



Stalybridge Missionary Area

Serving the Parishes of Ss Peter and Raphael,
Saint James the Great
www.stpetersandraphaels.org



Sunday 6th September 2026 – 23rd Sunday in O.T.

Saturday 5th September First Mass of Sunday	18:30	Saint Peter	All our families
Sunday 6th September 23rd Sunday in O.T.	09:00	Saint James	Parishioners
	11:00	Saint Peter	Parishioners
Monday 7th September Ferial	09:30	Saint Peter	Secular Clergy Fund
Tuesday 8th September Birth of the Blessed Virgin	9:30	Saint Peter	All Mothers
Wednesday 9th September Ferial	09:30	Saint Peter	Students returning to education
	12:30	Saint Peter	UCM Mass
Thursday 10th September Ferial	9:30	Saint Peter	Staff returning to schools
Friday 11th September Ferial	10:30	Saint Peter	Funeral Mass for Joan Jones
Saturday 12th September First Mass of Sunday	17:00-18:15	Saint Peter	Confessions
	18:30	Saint Peter	Priest's Intention
Sunday 13th September 23th Sunday in O.T.	09:00	Saint James	Parishioners
	11:00	Saint Peter	Parishioners

Father Owen writes,

In this week's Gospel we see the founding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sometimes we can think that this sacrament is a load of nonsense because if God can see and hear everything then I can go straight to him and seek forgiveness. This leaves out one very necessary fact though – we're human. And in being human we have been created with our senses; taste, touch, sight, hearing and smell. Only when these are engaged will we become satisfied that something has happened – in this case we hear the voice of the priest speak for God who has absolved us through the act of the sacrament. In other words, it is to show and reassure us that the sacrament has happened. Otherwise, we will always doubt. Let us doubt no more then! Let us take the opportunity to reengage with the love of God as is freely given in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

READING	EXTRACT	REFERENCE
1st Reading	If you do not speak to warn the wicked, his blood I will require your hand.	Ezekiel 33:7-9
Psalm	O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts	Ps 95 (94)
2nd Reading	Love is the fulfilling of the law.	Romans 13: 8-10
Gospel	If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.	Mt 18: 15-20

Events this Week

Tuesday Choir (10am) and (1pm) Prayer Group
Thursday : Over 60s Bingo

RECENT CONSULTATION ON MASS TIMES: Thank you to those Parishioners who have taken the time to indicate their opinions regarding Mass times at St Peters. Father Owen has taken the sheets and is going to look at all that has been said and all that has been voted and we will get back to you very soon. The changes of Mass times will not come into effect until the start of November so that this gives us time to reflect and to get it right.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRAYER GROUP – The prayer group are pleased to be returning from Tuesday 8th September from 1:00pm – everybody is very welcome to come along.

UCM MASS AND MEETING – Please note that the next is next **Wednesday 9 September. Mass at 12.30** followed by meeting in the Parish Hall.

SVP PARISH FAMILY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 13th September after Mass make time to join us in the Hall for Tea, Coffee, Toast and fellowship . Meet friends, make friends

Saturday 26th September 12.00 noon - Mass for the sick with anointing; followed by a Soup Kitchen lunch. A chance for spiritual and bodily refreshments.

FATHER OWEN'S MEETINGS – Over the next few weeks as the new Parish Priest Father Owen is looking to meet with different groups in both Parishes. The dates that he is looking currently for Parishioners of both St Peters and St James are:-

Readers – On Wednesday **16th September - 5:00pm** in St Peter's Presbytery

Eucharistic Ministers – On **Wednesday 23rd September at 7:00pm** in St Peter's Presbytery

Keyholders – On **Friday 18th September at 7:00pm** in St Peter's Presbytery

If anyone is not already a reader or a Eucharistic Minister then please do come along to the meeting and sign up.

STUDENTS RETURN – May God Bless all our students at the different levels of schools and all staff and families as school re-open this week. May he protect, guide and encourage them and may it be a happy and challenging time as them grow in knowledge and love.

MR MATTHEWS – It is with great joy and pleasure that we welcome Mr Matthews as the new Head Teacher at St Raphaels. May he be blessed in this new mission and may the Holy Spirit animate him and strengthen in in the faith of Christ. Welcome Mr Matthews.

MARY'S MEALS: can turn your old foreign coins and notes into meals for hungry children. We can also take British coins and notes that are no longer legal tender.

