

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 26th 2026

**Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year A
Good Shepherd Sunday**



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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/ourladayschurchaspull/ 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 shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord. I know my sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia.

CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

28th April – St Peter Chanel 1803-1841: Born near Belley, France and joined the Society of Mary (Marists). He was sent to Oceania to spread the Gospel and stationed himself on the island of Futuna, near Tonga. He initially won the confidence of the island's King, but relations deteriorated, especially after the King's son requested baptism. St Peter was clubbed to death on 28th April 1841; canonised in 1954, the first martyr of Oceania.

28th April – St Louis Grignion de Montfort 1673-1716: a French Diocesan priest with a great devotion to the Virgin Mary. He was noted for his fervent and enthusiastic preaching and apostolate. He founded an Order of Missionary Priests, The Company of Mary and a Sister Order of Nuns, Daughters of Wisdom. He is best known, however, for his book 'True Devotion to The Blessed Virgin Mary'. This work had immense influence, not least on Pope John Paul II. St Louis was canonised 1947.

29th April – St Catherine of Sienna: Virgin and Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe. 1347-1380. Born in Sienna, one of twenty-

five children. At a young age she dedicated herself to the Lord and resisted attempts from her family to find her a suitable husband. She became a member of the Third Order of the Dominicans and her writings reveal her intimate union with God. Despite her retired life she was actively involved in public affairs and persuaded the then Pope, Gregory XI, to return to Rome from Avignon in France. She later tried to unite the Church during great difficulties and herself moved to Rome where she died aged 33 years. She was proclaimed Patroness of Italy 1939, Doctor of the Church 1970 and a Patron of Europe by Pope John Paul II in 1999.

1st May – St Joseph the Worker: This feast day was instituted in 1955 by Pope Pius XII on a day when labour was celebrated in many countries. Jesus himself was the son of a carpenter and St Joseph presents a wonderful example that even the most seemingly menial work can be sanctified.

2nd May – Athanasius: Fourth Century Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Bishop of Alexandria, exiled several times.

THOUGHTS

From the Source Book for Sundays and Seasons

Commonly known as "Good Shepherd Sunday", the Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season draws its Gospel from the Tenth Chapter of the Gospel of St John each year.

In that chapter Jesus develops the image of the shepherd. Today, naturally, is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The best Gospel for Good Shepherd Sunday actually appears next year. This year has Jesus calling himself not the shepherd but the door or the gate of the sheepfold.

The image demonstrates Jesus' mission of salvation for people who do not know their way. Nonetheless, the Responsorial Psalm today turns to the world's most popular Psalm, Psalm 23, which explores the image of the shepherd like no other.

The First Reading for this weekend continues the sermon given in public by St Peter that first Christian Pentecost. The community

asks "What are we to do?" That question haunts many who follow Christ even today. Peter's response to the question is simple, yet profoundly challenging, "Reform your lives and be baptised!"

By coincidence, our semi-continuous reading of the First Letter of St Peter at this time allows us to hear another usage of the shepherd imagery, applied to Jesus Christ.

The suffering of Jesus has won salvation for errant sheep.

Quote from Pope Francis from a 2024 Encyclical Letter

If we find it hard to trust others because we have been hurt by lies, injuries and disappointments, the Lord whispers in our ear: "Take heart, son!" (*Mt 9:2*), "Take heart, daughter!" (*Mt 9:22*). He encourages us to overcome our fear and to realize that, with him at our side, we have nothing to lose.

Pope Francis died on Easter Monday last year.

PARISH NOTICES

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Up to 22nd April include: a family intention, Ronnie Griffin (anniversary), Joyce Bilsborrow (lately dead), a birthday Mass, an 80th birthday Mass.

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

1. To the family of the late Terry Sharrock of Aspull. His Funeral Service will be celebrated in Our Lady's Church Friday 8th May at 12 noon followed by interment in St Elizabeth's Churchyard.
2. To the family of the late Alan Gwinnett of New Springs. His Funeral Service will be celebrated in Our Lady's Church Friday 1st May at 1.00pm followed by committal at Howe Bridge Crematorium at 2.30pm.

R.I.P.

80th BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

To Phillip Halliwell for Friday 24th April.
Ad multos annos.

BAPTISM

In Our Lady's Church next weekend we welcome Fionn Thomas Magee son of Robyn and Connor.

Every good wish and blessing.

MANY THANKS FROM THE SVP

For the recent very generous donation from a parishioner.

MASSES WITH STAFF AND PUPILS

In both our churches this coming week: Tuesday 9.30am in Holy Family Church, Friday 9.30am in Our Lady's Church.

THIS WEEKEND

We have the annual collection in the Salford Diocese for the Priests' Training Fund. Please be generous.

HOLY FAMILY BLUE SUNDAY

Join us for afternoon tea raising funds for M.E./CFS awareness and research in Holy Family Parish Centre May 17th 12.30pm to 2.30pm. Tickets £15 per head includes a glass of Bucks Fizz on arrival. To book please see Pat McKay or call 07804 138243.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The annual White Flower Collection for the SPUC Charity the weekend of 9th/10th May, the Sixth Sunday of Easter. (Last year's collection raised, including individual donations, £595.)

A. Kenia.