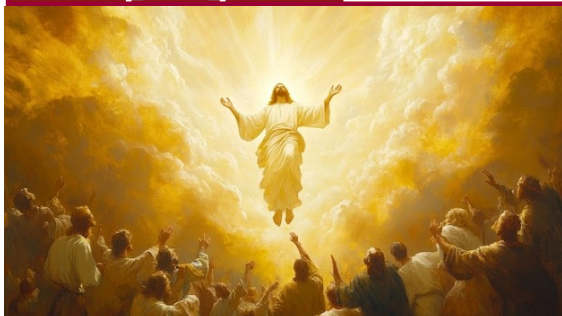




Saint Vincent de Paul

Catholic Church, Altrincham



Seventh Sunday of Easter 17th May 2026

(Parish Mass book - page 275)

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

Augustine's spiritual guide was Saint Ambrose, who insisted on the ethical requirement to share material goods: "What you give to the poor is not your property, but theirs. Why have you appropriated what was given for common use?" For the Bishop of Milan, almsgiving is justice restored, not a gesture of paternalism. In his preaching, mercy takes on a prophetic character: he denounces structures that accumulate things and reaffirms communion as the Church's vocation. Formed in this tradition, the holy Bishop of Hippo taught for his part about the preferential love for the poor. A vigilant pastor and theologian of rare insight, he realizes that true ecclesial communion is expressed also in the communion of goods. In his Commentaries on the Psalms, he reminds us that true Christians do not neglect love for those most in need: "Observing your brothers and sisters, you know if they are in need, but if Christ dwells in you, also be charitable to strangers." This sharing of goods therefore stems from theological charity and has as its ultimate goal the love of Christ. For Augustine, the poor are not just people to be helped, but the sacramental presence of the Lord.

The Doctor of Grace saw caring for the poor as concrete proof of the sincerity of faith. Anyone who says they love God and has no compassion for the needy is lying (cf. 1 Jn 4:20). Commenting on Jesus' encounter with the rich young man and the "treasure in heaven" reserved for those who give their possessions to the poor (cf. Mt 19:21), Augustine puts the following words in the Lord's mouth: "I received the earth, I will give heaven; I received temporal goods, I will give back eternal goods; I received bread, I will give life... I have been given hospitality, but I will give a home; I was visited when I was sick, but I will give health; I was visited in prison, but I will give freedom. The bread you have given to my poor has been consumed, but the bread I will give will not only refresh you, but will never end." The Almighty will not be outdone in generosity to those who serve the people most in need: the greater the love for the poor, the greater the reward from God. This Christocentric and deeply ecclesial perspective leads us to affirm that offerings, when born of love, not only alleviate the needs of one's brother or sister, but also purify the heart of the giver, if he or she is willing to change. Indeed, in the words of Pseudo-Augustine: "almsgiving can be beneficial to you in erasing past sins, if you have amended your ways." It is, so to speak, the ordinary path to conversion for those who wish to follow Christ with an undivided heart.

Pope's Intention for May

That everyone might have food. Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

This August, Canon Jonathan will celebrate his 50th birthday, as such we wish to mark this occasion with him as a parish. The parish celebration will take place on **Saturday 11th July**. We will hold a special Mass for him at 5.30pm followed by a celebration in the church gardens and Westleigh. Please put the date in your diaries! More details to follow. Due to the unpredictable British weather we are looking to put up a marquee on the lawn. If any parishioners have a marquee or a contact for a local company please contact the parish office.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AT MASS?

We will be holding a choice of two 5-week training programmes for children who have made their First Holy Communion and would like to serve at Mass. The programmes will be held on Sundays at 4pm starting 17th May and Mondays at 4.30pm in church starting on 18th May. If your child is interested please collect an application form from the sacristy and return it to church by Sunday 10th May.

If any adults would like to train as an altar server please email your interest to the office and we will be in touch. Training sessions for adults will be at 7.15pm on Monday evenings.

PENTECOST BOOKLET

The parish Let us Pray team has put together a booklet for Pentecost with prayers, reflections and a Novena which starts on the Ascension of The Lord. The booklets will be available at all Masses this weekend – please take one home to use as we prepare to celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit.

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**

DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE 2026

Parishioners celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2026 are invited to attend the Diocesan Mass for Marriage, at 12 noon on Saturday 13th June at Saint Columba's, Chester. The Mass will be followed by a buffet lunch for invited guests. To receive an invitation from the Bishop's Office, parishioners should email the parish office with the following information: names, address and which significant anniversary is being celebrated. Invitations will only be issued through parishes. The closing date to receive an invitation is Friday 22nd May.

ST AMBROSE COLLEGE OPEN DAY

St. Ambrose College Open Day is Saturday 27th June 2026, for pupils in Years 4 & 5, between 9:30am and 12:30pm.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- ♦ **Children's Liturgy** - 10th & 24th May 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: 7th & 21st May (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.
- ♦ **St. Vincent's Parish Choir** - Rehearsal every Thursday at 8:30pm in church
- ♦ **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.