Please place them in the box at the back of church. It costs only 10p to provide a meal for a child, so any coins however small are most welcome. Thank you, Rob White

THANKYOU – FROM WILLOW WOOD: - Pauline Lunt has asked us to thank your Parishioners for their support of the Jumble Sale in aid of Willow Wood which took place in St Peter's Parish Hall on Sunday 26th July. A fantastic sum of £750.00 was raised for this wonderful cause and more events like these are planned for the future.

UCM CHARITY WALK - Tuesday **8 September 11.00 am**. A group of 24 UCM Ladies and some of their hubbies will be doing a 4k charity walk to raise funds for Willow Wood, their chosen charity for this year. Although Dovestone is now open, we have decided an alternative route for this year, a Gorse Hall walk. If you would like to sponsor our walkers, there is a sponsor form on the notice board. Any monies will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARK - "I write with a reminder after the summer break that the

Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will be brought back to the House of Commons next Friday, 11th September. I am conscious that you may wish to include this reminder in newsletters and other parish communications at the weekend.

I am grateful for the reports of local responses you have shared with me. It does appear some Members of Parliament who previously supported assisted suicide are having second thoughts while others are resolved to vote for this legislation in its unamended form. It is difficult to assess the impact of the mixed signals given by the new Prime Minister or the shift in public opinion where surveys over the summer indicate a majority now wishing to see the prioritisation of improvements in palliative care. However, it remains urgent and worthwhile for us to contact our Members of Parliament in the ten days which remain before this near-identical Bill is reintroduced by Lauren Edwards into the House of Commons following the failure of Kim Leadbeater's Bill earlier this year.

Let us hope and pray wise counsels will prevail and this threat will be averted in the House of Commons next week"

THE SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM (SYMT) – RECRUITMENT

- Exciting new vacancies have arisen within the Diocese. The Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team (SYMT) are recruiting for a Programme Coordinator and Team Member; both roles are full time based in Stockport. The Curial office is also looking to recruit an Accounts Assistant, full time, based in Birkenhead. CV's to be sent to Pauline McCulloch

recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing**

date: Friday 18 September. Further details for all vacancies can be found on the Diocesan website using this link <https://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers>

QUIET RETREATS FOR ADULTS THIS OCTOBER:

During October half term, Castlerigg Manor is running a quiet retreat for individual adults who want to spend a few days of peace, relaxation and prayer in the Lake District. Each day there will be a talk, Mass, and evening prayer, and then a lot of time to explore the area, pray, or

just simply relax. Book at castleriggmanor.com/events or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

CHRISTMAS FAIR - It's that time of year again when we start to think of this year's Fair which will be held on **Saturday, 28 November**. We will be holding a planning meeting for parishioners on **Tuesday 15 September at 7.00pm** in the Presbytery, all are most welcome. Please come along and share your thoughts and ideas. Thank you Elaine

FOOD BANK Thank you for your continuing generosity in donations to the foodbank. All, dry, canned, packaged food and toiletries gratefully accepted and appreciated.

GREYSTONES: need men's jogging bottoms and toiletries, Please leave at the back of Church clearly marked for Greystones. Thank you.

OPENING OUR CHURCH We are going to open wide our doors of St Peters every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. This is to allow people the opportunity to come in for some private prayer between 10:00am and 1:00pm. It is nice to come and spend time in the peaceful presence of Christ in our very busy lives.

SANCTUARY LAMP - ST PETERS & ST RAPHAEL is this week lit for all those children Schools staff and families for the return to school.

SANCTUARY LAMP– ST JAMES THE GREAT is lit for all those children. school staff and families for the return to school.

WE WELCOME: Welcome to Oscar Anthony, Pippa Ellie and Robyn Gracie who join the family of God this weekend through the Sacrament of Baptism.

WE REMEMBER: Mary Joan Jones

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS: Please bear with us as we count the collections and bank payments for the last few weeks. Totals will be provided shortly. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Ss Peter & Raphael - TBC

Saint James the Great - TBC

CONTACTS

Clergy

Parish Priest: Father Owen Gallagher
Deacon: Deacon Antony Zidan

Telephone: 0161 338 2575 (Saint Peter's Presbytery)

Office information

Secretary: Mrs Andrea Kelly

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Opening hours:

Opening hours:

Monday/ Wednesday - 8:30am – 1:30pm and Friday 08:30am - 12:30pm

Safeguarding

Stephen and Pauline Giblin

Telephone: 0161 339 9664

Our Church locations:	
Sacred Peter's RC Church Off Castle Hall Close, Stalybridge SK15 2ED	Saint James' RC Church 40 Underwood road, Hyde SK14 3DH Contact Saint Peter's

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