our next parish social will be a St Patrick's Night Supper, Thursday 16th March in Westleigh. Full details, including menu are displayed at the back of church, with reply slips. Please return completed slips, with payment of £27, in an envelope marked for the parish office. This can be handed into the sacristy or posted through the presbytery door. Please return slip and payment by 9th March, bookings cannot be taken after this date due to catering requirements.

JUSTICE AND PEACE / CAFOD RESOURCES

The NW National Justice & Peace Network e-Bulletin February 2023 is now on the parish [Justice and Peace / Cafod section of the website](#) along with two new resources for Lent, a Journey from Lent to Easter with daily reflections, and a Stations of the Cross based on the theme 'Healing through the Life, Death and Resurrection of Christ.

ACAT EASTER APPEAL

Please consider sending a message of support to prisoners of conscience this Lent or Easter. The latest [ACAT newsletter](#) is on the J&P / CAFOD parish website and contains suggested messages of appeal to imprisoning authorities (p26-31) and details of how to send greetings to prisoners (p31-42). Please remember when you write to prisoners not to send overtly religious cards or greetings, or mention ACAT in your greeting. The ACAT newsletter gives useful advice on how to write messages of support without causing the prisoners additional suffering.

FEBRUARY'S LIVE SIMPLY MESSAGE: Close windows, curtains and doors to keep heat in.

ONLINE COURSE ON VATICAN 11 IN RESPONSE TO SYNOD

The Diocese is offering a series of short podcasts throughout Lent which are available via [dioceseofshrewsbury.org](#) If you would like to find out more please call Barbara Davies on 07730 526821.

SPUC PRO-LIFE EVENING

You are warmly invited to an information evening organised by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) held at Westleigh, Thursday 9th March 7:30pm. Come along to hear about the wide-ranging work that SPUC is involved in locally, nationally and internationally to protect women and unborn children from abortion. For information, contact SPUC Northern Development Officer, terrygraham@spuc.org.uk / 07549 068226.

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

If you would like to have a look around St Vincent's Catholic Primary School please come along to our next open morning for prospective school and nursery parents on Wednesday 15th March 2023. To reserve a place on one of the 4 slots (9:15am, 9:45am, 10:15am and 10:45am) please email admissions@stvincents.trafford.sch.uk

OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into God's Family Archie Konarski, Rupert Smith, Orson Smith, Billy Dolan, Dennis Dolan and Jude Watwood-Burn who were recently baptised here. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Requiescant in Pace Please pray for those who have died recently including Richard Jones, Sr Therese (Shelagh) Regan, Mark Hunter, Andrew Ball and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Please pray for the sick who include James Ainsworth, Michael Anderson, Robert Anderson, Margaret B, Antoni Baranowski, M Barnes, George Bell, Pat Bell, Helen Boardman, Jane Broadfoot, Jozef Broilo, Denise Brooks, Michael Byrne, Jo Carter, John Cawfield, Michael Cornwell, Peter Cresswell, Marjorie & Simon De Maria, Rose Dennerley, Luke Dennett, Dermot Dunleavy, Max Dunn, Ken Dwyer, Ross Dwyer, Joyce Eaton, Lynda Edwards, Peter Elliott, Sean Gallagher, Vicky Gosnold, Stella Gould, Rufus Hasler & family, Mary Heanue, Thomas Higginbotham, Hayley Hill, Joe Holleran, Katie Holmes, Sarah Hrybyk, Lucy Hunter, Martin Jones, H & R Kelly, Amelia Kennedy, Anne Killeen, Thomas Killeen, Elizabeth and Henry Kluck, Marcin and Teresa Kluck, Barbara Lamb, Neil Lancaster, David Lawley, Betty Leeson, Willy Leeson, Klaudia Linert, , Bob Lloyd, Laura MacGinn, Margaret, Erin Marks, Joe Marshall, Marianne Martin, Claire McAllister, Rupert McDermott, Mary McLoughlin, Luke Murphy, Paul Murrell, Mary Murphy, Elaine Neary, Oliver, Anne O'Neill, Andrea Ottley, Marjorie Owens, Michalis and Karen Papangelis, Krzysztof Pietrzak, Patricia Ravening, Paul Raybede, Claire Rayner, Reece, Glen Reed, Jackie Reed, Mark Reed, Keith Robertshaw, Rose, Margaret Russell, Adrian Ryan, David Ryan and Frank, Mary Ryan, Donal Scally, Richard Sheryll, June Telfer, Anthony Tomlinson, Christopher Tomlinson, Leo Tomlinson, Philip Tomlinson, Christy Toye, Joe Traynor, Jocephon Tumpang, Jed Wainwright, Janina Wardzinska, Isabella Webb, Neil Wilkinson, Mason Williams, Maria Winthrop, Louise Withers and all in our hospitals and homes.