ST. AMBROSE IMMERSION APPEAL

Oliver Taylor, is a parishioner and Year 12 student at St Ambrose college. This February he will be travelling to St Ambrose Academy, Sierra Leone — a school founded by St. Ambrose. He is fundraising to support this incredible community, wanting to give something back as a huge thanks for the fantastic Catholic education he has received in our parish. He would be so grateful for any financial donations towards this immersive journey and looks forward to saying more about this at 10am mass on Sunday 24th May. Please follow the link below to contribute, each donation will go a long way. <https://gofund.me/e7585c5c9>

8.30AM & 11.30AM MASSES

Over the last few months, the Parish Pastoral Team have given out a short questionnaire out at each of the Sunday Masses to ascertain views about those Masses. This week questionnaires will be given out at 8.30am & 11.30am Masses. We would be grateful for those who attend these Masses to complete the questionnaire & return it after Mass either this week or next. There is a box in the porch for returning the completed questionnaires. Thankyou.

SUMMER PARTY FOR LOCAL REFUGEE CHILDREN

Altrincham Friends of Refugees are hosting a summer party at Loreto School on 10th June for refugee children across Manchester. We will be collecting presents in a box at the back of church to give to the children during the party. Please consider donating either arts / crafts type toys for younger children or an approximately £15 gift voucher for older children. Please don't wrap the presents - it helps the organisers to see what is given to whom.

VACANCIES

Lay Pastoral Assistant in the parish of St Hugh & St John, Timperley. role will provide pastoral support to the Parish Priest with emphasis on faith formation and liturgical ministry. 15hrs per week @ £15 per hr, afternoons and evenings, with occasional Sundays. Further details can be found via the Diocesan Website [Latest Vacancies](#) Please send CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org Closing date 29/05/26.

Teacher Vacancy: Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Baguley (M23 1HP) are seeking to appoint a Teacher for September 2026. Further information can be found on the school website www.sacredheart-baguley.manchester.sch.uk or by telephoning the school (01619983419).

Loreto Sixth Form Catholic College is seeking to appoint a full-time teacher of Core Religious Education and Chaplaincy Support. Core RE has centrally planned resources and is not an examined subject. Therefore, there are no formal assessments and no significant marking commitments. As a Core RE teacher, your unique role will be to develop students spiritually, ethically and theologically. For more information, please go to the Loreto Website vacancies page. <http://www.loreto.ac.uk/vacancies/>

WEAVING TRUST EVENT 11TH JUNE- St Alban's Church Hall, 2 Lindsell Rd, West WA14 5NX starting 7.30pm

Altrincham Interfaith Group (AIG) is excited to invite you to this interactive event bringing different faiths together to learn about each other's faith experience, and build (weave) relationships of trust and friendship. Suitable for Adults and young people 16+. Book your place before 7th June, secretary@altrincham-interfaith.org.uk

OUR PARISH FAMILY

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

Requiescant in Pace Please pray for those who have died recently including Susan Yarwood, Alison Donald and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Congratulations to Amy Tosini and Alexander Townsend who were married here recently.

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, Denise Brooks, 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, 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, Joceph 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 10th May £1911.32

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



DONATE

Mass Schedule

Sunday 17th May <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	Bernard Collins (Birthday Remembrance) For the People of The Parish Bernard Elliot (ann) David Donlan (RIP)
Monday 18th May <i>Optional Memorial: St. John I Pope & Martyr</i>	7:30 11:30 12:15 18:00	Ethna McGoff (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Brian Coghlan (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
Tuesday 19th May <i>Memorial: St. Milburga</i>	10:00 BV 11:30 12:15	Betty Reilly (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Sr. Flaviana Sebis (RIP)
Wednesday 20th May <i>Optional Memorial: St. Bernadine of Siena</i>	11:30 12:15	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Mrs. Maggie Mohan (RIP)
Thursday 21st May <i>Feast of The Dedication of The Cathedral</i>	10:00 BV 11:30 12:15 18:00	St. Janet Arrowsmith (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Patrick Leahy (ann) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
Friday 22nd May <i>Optional Memorial: St. Rita of Cascia</i>	11:30 12:15 18:30 19:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Fr. Anthony Meredith (60th Ordination Anniversary) <i>Confessions after Mass</i> <i>Rosary</i> Deceased Members of the SVP Conference
Saturday 23rd May <i>Ferial</i>	11:00 10:45-11:45 12:15 16:15-17:00 17:30	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> <i>Confessions</i> Seamus Glynn (Ann) <i>Confessions</i> Michael Scahill (RIP)
Sunday 24th May <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	For the People of The Parish Sean Dwyer (RIP) David Donlan (RIP) Holly & Julien (Wedding)

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

MAY RETIRING COLLECTIONS: 3rd CAFOD, 31st Franciscan Missionaries

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

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

May Live Simply Message: Pray before meals.

Parish Safeguarding Representative Helen Norwood: 07800 656966

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*