



Saint Vincent de Paul

Catholic Church, Altrincham



Fourth Sunday of Easter 26th April 2026

(Parish Mass book - page 262)

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

Three days after his election, my predecessor expressed to the representatives of the media his desire that care and attention for the poor be more clearly present in the Church: "How I would like a Church which is poor and for the poor!"

This desire reflects the understanding that the Church "recognizes in those who are poor and who suffer, the likeness of its poor and suffering founder." Indeed, since the Church is called to identify with those who are least, at her core "There can be no room for doubt or for explanations which weaken so clear a message... We have to state, without mincing words, that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor." In this regard, we have numerous witnesses from disciples of Christ spanning almost two millennia.

The true riches of the Church

Saint Paul recounts that among the faithful of the nascent Christian community not many were "wise according to the flesh, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth" (1 Cor 1:26). However, despite their poverty, the early Christians were clearly aware of the necessity to care for those who were most in need. Already at the dawn of Christianity, the Apostles laid their hands on seven men chosen from the community. To a certain extent, they integrated them into their own ministry, instituting them for the service — *diakonía* in Greek — of the poorest (cf. Acts 6:1-5). It is significant that the first disciple to bear witness to his faith in Christ to the point of shedding his blood was Stephen, who belonged to this group. In him, the witness of caring for the poor and of martyrdom are united.

A little less than two centuries later, another deacon, Saint Lawrence, will demonstrate his fidelity to Jesus Christ in a similar way by uniting martyrdom and service to the poor. From Saint Ambrose's account, we learn that Lawrence, a deacon in Rome during the pontificate of Pope Sixtus II, was forced by the Roman authorities to turn over the treasures of the Church. "The following day he brought the poor with him. Questioned about where the promised treasures might be, he pointed to the poor saying, 'These are the treasures of the Church'." While narrating this event, Saint Ambrose asks: "What treasures does Jesus have that are more precious than those in which he loves to show himself?" And, remembering that ministers of the Church must never neglect the care of the poor, much less accumulate goods for their own benefit, he says: "This task must be carried out with sincere faith and wise foresight. Certainly, if anyone derives personal advantage from it, he commits a crime; but if he distributes the proceeds to the poor or redeems a prisoner, he performs a work of mercy."

Pope's Intention for April

For priests in crisis. Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

During Easter we are asked to pray for these intentions:

New members of the Church, Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES for next year are available for collection at the back of church. 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.

JOIN US ON THE 75th SHREWSBURY PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Would you like to join St Vincent's parishioners as part of a landmark pilgrimage to Lourdes this summer? This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Diocese of Shrewsbury's pilgrimages to Lourdes. A number of St Vincent's parishioners are 'regulars' of the annual pilgrimage which this year is from 31st July - 6th August (if travelling by air) and will be returning, plus there are 'first timers' planning to make the pilgrimage. This is a truly life-changing experience. Full details are on the Diocesan website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk including travel information, key dates, accommodation details, guidance for pilgrims, and a link to booking details. The easy-to-follow online booking form link is within the [online brochure](#). Online booking link <https://shrewsburylourdes.fillout.com/application> If you wish to be part of the St Vincent's Parish team on the pilgrimage, please complete your booking via the Diocesan website. St Vincent's parishioners are planning to stay at the Gallia Londres Hotel for anyone planning their travel. Please note re. youth - young volunteers (aged between 16 and 22 years) will travel together by coach, leaving Wednesday 29 July and arriving back on Friday 7 August. Separate application forms and details are available from the SYMT office at youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Any booking queries re. the Lourdes Pilgrimage should be directed to Shrewsbury's Pilgrimage Team on 07773 324 264 or via email lourdes@dioceseofshrewsbury.org**

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.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP

Following from Mass in honour of the Divine Mercy at Holy Angels last weekend, Nicole Polkey wishes to advertise a group which prays for the dying, using the chaplet of Divine Mercy. This group doesn't meet in person, but simply commits themselves to praying for the dying: they receive the names of people to pray for and intercede for them through this chaplet which Jesus asked St Faustina to pray for the dying. If you are interested in joining this apostolate of prayer, her telephone number is 07894 792 968.

CAFOD: STAND WITH SUDAN. GIVE MONTHLY.

On the third anniversary of the war in Sudan, Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Region for Africa, asks for your help: "So many of our sisters and brothers in Sudan are facing increasing violence, hunger, and disease. That is why today, I'm asking you to consider setting up a regular gift to support families who are fleeing the violence - with food, safe water and other vital support. Monthly gifts are an act of steady love for our neighbours, a way of saying: we will not abandon you, we will stand with you until peace is restored." [Donate at cafod.org.uk/StandWithSudan](http://Donate_at_cafod.org.uk/StandWithSudan) The retiring collection after the Masses on 2nd/3rd May will be for the CAFOD Sudan Appeal. CAFOD is also asking people to add their names to their online petition asking Yvette Cooper, Foreign secretary to take action.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- ♦ **Children's Liturgy** - 12th & 26th 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 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: 9th & 23rd April (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 8th May.
- ♦ **Young Adults Group (18-35 years)** - Saturdays 2nd, 16th & 30th May. Come along for 5.30pm Mass followed by Adoration & Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Talk, food, time to socialise etc.

