

Parish Newsletter

**THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
HAIGH, ASPULL & BLACKROD
WITH THE PARISH OF HOLY FAMILY, NEW SPRINGS
S.R.C.D.T. REG. CHARITY No. 250037**

March 16th 2025

Second Sunday of Lent - Year C



Parish Priest Rev. Kevin Foulkes
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Sacrament of Reconciliation **Saturday** 11.30-12noon Our Lady's Church

MASS TIMES

Saturday	6.00 pm	Our Lady's
Sunday	9.30 am	Our Lady's
	11.15 am	Holy Family
Monday	9.15 am	Our Lady's
Tuesday	9.15 am	Holy Family
Wednesday	9.15 am	Our Lady's
Thursday	9.15 am	Holy Family
Friday	9.15 am	Our Lady's
Saturday	11.00 am	Our Lady's



SERVICES LIVE-STREAM & ONLINE

Sunday Masses from Our Lady's via the Parish Facebook page using this link www.facebook.com/ourlady'schurchaspull/ live from 9.30am. The recording is also available via the Parish WhatsApp group from about 10.30am.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.
From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.
Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

17th March - St Patrick (Patron of Ireland):
Born in around 385; as a youth he was taken captive to Ireland as a slave and worked as a herdsman. After making his escape he wished to become a priest and after being made Bishop of Ireland he was untiring in preaching the Gospel and he converted many to the faith. It is believed he died in 461 and was buried at Downpatrick.

18th March - St Cyril of Jerusalem: He became Bishop of Jerusalem in 348. He is famed for the catechetical instructions he gave to candidates for Baptism and for his defence of the faith for which he was exiled three times.

19th March - St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary: patron of the Universal Church and particular patron of Salford Diocese.

THOUGHTS

For the second time in St Luke's Gospel the voice of God the Father is heard claiming Jesus as God's Son.

The first time was at his Baptism when God the Father spoke directly to Jesus and said, "You are my Son, the Beloved."

Today we read and hear on the mountain of the Transfiguration that God spoke again, "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to Him." But on this occasion the Father is not speaking to Jesus but to Peter, James and John who had been invited to accompany him on the mountain.

These words are addressed to us when we encounter the Lord in Word and Eucharist, "Behold, here is Jesus, the Chosen One. Listen to Him."

St Joseph's Feast Day

The Solemnity of St Joseph, 19th March, is about Joseph as an historical person and the life and deeds of this man as model and exemplar for the present believing Church. He is presented as a just man, a wise and loyal servant of God who had great concern for his wife and her child

Society of St Gregory

Fr Kevin.

PARISH NOTICES

WELCOME

In Fr Kevin's absence a welcome return of Canon Tony McBride celebrating the weekend Masses in both churches.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for the sick in hospital, the hospices and at home. We pray especially for Pope Francis and Charlie McElchare.

LATELY DEAD

Winifred Howe.

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

To Chris Forster and family of Haigh on the death of his mother, Janet. R.I.P.

ANNIVERSARIES

Bill Houghton, Mary Mitchell, Gina Griffiths, Kieron O'Malley, Maureen Blundell, Bernard Vose and priests of the Diocese Tony Doran, Jim Rawson and Pat Burke.

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

As of Wednesday 12th March include: Kieron O'Malley (anniversary), Bill Houghton (anniversary), Winifred Howe (lately dead) and Charlie McElchare who is sick.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Will be made after the Thursday 9.15am Mass in Holy Family and after the Friday 9.15am Mass in Our Lady's.

LENTEN TALKS

The second of the Lenten Devotional Talks will be led by Rev. Angela Wynne on "Holiness" in St Katharine's, Blackrod next Wednesday 19th March at 10.30am, followed by light refreshments.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fr Kevin will celebrate the Sacrament (First Confessions) for the children of Y3 in both schools this coming Wednesday 19th 10.15am in Our Lady's School and 1.15pm in Holy Family School. Please remember the children in your prayers.

200 CLUB

The 200 Club has just restarted.

The subscription for this year will be £2 per month, so a £20 contribution will result in you being in the draw for the year. I am hopeful the prizes will remain the same as last year.

To join, rejoin or for more information contact: Philip Holt, 10 Cherwell Close, Aspull 07764 584381

COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

To support the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in North Norfolk. Pilgrimages began in the eleventh century and continued until the Reformation. Many monarchs visited the Shrine. The Shrine was rebuilt in the nineteenth century and pilgrimages continue today in a very Ecumenical spirit.

MANY THANKS

To the children in both Parishes who made the appeal for Cafod last weekend, Orla, Alexander, Joshua, Teddy, Daisy, Henry, Lily and Nevaeh.

CAFOD

The Cafod Appeal collection this weekend 15th/16th March to support the work of our Catholic aid agency.

WIGAN CHORAL SOCIETY

Presents music for Passiontide, Saturday 5th April 2025, 7.30pm in St Michael's, Duke Street, Wigan, WN1 2BJ. Choir and soloists join in Pergolesi's famous and very poignant Stabat Mater.

BLACKROD COUNCIL

Extends a warm invitation to organisations, including our Parish, to send a representative to attend the annual Assembly to be held Tuesday 25th March in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm. The purpose of the Annual Assembly is to receive the Annual Report of the Town Council and also to discuss Parish or Community affairs. If anyone wishes to attend on behalf of the Parish please have a word with Fr Kevin.

BRICK

The Lenten booklets and calendars "Walk with Me" have arrived and will be available in both churches.

THE BRICK

Please remember those who need our support through the Brick, which continues to experience very high levels of demand, especially in the challenging economic times.

The Brick has requested the following food items: Breakfast Cereals, Pasta, Rice and Pasta Sauces.

Every good wish and blessing.

Fr Kevin.