

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 8th 2026

Third Sunday of Lent - Year A



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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



There will be no on-line Sunday Mass this weekend.

You can access an on-line live Mass from the National Shrine, Walsingham at 12 noon on www.facebook.com/WalsinghamBlog or their YouTube channel www.youtube.com/WalsinghamCatholicTV.

Response to the Psalm:

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts'.

Gospel Acclamation:

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.
Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world; give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.**

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

THOUGHTS

This being Year A of the Church's Calendar, we will all have the chance to hear the three great and wonderful passages from the Gospel of St John on Water, Light and Life and to reflect on these that are in the Christian tradition three major themes concerning the sacrament of Baptism.

Over the next three weekends we will hear Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, the man who was born blind and Lazarus who had been in the tomb for three days.

In today's First Reading from the Book of Exodus we have the wandering people of God complaining again. This time because they are thirsty and there is no water. The author of the Book of Exodus though sees this as a subtext to a far deeper question, "Is the Lord among us or not?" This is the question that will be decidedly answered over the coming weeks as we prepare to celebrate, once more, the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

The Second Readings of Lent tell us again and again of the loving mercy of God. This weekend's is from St Paul's Letter to the

Romans and emphasises just how generous is the love of God which wraps us round and has been shown to us definitively by the death of Jesus Christ for us.

The Gospel of the woman at the well forms the centre piece of the Scriptures this weekend and gives shape to this part of Lent. She does not approach Jesus, Jesus approaches her. He has living water, she asks for some and he reveals his knowledge of her and she becomes a believer and then she brings others to Jesus by word and example, in a sense becoming an apostle, proclaiming to others that Jesus is the Messiah. For all these reasons she becomes a patron for adults around the world who are preparing to be Baptised at Easter. Indeed, Lent was originally the time for the final weeks of preparation for adults to be baptised in the early Church, and the community adopted the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and works of charity to give an example to the soon to be baptised members of the community. So they assisted them by example and prepared them in a wonderful Lenten act of solidarity. Also, do we.

PARISH NOTICES

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Up to 4th March include: Patricia Shepherd (lately dead), Thomas Lowe (birthday anniversary), Irene Unsworth (anniversary), John Bone (anniversary), for the safe return of the Cox family.

FUNERALS

Funeral Service for the late Margaret Kelsall in Holy Family Church, 11.00am Thursday 12th March followed by committal at Wigan Crematorium 12 noon. (Mass as usual 9.15am).

Funeral Mass for the late Sheila McKiernan. Fr Kevin will celebrate the Mass at 12noon Friday 13th March in Sacred Heart Church, Westhoughton with committal in Westhoughton Cemetery.

R.I.P.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Short celebration of the Stations during Lent Thursday mornings after the 9.15am Mass in Holy Family and Friday mornings after the 9.15am Mass at Our Lady's.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL TALKS

Wednesdays at 10.30am in St Katharine's, Blackrod led by Fr Kevin and the Reverend Angela Wynne, Vicar of St Katharine's.

This year's topic is to consider the life, mission and example of five of over one hundred Archbishops of Canterbury, a role that began in 597 AD and will continue with the Installation of the new and first female Archbishop, Sarah, on 5th March, the Feast of the Annunciation and the day of our fifth and final Lenten Talk.

All are welcome. Light refreshments served afterwards.

This week - Wednesday 11th March Fr Kevin will be speaking about St Thomas Becket who died in Canterbury Cathedral December 28th 1170.

CAFOD

Grateful thanks for your generosity at both churches last weekend. The total raised was £1130.

Many thanks also to those who contribute privately and regularly to CAFOD themselves and also those who may have scanned the QR Code.

SCHOOL MASSES THIS WEEK

Classes will join us in church for Masses this week.

Tuesday 9.30am Mass in Holy Family Church
Friday 9.30am in Our Lady's Church.

Parishioners are most welcome to attend.

200 CLUB

The 200 Club will restart in March.

The annual subscription is £20. I am hopeful the prizes will remain the same as last year.

If you would like to continue your membership, or join for the first time, you will be most welcome.

Please enclose your subscription (cash or cheque) in an envelope with the following on the front:

How many numbers you need

Your name, address and mobile number (land line if you do not have a mobile).

I can send a text to all new members informing them of their numbers.

Cheques should be payable to Our Lady's Church.

You can pay myself, put your subscription in the box at the back of church or drop it off at the presbytery.

My contact details are:

Philip Holt, 10 Cherwell Close, Aspull
07764 584381

Many thanks

Phil Holt

ASSISTED DYING BILL

This is close to being defeated. If you can find time to drop a line to a member of the Lords expressing your views, that would be very helpful.

ASBESTOS UPDATE

Workers were here from Tuesday to Saturday and the work to remove asbestos has been completed. It is hoped that further works that were planned before Christmas will begin very soon.

CHURCH HEATING UPDATE

It is hoped that by Friday evening, 6th March, repair work will have been done on the Church heating. If there are further problems they will be put on the Parish WhatsApp group.

Every good wish and blessing.

