

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**

April 21st 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed!



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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
	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/ live from 9.30am. It is also available via the Parish WhatsApp group.

Response to the Psalm: The stone the builder rejected has become the corner stone.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

23rd April – The Solemn Commemoration of St George the Martyr and Patron of England: He died about 303, martyred in Palestine during the period of persecution of the Emperor, Diocletian. He died in Lydda, now Lod near Tel Aviv, Israel. Legend

depicts him killing the dragon, a symbol of triumph over evil. He is the Patron Saint of several countries and regions, including England.

25th April – St Mark the Evangelist

THOUGHTS

The theme of the Good Shepherd appears in the Gospel of the Fourth Sunday of Easter throughout the Lectionary's three year cycle. The passages proclaimed all come from chapter 10 of St John's Gospel.

In this year's extract Jesus shows himself to us as the Good Shepherd, an image used by John to explain what it means to be a faith community. It is about our shared trust in Christ who puts his life on the line to care for his flock and keep them secure. It is about a flock that can be open and welcoming to others without fear for its safety because the

one who laid down his life for them has taken it up again as the Father commanded.

Traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday, today is kept as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

The Gospel imagery of the shepherd is somewhat challenging for us today. The Palestinian shepherd lived with his sheep, knew them by name, defended them from wolves and from robbers.

We are reminded of Pope Francis' admonition that priests and Bishops should, "have the smell of the sheep"!

Jesus portrays himself as the Good Shepherd caring for his flock to the point of dying for them. The sheep are, in the first instance, the people of his own tradition but John's account

takes the imagery further: the sheep that are not of this fold are the Gentile people.

From the publication - Music and Liturgy

PARISH NOTICES

WEEKDAY MASSES

Will resume this week in Our Lady's and Holy Family, Monday to Friday 9.15am, Saturday 11.00am.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for the sick in hospital, the hospices and at home, Ralph Sherrington.

LATELY DEAD

Ian Thomas, Annice Baxter and Fr Billy Molloy, retired Parish Priest of the Salford Diocese.

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

To Cynthia Thomas and family of Aspull on the recent death of her son Ian. R.I.P.

ANNIVERSARIES

Include: Kathleen Riley, Ronnie Griffin, Justine Hodkin, Brian Chester, Mark Lecyja, Leo Coleman, Marie Cottle, Melanie Cochrane, David Alty, Jim Prior, Janice Pascoe and priests of the Diocese Pat Mulcahy, Pat Keane and Paul Dillon.

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

As of Wednesday 17h April include: Ralph Sherrington (sick), Janice Pascoe (anniversary) and Annice Baxter (lately dead).

BAPTISM

This Sunday we welcome Olive Elizabeth Parkinson, daughter of Beth (nee Whittingham) and Luke who were married in Our Lady's Church 2021. We wish them well.

PLEASE REMEMBER

In your prayers Nathan Johnson and Emma May, who will be married at a Service in Our Lady's on Sunday 28th April at 2.00pm at which Fr Kevin will Baptise their daughter Rosie May.

We wish them well for their future.

THANKS

To all concerned in organising the Social Sunday in Our Lady's last weekend. Special thanks to Neil, Shona, Claire, Maria and all their helpers and those who baked the wonderful cakes.

THIS WEEKEND

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, traditionally called Good Shepherd Sunday, there will be the annual collection in our Salford Diocese for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund for the promotion of priestly vocations and the training of our future priests. Please be generous.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

First Confessions (Reconciliation) have been rearranged and will take place in the schools.

Holy Family School, 1.00pm Monday 29th April.

Our Lady's School, 11.00am Tuesday 30th April.

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE BRICK

As a result of the cost of living crisis, The Brick continues to experience unprecedented levels of demand and has made a special request for the following food items: Breakfast Cereals, Pasta, Rice and Pasta Sauces.

In addition, the Brick are now taking items of fresh produce but any donations of fresh produce should be taken directly to the food donation centre at St. George's Church, Water Street, Wigan WN1 1DN and **NOT** be left in church please.

Many thanks from The Brick.

Every good wish and blessing.

Fr Kevin