

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 23rd 2025

Third Sunday of Lent - Year C



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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/ourladychurchaspull/ 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 compassionate and gracious.

Gospel Acclamation Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.
Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

25th March – The Solemn Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord (Lady Day) – nine months before the celebration of the Nativity at Christmas: A particularly important day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham In both the Churches of the East and the West, the origins of this Solemnity can be traced to the earliest centuries of the Church. It commemorates the appearance of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary. Gabriel

announces Mary's chosen status, and she answers with an assent, a version of which will later become a refrain for her son, "Let God's will be done in me". As always Mary points to Christ and her "yes" to God's will sets into motion the wonderful and great mystery of the Incarnation. Of course, as such, Mary's stance is the model that each of us is called to have before God: in faith and trust we are called to accept the will of God in our lives.

THOUGHTS

As we shall hear this Sunday, when Jesus tells the crowd that they must repent lest they perish, he is speaking of the Spiritual death, rather than the physical one. After all, the first part of the Gospel is denying the all too human belief that bad things only happen to bad people. Instead we are called to focus on the fruitfulness of our own fig trees. Have we been cultivating and fertilising the soil of our lives so that we might bear good fruit in the Kingdom of God?

The tragedies described at the beginning of today's Gospel are clearly not the consequence of sin.

It was popularly believed that disasters were, in some way, a divine punishment for wrongdoing, for the writer of Luke's Gospel seems to suggest that the fate of those who refuse to turn from their sinful ways will be the same as those unfortunate. A spiritual death? Fig trees are notoriously fickle fruit trees, one year an abundance, the next year nothing.

In this parable, told by Jesus, the owner of the vineyard, perhaps Jesus imagines himself to be the owner of the vineyard, the family of God, is prepared to give it another chance.

From the Society of St Gregory - Fr Kevin.

PARISH NOTICES

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

Janet Forster of Haigh, Mary Pye (in Port Glasgow, Scotland) and Sister Christine Alderson CP formerly of the Mount School in Bolton.

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Bill Houghton, Ann Lusher, Maureen Blundell, Norman Risley, Jacky Barton, John Lawless, Peter Haughton, Judith Hothersall, Sylvia Gaskell, Mr & Mrs Gilgannon, Thomas Moss and priests of the Diocese John McNamara and Jim Rawson.

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

As of Wednesday 19th March include: For the Commonwealth on Commonwealth Day (10th March), Janet Forster (lately dead), Mr & Mrs Gilgannon (anniversary) and John Duffy (birthday anniversary).

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

There is no Lenten Talk this Wednesday. The next Lenten Talk, the fourth, will be led by Fr Kevin on "Forgiveness" on 2nd April. The fifth and final will be on "Love" with Rev. Angela Wynne. All at 10.30am in St Katharine's Blackrod, followed by light refreshments.

LENTEN BOOKLETS

The Lenten booklets "Walk with Me" and children's calendars are still available in both churches.

VOLUNTEERS

Will be needed in Holy Week for the Triduum, Maundy Thursday 17th April 7.00pm in Our Lady's, Good Friday 18th 3.00pm in Our Lady's, the Easter Vigil Mass 6.00pm Saturday 19th. A list will appear very soon. Please sign-up and volunteer to be involved in the Liturgy of those important days of the calendar.

Every good wish and blessing.

ASSISTED DYING BILL

There are only five weeks before the Third Reading of "The Assisted Dying Bill", scheduled for debate Friday 25th April 2025. (Friday is not a good day as many MPs leave early for the weekend). Please ask your MP to attend and vote against this Bill. The Bill directly opposes **The Sanctity of Life**. (Life is not expendable.) This Bill is not compassionate, but convenient for those who will benefit financially. Through prayer, sacrifice and action, this Bill can be defeated.

Thank you. SPUC & Life, Eileen H.

CAFOD COLLECTION

Many thanks to all concerned for the generosity expressed in both Parishes. A total of £1,085 has been sent to Cafod.

COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

For the upkeep of the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, North Norfolk. From an apparition in the eleventh century to the Lady of the Manor, this was one of the most important pilgrimage sites in the whole of Christendom until the reign of Henry VIII. Many journeyed far and wide to acknowledge the humanity of Jesus represented by "Holy House" imitating the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Nazareth. Many monarchs visited the Shrine over the centuries but the statue that was in the "Holy House" amidst the Augustinian Priory was taken to London and burned at Smithfield. Today the ruins can be seen and the site of the "Holy House". In the nineteenth century, Anglicans of the High Church began the building of a very ornate Shrine opposite the ruins of the Priory and they have extended it over the years to be a very popular destination for pilgrims even today. The Catholic Shrine is about a mile out of the village around what is known as the Slipper Chapel. This is where visitors celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation and many then walked barefoot, leaving their shoes at the Chapel, to go into the village to the Shrine. Please be as generous as you can. It is much appreciated that only last weekend you gave very generously to the regular collection for Cafod.

Fr Kevin.