



Saint Vincent de Paul
Catholic Church, Altrincham



Third Sunday of Lent

23rd March 2025

We continue to share excerpts of the Holy Father's document on the Holy Year:

Looking to the future with hope also entails having enthusiasm for life and a readiness to share it. Sadly, in many situations this is lacking. A first effect of this is the loss of the desire to transmit life. A number of countries are experiencing an alarming decline in the birthrate as a result of today's frenetic pace, fears about the future, the lack of job security and adequate social policies, and social models whose agenda is dictated by the quest for profit rather than concern for relationships. In certain quarters, the tendency "to blame population growth, instead of extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the [real] issues".

Openness to life and responsible parenthood is the design that the Creator has implanted in the hearts and bodies of men and women, a mission that the Lord has entrusted to spouses and to their love. It is urgent that responsible legislation on the part of states be accompanied by the firm support of communities of believers and the entire civil community in all its components. For the desire of young people to give birth to new sons and daughters as a sign of the fruitfulness of their love ensures a future for every society. This is a matter of hope: it is born of hope and it generates hope.

Consequently, the Christian community should be at the forefront in pointing out the need for a social covenant to support and foster hope, one that is inclusive and not ideological, working for a future filled with the laughter of babies and children, in order to fill the empty cradles in so many parts of our world. All of us, however, need to recover the joy of living, since men and women, created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26), cannot rest content with getting along one day at a time, settling for the here and now and seeking fulfilment in material realities alone. This leads to a narrow individualism and the loss of hope; it gives rise to a sadness that lodges in the heart and brings forth fruits of discontent and intolerance.

- *Pope Francis, Spes non confundit, 9*

Pope Francis' Intention for March:

For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions:

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

LENT AT ST VINCENT'S

- ♦ **Stations of the Cross** - every Friday at 6.30pm in church led by a parish group or member of the clergy
- ♦ **Lent Reflections** - Anne O'Connor, has compiled a [Lent reflections 2025 document](#), available on the [J&P section](#) of the parish website with a series of readings, reflections and prayers.
- ♦ **Lenten Walk With Me booklets** - available for £1.00 from the sacristy.
- ♦ **Lenten Alms** - our Lenten Alms this year will be donated to St Anne's Hospice (wallbox in the church porch).
- ♦ **LENTEN TALKS: FAITH IN ACTION** A talk on the topic that relates to the Jubilee Year, Catholic Social Teaching and the Lenten themes of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving:
Thursday 3 April 7.30-9pm, Westleigh: CAFOD speaker: Francis Stewart: CAFOD and Pope Francis' call to fraternal love; more details in the newsletter nearer the time.
(Please note there will be no Let Us Pray Tuesday and Thursdays meeting in March and April.)
- ♦ **DEANERY LENTEN STATION MASSES** allow us, during Lent, to go to the different Churches in our Deanery and gather together with those outside of our own parish community. These take place on Wednesdays: 6.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation with Adoration; 7.00pm Mass followed by refreshments. 26th March at St Hugh's & St John's; 2nd April at Sacred Heart and **9th April here at St Vincent's.**

EASTER CARDS: a limited number available from the sacristy for 75p. Profits will go to St Anne's Hospice.

CHILDREN'S ORDER OF SERVICE MASS CARDS

There are now Children's Mass Cards available at the back of church. These are aimed at children 7 years plus to support them in following the Mass. Please return them to the leaflet holder at the end of Mass. Thank you.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Weekly Offertory Envelopes for next year are available for collection at the back of church. For those using the Gift Aid scheme there are individually named boxes, in alphabetical order. Gift aid is simple, gives a substantial boost to the parish finances, costs you nothing extra and is completely confidential. The parish can claim back a refund of the tax on your offerings. If you are interested in helping the parish in this way please contact Michael Swarbrick on 07957 630230 or michael@swarbrick.co.uk.

PARISH REGISTER

Our **Welcome Leaflets** available in the Porch are always taken but very few get returned to register family details! If you have taken one please complete and return.

New Parishioners, please let the parish office have your details i.e. names, address, contact number and email (and for children their dates of birth) so that you can be registered as a Parishioner.

Existing parishioners, if you have changed address, changed your telephone contact number or changed your email address, please let the parish office have your updated details to keep the records up-to-date.

DIGITAL NOTICEBOARD

As a parish we struggle to find sufficient space on the existing notice boards for everything we would like to display. For this reason, we are planning to invest in a digital notice board to increase our capacity to display information. The cost of the noticeboard we have identified as suitable costs £2500. If anyone is in a position to make a donation towards the noticeboard it would be very gratefully received. Please forward any donations to the parish office – labelled 'Digital noticeboard'.

