



Saint Vincent de Paul
Catholic Church, Altrincham



Fifth Sunday of Lent 22nd March 2026

(Parish Mass book - page 170)

We continue the excerpts from Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te* (I have loved you) on Christian love for the poor.

Indeed, we find a clear ecclesial example of sharing goods and caring for the poor in the daily life of the first Christian community. We can recall in particular the way in which the question of the daily distribution of subsidies to widows was resolved (cf. Acts 6:1-6). This was not an easy problem, partly because some of these widows, who came from other countries, were sometimes neglected because they were foreigners. In fact, the episode recounted in the Acts of the Apostles highlights a certain discontent on the part of the Hellenists, the Jews who were culturally Greek. The Apostles do not respond with abstract words, but by placing charity towards all at the center, reorganising assistance to widows by asking the community to seek wise and respected people to whom they could entrust food distribution, while they take care of preaching the Word.

When Paul went to Jerusalem to consult the Apostles lest somehow he "should be running or had run in vain" (Gal 2:2), he was asked not to forget the poor (cf. Gal 2:10). Therefore, he organized various collections in order to help the poor communities. Among the reasons for which Paul makes this gesture, the following stands out: "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). The word of God reminds those of us not normally prone to benevolent and disinterested gestures, that generosity to the poor actually benefits those who exercise it: God has a special love for them. In fact, the Bible is full of promises addressed to those who give generously to others: "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full" (Prov 19:17). "Give, and it will be given to you... for the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Lk 6:38). "Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly" (Is 58:8). Of this, the early Christians had no doubt.

The life of the first ecclesial communities, described in the pages of the Bible and handed down to us as God's revealed word, has been given to us as an example to imitate, but also as a witness to the faith that works through charity and an enduring inspiration for generations yet to come. Throughout the centuries, those pages have moved the hearts of Christians to love and to perform works of charity, which, like fruitful seeds, never cease to produce a rich harvest.

Pope's Intention for March

For disarmament and peace. Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

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.

DEANERY LENTEN STATION MASSES The travel to the different Churches involved and the gathering together with Catholic Christians from beyond our own Parish community forms part of our Lenten practice. Wednesdays: 6.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation with Adoration; 7.00pm Mass. Refreshments served after Mass. 25th March - Sacred Heart and St Peter's.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN OUR CHURCH GARDENS

We are so lucky to have beautiful church gardens, which over the years many parishioners have very kindly offered their time to help to maintain. We still have a small number of volunteers who work hard to maintain the gardens but we are need of more people to be part of the team. We would be very grateful of more volunteers to help with small areas of the garden. At the back of the church you will see a poster that has a map of the garden which is split up into areas that are numbered. If you are able to offer some time to maintain a small area then please sign your name to an area(s) and provide some contact details. For more information please contact the parish office. Thank you.

EASTER CARDS: a limited number of Easter cards are available to buy from the sacristy for 50p.

LENTEN ALMS: our Lenten Alms this year will be donated to St. Francis Leprosy (wallbox at the back of church)

WASHING OF FEET - MAUNDY THURSDAY

We would be very grateful for volunteers who are willing to have their feet washed on Maundy Thursday at the 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper. Please sign the list in the porch to offer your services. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S WAY OF THE CROSS - GOOD FRIDAY

The children of the Parish will lead the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday (3rd April) at 11am with a practice beforehand at 10am in Westleigh. We are looking for children who are confident readers, children to hold the stations and children to sing in the choir. This year we would like some adults to help us too. We are looking for people to welcome and distribute the order of service, some adults to help direct the children and to help with veneration of the cross. If your family would like to be involved, please contact Anna Croughan on 0751 231 5286.

CAFOD / JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING

Everyone is welcome to the next CAFOD / J&P meeting which is next Wednesday 25th March, 7.30pm in Westleigh.

FRIDAY CLUB

There will be no Friday Club on Friday, 3rd April (Good Friday). Friday Club will resume on Friday, 10th April.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE - BOOKING OPEN

The next parish pilgrimage will be to Whitby, Thirsk and Knaresborough on Thursday 15th to Saturday 17th October 2026. The cost per person for a twin/double room is £249, there are limited single rooms available for £314. If you would like to join the pilgrimage please complete the booking form (available at the back of church) and hand in to the parish office and pay the £75 deposit. Please see poster in the church porch for more information.

