

# 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**

January 12th 2025

**The Baptism of the Lord Year C  
(The end of the Christmas Season)**



**Parish Priest** Rev. Kevin Foulkes  
**Presbytery** 48 Haigh Road  
Aspull  
Wigan WN2 1YA  
**Telephone** 01942 516732

[www.aspullourladys.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.aspullourladys.wigan.sch.uk)  
[www.aspullhollyfamily.co.uk](http://www.aspullhollyfamily.co.uk)

Sacrament of Reconciliation **Saturday** 11.30-12noon Our Lady's Church

## MASS TIMES

<b>Saturday</b>	6.00 pm	Our Lady's
<b>Sunday</b>	9.30 am	Our Lady's
	11.15 am	Holy Family
<b>Monday</b>	9.15 am	Our Lady's
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.15 am	Holy Family
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.15 am	Our Lady's
<b>Thursday</b>	9.15 am	Holy Family
<b>Friday</b>	9.15 am	Our Lady's
<b>Saturday</b>	11.00 am	Our Lady's
	11.30-12noon	Our Lady's Church



## **SERVICES LIVE-STREAM & ONLINE**

Sunday Masses from Our Lady's via the Parish Facebook page using this link [www.facebook.com/ourladyschurchaspull/](https://www.facebook.com/ourladyschurchaspull/) live from 9.30am. The recording is also available via the Parish WhatsApp group from about 10.30am.

**Response to the Psalm:** Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great you are!

**Gospel Acclamation** Alleluia, alleluia!

He who is mightier than I is coming, said John. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Alleluia!

## **CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK**

**13<sup>th</sup> January – St Hilary:** Fourth century Bishop of Poitiers who died in exile as a defender of the faith against heresy.

**17<sup>th</sup> January - St Anthony:** inspired by the words of the Lord "Sell everything you own and give it to the poor" Anthony retired to the

Egyptian desert at the age of twenty; he attracted many followers, who shared his ascetic life, and bequeathed to the Church an example of life spent in solitude and total devotion to prayer. He died in the year 356, aged about 105.

## **THOUGHTS**

The annual commemoration by the Church of the Baptism of Jesus marks the end of the Christmas Season. Ordinary Time begins tomorrow, the First Week of the Church's Calendar.

### **Today's Gospel.**

When the people begin to think that John the Baptist is the Messiah, he declares himself unworthy, even to be the slave whose job is to look after his master's footwear.

His Baptism, he says, is symbolic of the person's determination to change around his life. The Baptism the Christ will bring confers a new reality upon the person.

The writer of Luke's Gospel presents a simple account of the divine revelation of sonship following the example of Mark's version of the story, rather than that found in the Gospel of Matthew or John. Jesus is 'at prayer', a common feature of the presentation of the life and ministry of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, when the voice from heaven addresses him.

The symbolism of the Spirit in the form of a dove reminds us of the story of how Noah is assured that the flood is at an end, that this is the time of a new beginning.

Pope Francis has inaugurated a Holy Year with the Rite of the Opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica. After that the Holy

Doors of other Papal Basilicas, in Rome, were opened and will remain so until the end of this Jubilee Year.

During this year the city of Rome is expected to welcome over 35 million visitors. Pope Francis has approved the motto, 'Pilgrims of Hope' for this 2025 Jubilee Year. Two words

that represent key terms of Pope Francis' pontificate.

As preparations continue in the Vatican, we are looking how to mark the special year also in our own Diocese of Salford. More will be shared in the New Year.

Fr Kevin.

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## PARISH NOTICES

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### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Please pray for the sick in hospital, the hospices and at home. We pray especially for Christine Pearson and Jean Coyne.

### **LATELY DEAD**

Bernard McGurrin and Kevin Fairhurst junior.

### **PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY**

1. To Bernie Davies and family of Bury, Greater Manchester, on the death of Tony.
2. To Celia O'Sullivan and family, of Bath, Somerset, on the death of Wally.

Both died recently, cousins of Fr Kevin.  
R.I.P.

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Pamela Bowden, Mary Leather, May Prendergast, Agnes and Joe Sherriff, Bernard Raffo, John Malloy, Tony and Phyllis Cochrane, Joan Coleman, Bill Fury, James Wimsey, Robert Dittman, Janie Mitchinson, Mary Storey, Hilary Gavin, Sharon Jones, Colin Cooke, John Brewder.

### **MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED**

As of Wednesday 8th January include: Pamela Bowden (anniversary), Eric Pilkington (anniversary), Tony Davies (lately dead), Wally O'Sullivan (lately dead), Alan Southworth senior (anniversary), Antonia and Thomas Mason, John Brewder (anniversary), Margaret Moore (anniversary) and Bernard McGurrin (lately dead).

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Confessions will be available at Holy Family Church next Saturday 18th January 10.00am to 10.30am.

### **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME**

Meeting for parents of both Our Lady's and Holy Family Parishes in Holy Family Church Wednesday 15th January, 6.00pm. (Please note change of venue)

### **SOCIAL SUNDAY**

After 9.30am Mass next Sunday 19th January. All are welcome.

### **CHRISTIAN UNITY**

The Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is kept Saturday 18th to Saturday 25th January.

### **MANY THANKS**

For the Christmas cards and gifts I received, especially those which will benefit Cafod and other of your chosen charities.

Thanks again to all who helped to celebrate Christmas in such style in both churches, especially our florists, singers and guest musicians.

### **GOOD WISHES AND THANKS**

To David and Christine Cowley and family of Georgia USA, late of Aspull, for their generous donation to Parish funds and Christmas greetings this year.

### **MANY THANKS**

For a further series of donations to Parish funds in memory of the late Wilf Martin of Blackrod, husband of Shirley. R.I.P.

### **BELLRINGING**

Would you like to learn more about lessons available and the commitment involved? Contact Mike Kay who has forty years experience. Lessons held at Horwich Parish Church and St Katherines, Blackrod. Contact Mike Kay [mwkay@ntlworld.com](mailto:mwkay@ntlworld.com)

### **THE BRICK**

With the challenging conditions of cold, snow and ice, let us not forget those who need our support through the Brick which continues to experience very high levels of demand, especially in the winter conditions. The Brick has requested the following food items: Breakfast Cereals, Pasta, Rice and Pasta Sauces.

Every good wish and blessing.