LENT SERIES OF TALKS

Lent Series of Talks on **Faith, Hope and Love** with Mrs Natalie Orefice and Fr David Irwin at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Hope Rd, Sale M33 3BF. At **7pm on 25th March and 1st April**. The evening will conclude with Adoration and Compline. For Further details please contact Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or 07730 526826.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- ♦ **Children's Liturgy** - 23rd March, 13th and 27th April at the 10am Mass.
- ♦ **Tea and Coffee after 10am Mass** - every Sunday, with video games (FIFA, tennis, etc), table tennis and other games, all for parents and children.
- ♦ **Playgroup** - Every Monday and Friday in term time from 9.30am - 11.30am in Westleigh
- ♦ **Bridge** - Every Monday at 2.00pm in Westleigh
- ♦ **SVP** - Meets fortnightly on Mondays at 7pm in Westleigh.
- ♦ **Emmaus Prayer Group** - 7-8pm Mondays in Westleigh. Everybody welcome, please just come along.
- ♦ **Brownies** - Tuesdays in term time at 5.45-7.15pm in Westleigh
- ♦ **Rainbows** - Wednesdays in term time at 6-7pm in Westleigh
- ♦ **Knit and Natter** - 10am in Westleigh— 27th March (every fortnight)
- ♦ **Mothers' Prayers** - Every Thursday 11.15am in Westleigh
- ♦ **Young Adults Group (18-35 years)** - Saturday 29th March. Come along for 5.30pm Mass followed by Adoration & Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Talk, food, time to socialise etc.

ST. JOSEPH'S FAMILY FAITH & FUN DAYS (SK1 1EJ)

These will take place every month starting Sunday 23rd March. The afternoons will consist of Teaching, Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. It is a time for us to come together for Faith teaching and fun activities for our children. The day will start at 1.30pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea/Coffee/Juice will be provided. The afternoon will be:

2pm Faith Teaching (a group for adults and a group for children)

3pm Fun activities for children around the theme (adults can join in)

3.30pm Prayer, Guided Eucharistic Adoration/The Rosary.

Each month we will have a different theme.

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.

AIG TOUR OF ST. MARY'S, BOWDON

The Altrincham Interfaith Group (AIG) invites you to a guided tour of St Mary's Church in Bowdon on Wednesday 7th May, starting at 7.30pm. Revd Andrew Knight, the new vicar is our host, and the tour itself is led by a local historian; light refreshments will be provided. To book your place, or ask questions, please contact Dominique at mdodarcy@gmail.com or 07791 619 897 before 1st May (for catering purposes).

LOCAL U3A MEMBERSHIP TOPS 1,000

U3A is a nationwide network of registered charities that enables those in the third age of life and others to remain both physically and mentally active. Social isolation can have a major bearing on our spiritual well-being and health – especially in later years. Membership of our local area U3A has recently gone above 1,000 and includes many of our own parishioners. The local branch offers more than 90 activity groups with the opportunity to socialise regularly and make new friends. Self administered by its own members, it charges an annual admin fee of just £12. Find out more on line here <https://hale.u3asite.uk/>

VACANCIES

- ♦ Parish Secretary at the parishes of St Vincent's, Knutsford and St Winefride, Lymm (based at St Vincent's). 12 hours per week, £13 per hour. For details visit <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Send CV with covering letter to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Closing date: Monday 31 March .
- ♦ Loreto Sixth Form Catholic College is seeking to appoint a teacher of Core Religious Education and Chaplaincy Support. Core RE has centrally planned resources and is not an examined subject. As a Core RE teacher, your unique role will be to develop students spiritually, ethically and theologically. <https://www.loreto.ac.uk/vacancies/>
- ♦ The Governors of Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Sale Moor, wish to appoint an outstanding, visionary and aspirational Headteacher for September 2025. For more information please visit <https://www.holyfamilysalemoor.co.uk/job-vacancies/> <<https://www.holyfamilysalemoor.co.uk/job-vacancies/>>

OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into God's Family Charlie Claxton and Edward Kirkman 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 Roy Clancy, Francis Evans, James Bradley, Anthony Burns, Dominic Barbour and all those whose anniversaries occur around 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, Stephen Birchall, Helen Boardman, Jackie Body, Laura Body, John Breen, Daniel Brennan, Susan Brennan, Jane Broadfoot, Jozef Broilo, Denise Brooks, Michael Byrne, Jo Carter, Olivia Cashmore, John Cawfield, Peter Cresswell, Marjorie De Maria, Luke Dennett, David Michael Devine, Richard Doherty, Max Dunn, Ross Dwyer, Joyce Eaton, Lynda Edwards, Peter Elliott, Freddie Fenton, Marie Ford, John Gardener, Mary Good, Vicky Gosnold, Stella Gould, Jane Grimshaw, Niel Halsall, Rufus Hasler & family, Mary Heanue, Catherine Heraghty, Thomas Higginbotham, Gavin Hill, Hayley Hill, Nick, Hennis, Gavin Hill, Katie Holmes, Lucy Hunter, Martin Jones, Ava Kendrick, H Khan, H & R Kelly, Nancy Kelly, Amelia Kennedy, Anne Killeen, Thomas Killeen, Elizabeth and Henry Kluck, Marcin and Teresa Kluck, Neil Lancaster, David Lawley, Barbara Lee, Betty Leeson, Willy Leeson, Klaudia Linert, Bob Lloyd, Chloe Logan, Laura MacGinn, Margaret, Erin Marks, Claire McAllister, Martin McConnell, Rupert McDermott, Maria, Mary McLoughlin, Carol McLoughlin, Brian Morris, Luke Murphy, Mary Murphy, Charles Musumali, Elaine Neary, Oliver, John O'Donnell, Anne O'Neill, Andrea Ottley, Marjorie Owens, Michalis and Karen Papangelis, Anna Perry, Krzysztof Pietrzak, Paul Raybede, Reece, Glen Reed, Jackie Reed, Mark Reed, Dave Renshaw, Rose, Stuart Royle, Margaret Russell, Adrian Ryan, David Ryan and Frank, Mary Ryan, Melinda Ryan, Steve Ryan, Camille Sanders, Jacky Scaife, Richard Sheryll, John Shuttleworth, Julie Taylor, Ralph Taylor, June Telfer, Anthony Tomlinson, Christopher Tomlinson, Leo Tomlinson, Philip Tomlinson, Christy Toye, Joe Traynor, Joseph Tumpang, Jed Wainwright, Peter Walsh, Janina Wardzinska, Isabella Webb, Neil Wilkinson, Mason Williams, Maria Winthrop, Louise Withers, Harry Wood and all in our hospitals and homes.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Helen Norwood: 07800 656966
Sheila Carr: 0161 928 7432

MONEY MATTERS

Offertory Collection 16th March £2094.99 plus standing orders.
CAFOD are grateful for donations of £1886.42 for The Cafod Family Fast.
Many thanks to the parishioners for your generosity.

Mass Schedule

Sunday 23rd March <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	John McGowan (ann) Eve and Arnold Crowther (RIP) Kathleen Kennedy (birthday) For the People of the Parish
Monday 24th March <i>Ferial</i>	11:00 12:15 18:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Fiona Buckley (ann) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
Tuesday 25th March <i>The Annunciation of The Lord</i>	10:00 BV 11:00 12:15	Sheila Brennon (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Brother Leo Anthony (RIP)
Wednesday 26th March <i>Ferial</i>	11:00 12:15	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Rita Hutton (ann)
Thursday 27th March <i>Ferial</i>	10:00 BV 11:00 12:15 18:00	Peter Forbes (intentions) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Michelle Healey (ann) <i>Eucharistic Adoration (Confessions available)</i>
Friday 28th March <i>Ferial</i>	11:00 12:15 18:30 19:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Lawrence Fashanu (RIP) <i>Confessions after Mass</i> <i>Stations of The Cross led by Let us Pray Group</i> Helen McBride (50th Birthday)
Saturday 29th March <i>Ferial</i>	11:00 11:00-12:00 12:15 16:30-17:15 17:00 17:30	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> <i>Confessions</i> Katie Boyle (RIP) <i>Confessions</i> <i>Rosary</i> For the People of the Parish
Sunday 30th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	Matthew Joseph, Alphonz, Alex & Rosily Joseph, (Birthday intentions) Colm & Rosa Holden Nancy Mannion (ann) The Dunleavy Family (intentions)

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

BOWDON VALE MASSES 10am Tuesday and Thursday **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - as above & by request

MARCH RETIRING COLLECTIONS: 16TH CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

MASS READING CYCLE: Sundays Year C, Weekdays Cycle 1; Psalter Week 3

PARISH CLERGY - Parish Priest: Canon Jonathan Brandon **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Godlove Amungwa
Deacon: Deacon Joseph Fawcett-Wood

CONTACTS

Address: Parish of St. Vincent de Paul, 2 Bentinck Road, Altrincham, WA14 2BP **Telephone:** 0161 928 1689

Parish Priest: frjonathan.brandon@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Assistant Priest: frgodlove.amungwa@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Deacon: Joseph.Fawcett@stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

Parish Office: parishoffice@stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

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

Website: stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: @svpaltrincham

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

MARCH LIVE SIMPLY MESSAGE Use Fairtrade products, including cleaning products where possible.