

# 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

Feb 8th 2026

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A



**Parish Priest** Rev. Kevin Foulkes  
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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



### 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:** *A light rises in the darkness for the upright.*

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, Alleluia!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Alleluia!*

### CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

**10<sup>th</sup> February – St Scholastica:** Born in Umbria, Italy around 480; she embraced religious life in 5<sup>th</sup> Century Italy and like her brother St Benedict, and the Rule he inspired, she became a religious foundress of Benedictine nuns, who live their particular vocation. She ended her days at Monte Cassino in the year 547.

**11<sup>th</sup> February – Our Lady of Lourdes:** We remember the apparitions to Bernadette Soubirous near Lourdes in France in the grotto of Massabielle of the Immaculate Mother Mary in 1858 with the message of

penance, healing and pilgrimage. That day is now a universal day of prayer for the sick.

**14<sup>th</sup> February – St Cyril and St Methodius:** brothers and missionaries, who carried the Gospel into the Slavonic countries: they translated the liturgical books into the Slavonic language (inventing a new script, Cyrillic, to do so). Cyril died in 869, Methodius in 885.

**14<sup>th</sup> February – St Valentine:** early Roman priest and martyr.

### THOUGHTS

*From the Society of St Gregory*

The theme of light is present in the Mass for this Fifth Sunday of the Church's Calendar as Christ encourages us to perform loving acts of service as a means of evangelising - spreading the Good News.

These acts bring much light and goodness into the world that people will know that they come from God.

It is by reflecting the light of Jesus Christ that we will shine out to others.

Later this week on 11th February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Church keeps its Annual World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Those who care for the sick certainly show Christ's light.

In today's Gospel the people fasting pointlessly described in the First Reading this Sunday are like salt which has lost its saltiness. Matthew in his Gospel writes that the disciples, however, are expected to be both salt and light to the world, visible and

effective without grandstanding. This is surely a message for our own day; the world has many troubles, some completely overwhelming but we are called to do what we can to make a real difference to others.

## PARISH NOTICES

### **WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY**

Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

### **MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED**

Up to 4th February include: Robert Moffitt (anniversary), Kathleen Moorfield (anniversary), James Dickie (lately dead), Walter Scott Snr (birthday anniversary), Ieuan Pritchard (birthday anniversary), John Chamberlain, Margaret Chamberlain & Ellen Forshaw (anniversaries Feb/March), Marie Cusani (anniversary), Clare Donald (lately dead from Stockton on Tees) and Joan Myers (anniversary).

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, 18th February (also the first day of the Chinese New Year - the Year of the Horse and the first day of the Ramadan Fast for our Muslim brethren).

Ashes will be distributed at both Masses - 9.15am in Our Lady's, 7.00pm in Holy Family.

This year Ash Wednesday occurs during the schools' half term. Ashes will be distributed in both the schools on Tuesday 24th February at a short Service - 10.15 in Our Lady's School and 11.00am in Holy Family School. This will be the first opportunity for the two schools' communities to gather together in the Season of Lent.

### **NEW ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER**

Bishop Richard Moth, former Bishop to HM Forces 2009 – 2015 and latterly Bishop of Arundel and Brighton from 2015, will be installed as the 12th Archbishop of Westminster to succeed Cardinal Vincent Nichols this coming Saturday, 14th February in Westminster Cathedral.

He was born in Zambia, his family returned to the UK when he was two and was ordained priest in 1982. We wish him well and a happy and long retirement to Archbishop Vincent.

Ad multos annos.

### **LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY-PARISHIONER**

#### **AFTERNOON**

Friday 13th February in Our Lady's School, 1.30pm. An open invitation for parishioners to join the school community on a day when there will be a variety of activities in classrooms. Hosted by KS1 and the Gift Team. Coffee will be served.

#### **VISIT OF RELICS**

Relics of the recently canonised teenager, Carlo Acutis, born in London of Italian parents, he died at the age of fifteen. During his life he publicised information on Social Media of Eucharistic miracles that had happened throughout the world.

His relics will go on display for nine days in February at the Church of Our Lady & All Saints, Lancaster Lane, Parbold WN8 7HS and also an exhibition about these Eucharistic miracles. That exhibition will take place in the local Parish School, a short walk from the church.

The church and school will be open Saturday 14th February to Sunday 22nd. Saturday/Sunday 11.30am to 3.00pm. Monday to Friday 11.30am to 3.00pm and 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

We are looking for extra volunteers to act as Stewards at Our Lady's. Please contact Fr Kevin or Kevin Riley if you can help.

#### **THE BRICK**

Please continue with your generous support of the Brick.

The Brick always needs the following food items: breakfast cereals, pasta, rice, pasta sauces, tea, biscuits and tinned meats.

Every good wish and blessing.