DAY OF DIVINE MERCY

This special celebration will be held on Sunday 12th April 2026 at Holy Angels Church, Hale Barns (WA15 0HF). The church will be open from 1.30pm, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 2.00pm and Confessions from 2.00pm. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be read at 3pm and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated at 3.30pm. You are invited to recite the 9 day Novena Prayers and Chaplet commencing on Good Friday. The Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet can be found at <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena>

March Live Simply Message: Use Fairtrade products, including cleaning products, where possible .

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- ♦ **Children's Liturgy** - 22nd March 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 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 6.30pm 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
- ♦ **Secular Carmelites** - 1st Wednesday of every month at Westleigh from 6pm to 8pm
- ♦ **Knit and Natter** - 10am in Westleigh: 12th and 26th March (every fortnight)
- ♦ **Mothers' Prayers** - Every Thursday 11.15am in Westleigh
- ♦ **Study Group for Men** - 7.15-8.30pm, Thursdays (fortnightly) in Westleigh: Please email Fr Joseph for dates.
- ♦ **Friday Club** - First Friday of every month, 2pm in Westleigh. Entertainment & refreshments organised by SVP.
- ♦ **Windows Group (for widows)** - 3pm-4.30pm on Friday 13th March.
- ♦ **Young Adults Group (18-35 years)** - Saturday 21st March. Come along for 5.30pm Mass followed by Adoration & Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Talk, food, time to socialise etc.

THE CAFOD GROUP ARE DOING THE BIG LENT WALK!

Please consider sponsoring the parish CAFOD and J&P group who are combining to walk 1600km during Lent to raise funds for CAFOD. A poster at the back of church with a QR code will take you to our JustGiving page.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT If you are just in a rut or for more serious issues – Retrouvaille could be the solution www.retrouvaille.org.uk 07973 380443.

ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE AND MOUTHPEACE NEWSLETTER

The spring [Mouthpeace newsletter](#) is on the J&P section of the parish website with numerous reflections and notices related to national Justice and Peace matters.

The [Easter ACAT newsletter](#) is on the J&P section of the parish website, filled with news, prayers and opinion pieces. The Easter appeals and greetings campaign are on pages 14-39.

VACANCY

Diocese Health & Safety officer. **Salary** £32,000 - £38,000 dependant on experience. **Hours:** 25 per week, term time only. Please send CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date** 10 April. Further details at [Latest Vacancies - Diocese](#)

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

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES If you do not use the Gift Aid scheme but wish to use Offertory Envelopes, please take any of the boxes without name labels.

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE GOSPELS

The Jesuit Institute invite you to a short online formation course on how to lead groups in reflective prayer. More details on the poster at the back of church and via www.jesuitinstitute.org/events

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY LOURDES PILGRAMIGE - YOUTH 2026

Date: 29th June – 7th August 2026. Cost: £740 (bursary, match funding and support available). Age: 16 to 23. Closing Date for all applications – 31st March 2026. Further details are on the notice board at the back of church. **Why go to Lourdes?** For our young people Lourdes offers a unique opportunity to grow in faith, service, and community. The shrine, associated with the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to St Bernadette, welcomes pilgrims from around the world. Our young pilgrims volunteer to help the sick and elderly, taking part in a powerful tradition of compassion and care. Alongside this service, they experience prayer, reflection, and friendship with other young Catholics from across our Diocese, often returning home with a deeper sense of faith and a stronger commitment to serving others. Our Lady called each one of us – now we have to answer the call.

OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into God's Family Orlaith Richardson who was recently baptised here. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Congratulations to Marie-Therese Evans and Caleb Jones who were married here recently.