The parish of St Vincent's, Altrincham sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 234025

MONEY MATTERS

Offertory Collection 5th February £2052.87, 12th February £1874.08 & 19th February £1943.89 plus standing orders. SVP Collection £387.91 and The White Flower Appeal £808.86.

Thank you for your generosity.

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Mass Schedule this coming week

Sunday 26th February 2023 First Sunday of Lent	08:30 10:00 11:30 18.30	Alex, Theresa & Alonz Thomas Mary-Jo Hanley (RIP) For the people of the parish Claire (RIP)
Monday 27th February 2023 <i>Ferial</i>	07.10 07.30 11:00 12:15 After Mass 16.15 18.00-19.00 19.30	Morning Prayer of the Church Mass Thomas Ruane (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Rita Hutton (ann) Retreat Talk Altar Server training <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Retreat Evening session
Tuesday 28th February 2023 <i>Ferial</i>	07.10 07.30 11:00 12:15 After Mass 18.00-19.00 19.30	Morning Prayer of the Church Mass Terry Byrne <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> James Kavanagh Retreat Talk <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Retreat Evening session
Wednesday 1st March 2023 <i>St David</i>	07.10 07.30 11:00 12:15 After Mass 18.00-19.00 19.30	Morning Prayer of the Church Mass Sr Therese Regan (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Eileen Mortimore (ann) Retreat Talk <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Retreat Evening session
Thursday 2nd March 2023 <i>Ferial</i>	07.10 07.30 11:00 12:15 After Mass 18.00-19.00 19.30	Morning Prayer of the Church Mass Michael Cupit (birthday ann) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Marshall Bickers (birthday memories) Retreat Talk <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Retreat Evening session, Holy Spirit Mass & Shared Supper
Friday 3rd March 2023 <i>Ferial</i>	08:45 11.00 12:15 18.30 19.00 19.30	<i>Morning Prayer of the Church</i> <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Michael Burke (RIP) <i>Stations of the Cross led by SVP</i> Pauline Foley (RIP) Eucharistic Adoration with the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 4th March 2023 <i>Optional memorial St Casimir</i>	10.45 11:00 11:00-12:00 12:15 16.30-17.15 17:30	Holy Rosary <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> <i>Confessions</i> Geoffrey Ruddy (RIP) <i>Confessions</i> Dunkley family intentions
Sunday 5th March 2023 Second Sunday of Lent	08:30 10:00 11:30 18.30	David Dibbs (RIP) Veronica Starkey Brian Heath (RIP) For the people of the parish

BOWDON VALE MASSES: **Cancelled this week due to Covid**

RETIRING COLLECTIONS IN MARCH: 5th - CAFOD; 19th - SVP

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - 10am Mass on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month

MASS READING CYCLE: Sundays year A, weekdays cycle 1; Psalter Week 1

PARISH CLERGY Parish Priest: Canon Jonathan Brandon, Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Dykes

CONTACTS Address: Parish of St. Vincent de Paul, 2 Bentinck Road, Altrincham, WA14 2BP Telephone: 0161 928 1689
Parish Office: parishoffice@stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk Parish mobile for emergency calls only: 07311 604583

WESTLEIGH PARISH CENTRE- Westleigh Bookings: svpwestleigh@outlook.com / 07915 129832

Website: stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: @svpaltrincham