ROMULUS SINGERS CONCERT

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon at our popular cream tea concert, 'My Heart's Friend' on Sunday 26 April at 3pm in Holy Angels Church Hall, Hale Barns. The programme features an eclectic mix of pieces. Tickets: Adult £15, Child/Student £7. Ticket price includes a glass of non-alcoholic fizz, scone with cream and jam and tea or coffee. To guarantee a place at this popular event it is essential book in advance – it has sold out for the past two years! Buy tickets online at <http://www.romulus-singers.co.uk/myheartsfriend> or call Steve on 07531 266 443 to reserve a place.

VISIT TO GITA BHAVAN HINDU TEMPLE

Gita Bhavan Hindu Temple in Whalley Range visit on Wednesday 29th April, starting at 6.15pm. This event, organised by Altrincham Churches Together (AIG), consists of a brief introduction, followed by a tour and light refreshments. To book your place, please email secretary@altrincham-interfaith.org.uk

VACANCIES

- Two vacancies have arisen within the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team for a **Programme Coordinator** and **Youth Mission Team Member**. Further details regarding both posts can be found on the Diocesan Website. <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>. Interested parties should send their CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date Friday 29 April 2026.**

- **Lay Pastoral Assistant in the parish of St Hugh & St John, Timperley.** This specialised role will provide pastoral support to the Parish Priest with particular emphasis on faith formation and some liturgical ministry. Hours: 15 per week @ £15 per hour, afternoons and evenings, with occasional Sundays. Further details can be found via the Diocesan Website [Latest Vacancies](https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/) - Diocese If interested, please send CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Closing date Friday 29 May 2026.

THANK YOU FROM MOYA COLE HOSPICE (Previously known as St Ann's Hospice)

"I see first-hand the huge impact Moya Cole Hospice care has on our patients and their loved ones. Without the support from the local community, we simply could not continue with this work. We are all so grateful for the amazing people, including supporters like you, for all you do for our hospice. Thank you so much." Louise Pinney, Moya Cole Hospice Ward Manager. Thank you to those that have supported the Hospice via our wall box.

FRIDAY CLUB

Our next gathering will be on Friday 1st May at Westleigh from 2.00pm to 4.30pm The highlight of the afternoon will be a concert given by the pupils of Blessed Thomas Holford School.'

April Live Simply Message: install one or more water butts in your garden to be prepared for the summer droughts instead of using a hosepipe.

OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into God's Family Franklin Brennan who was recently baptised here. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Congratulations to the adults who were baptised into the Catholic Church at Easter: Joshua McClelland, Aida Yee Hong Chan, Joyce Sin Yi Chu, Neil Clannachn, Katarina Gabanayova, Eden McCabrey, David Tyson, Louis Ka Lok Won and Angela Li Ying.

Congratulations to the adults who were received into full communion with the church at Easter: Richard Ballam, Samuel Ford, Daisy Hughes, Amy Hurst, Thomas Marsden, Paul Stirling, Charlotte Wood, Christina Woodward and Lewis Wooding.

Requiescant in Pace Please pray for those who have died recently including Geraldine Pickering (funeral 06/05/26), Sr Janet Arrowsmith (funeral 12/05/26) 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, Marco Floreale, 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, Michael Quigley, 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, 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 19th April £1557.97

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



DONATE

Mass Schedule

Sunday 26th April <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	For the People of The Parish Margaret French (RIP) Dermot, Angela & Jack & Holy Souls (RIP) Peter Foran (RIP)
Monday 27th April <i>Ferial</i>	11:30 12:15 18:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Alice and John Fallon <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
Tuesday 28th April <i>Optional Memorial: St Peter Chanel & St Louis Marie De Montfort</i>	10:00 BV 11:30 12:15	Claire Fletcher & Cath Adams & Holy Souls (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Eamon O'Donnell (ann)
Wednesday 29th April <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	11:30 12:15	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Caterina Scattone
Thursday 30th April <i>Optional Memorial: St Pius V</i>	10:00 BV 11:30 12:15 18:00	Inesa Anna Jesbin <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Sarah Hrybyk (ann) NO Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 1st May <i>Optional Memorials: St. Joseph the Worker</i>	11:30 12:15 18:30 19:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Pauline Richards (RIP) <i>Confessions after Mass</i> <i>Rosary</i> Philip and Julia Gray (RIP)
Saturday 2nd May <i>St. Athanasius</i>	10:00 11:00 10:45-11:45 12:15 16:15-17:00 17:30	First Holy Communion for St Vincents School children NO Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction NO Confessions (evening only) Betty Riley (RIP) <i>Confessions</i> Joe and Philomena Holleran (RIP)
Sunday 3rd May <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	Seamus Edwards (RIP) For the People of the Parish Molly and Sean McRae Michael and Anne Heneghan (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

APRIL RETIRING COLLECTIONS: 3rd Holy Places, 19th Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph

MASS READING CYCLE: Sundays Year A, Weekdays Cycle 2; Psalter Week 3

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative Helen Norwood: 07800 656966

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