Requiescant in Pace Please pray for those who have died recently including John A. Blakey, Elizabeth (Betty) Reilly (funeral 12.15 17/03/26) 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, Janet Barnes, M Barnes, George Bell, Pat Bell, Antaolii Benzo, Dave Berry, Stephen Birchall, Helen Boardman, Jackie Body, Laura Body, John Breen, Daniel Brennan, Susan Brennan, Broadfoot, Jozef Broilo, Denise Brooks, Michael Byrne, Jo Carter, Christine Cartwright, John Cawfield, Alan Clarkson, Anne Coghlan, Murray Craig, Peter Cresswell, Eileen Davies, Luke Dennett, David Michael Devine, Richard Doherty, Max Dunn, Ross Dwyer, Sean Dwyer, Joyce Eaton, Lynda Edwards, Christine Elliott, Peter Elliott, Freddie Fenton, Marie Ford, John Gardener, Ann Gately, Toby Gimson, Mary Good, Vicky Gosnold, Stella Gould, Niel Halsall, Rufus Hasler & family, Mary Heanue, Catherine Heraghty, Thomas Higginbotham, Gavin Hill, Hayley Hill, Nick, Hennis, Peter Heywood, Gavin Hill, Jane Hollingworth, Katie Holmes, Justin Humphries, Lucy Hunter, Janet, Martin Jones, Ava Kendrick, H Khan, Ann-marie Kelly, H & R Kelly, Nancy Kelly, Noreen Kelly, Amelia Kennedy, Anne Killeen, Thomas Killeen, Elizabeth and Henry Kluck, Marcin and Teresa Kluck, Bernadette Lancaster, Neil Lancaster, David Lawley, Barbara Lee, Betty Leeson, Willy Leeson, Klaudia Linert, Bob Lloyd, Chloe Logan, Laura MacGinn, Helena Machin, Sian Manley, Margaret, Erin Marks, Claire McAllister, Martin McConnell, Rupert McDermott, Maria, Mary McLoughlin, Carol McLoughlin, Brian Morris, Maureen Mullholland, Luke Murphy, Mary Murphy, Charles Musumali, Elaine Neary, Emma Neoman, Oliver, Maureen O'Hara, Roza Olszewska, Marion O'Neil, Anne O'Neill, Andrea Ottley, Marjorie Owens, Serge Pascau, Anna Perry, Krzysztof Pietrzak, Sue Power, Paul Raybede, Reece, Jackie Reed, Dave Renshaw, Helen Reynolds, Maria Robinson, Rose, Stuart Royle, Margaret Russell, Adrian Ryan, David Ryan and Frank, Mary Ryan, Melinda Ryan, Steve Ryan, Camille Sanders, Jacky Scaife, Julie Taylor, Ralph Taylor, Tomlinson family, Christy Toye, Joe Traynor, Joseph Tumpang, Peter Turnor, Jed Wainwright, Janina Wardzinska, Isabella Webb, Neil Wilkinson, Mason Williams, Maria Winthrop, Louise Withers, and all in our hospitals and homes.

MONEY MATTERS

Offertory Collection 15th March £1967.30. SVP retiring collection totalled £709.97, thank you for your support.

Many thanks to the parishioners for your generosity. *The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 234025*



DONATE

Mass Schedule

Sunday 22nd March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	For the People of the Parish Douglas (RIP) Roy Clancy Freda Tanner (Mothers Day intentions)
Monday 23rd March <i>Optional Commemoration: St. Toribio of Mogrovejo</i>	07:30 11:30 12:15 18:00	Maurice & Joe & Holy Souls (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Arnold & Eve Crowther (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
Tuesday 24th March <i>Ferial</i>	10:00 BV 11:30 12:15	Eily, Oliver, Mary & Terence & Holy Souls (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Fiona Buckley
Wednesday 25th March <i>The Annunciation of The Lord</i>	11:30 12:15	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Ilori Fahshanu (anniversary)
Thursday 26th March <i>Ferial</i>	10:00 BV 11:30 12:15 18:00	Morris Cipriano Carrasco (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Peter Luby (anniversary) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
Friday 27th March <i>Ferial</i>	11:30 12:15 18:30 19:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Grace Burke (RIP) <i>Confessions after Mass</i> <i>Stations of the Cross led by the Baptism Team</i> Paul O' Rourke (RIP)
Saturday 28st March <i>Ferial</i>	11:00 10:45-11:45 12:15 13:30 16:15-17:00 17:30	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> <i>Confessions</i> Ann and Sean and Holy Souls (RIP) Nuptial Mass of Hannah Hunter & Karl Williams <i>Confessions</i> Audrey O' Donnell (RIP)
Sunday 29th March <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	For the People of the Parish Thomas O' Connor (anniversary) John Anderson (90th Birthday) Mary Hodgkinson (RIP)

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: 1st CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY, 15th SVP

MASS READING CYCLE: Sundays Year A, Weekdays Cycle 2; Psalter Week 1

PARISH CLERGY - Parish Priest: Canon Jonathan Brandon **Assistant Priest:** Fr Joseph Fawcett Wood

CONTACTS

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Parish Office: parishoffice@stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

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

Website: stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: @svpaltrincham

Parish Safeguarding Representative Helen Norwood: 07800 656966

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