

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

Jan. 11th 2026

The Feast of the Lord's Baptism - Year A The end of the Christmas Season.



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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/ourladyschurchaspull/ live from 9.30am.

The recording is also available via the Parish WhatsApp group from about 10.30am.

Response to the Psalm:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: 'This is my beloved Son; listen to him'.

Alleluia!

CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

We begin Week 1 of the Church's Year.

12th January - St Aelred of Rievaulx: of Rievaulx Abbey in Yorkshire where he became Abbot. He is celebrated for his Spiritual writings, especially on Christian friendship.

13th January - St Hilary: Fourth century Bishop of Poitiers who died in exile as a defender of the faith against heresy.

17th January - St Anthony of Egypt: inspired by the words of the Lord, "Sell everything you own and give it to the poor", Anthony retired to the Egyptian desert at the age of twenty; he attracted many followers, who shared his ascetic life, and bequeathed to the Church an example of life spent in solitude and total devotion to prayer. He died in the year 356, aged about 105.

Next weekend - Will be the Second Sunday of Year A. Lent beginning on 18th February.

THOUGHTS

From the Source Book for Sundays and Seasons

The Baptism of the Lord is another epiphany, a manifestation of Jesus' identity to the public. The Feast Day of the Epiphany is when the gentile Magi recognise Jesus.

Today God proclaims him to be his beloved Son before those who witness his Baptism and this Feast concludes the Christmas Season.

Early writers and commentators in the generation after the Apostles indicate something of the relationship of the Nativity to

the Baptism of the Lord. 'If you rejoice to see Jesus in the lap of his mother Mary, rejoice today to see Jesus embraced by his heavenly Father.'

The Baptism of Jesus became difficult to explain early on. If Jesus is sinless why should he be baptised if Baptism represents the forgiveness of sin?

Matthew, Mark and Luke's Gospels all present it rather plainly and even the Acts of the Apostles refers to the event. John's Gospel that we will hear next weekend presents a less dramatic account of the same event. For the Church's Liturgy, the Baptism

is an image of Easter: Jesus takes on our mortality in order to make us immortal. Jesus is immersed in the chilly Jordan River as a

revelation of his "putting on" not just human flesh and blood but all creation, as well to set the world right and to restore Paradise.

PARISH NOTICES

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Up to Wednesday 7th January include: Joan and John Duffy; Wally O'Sullivan of Bath, Somerset; Daniel Hulme; Catherine and Arthur Locke and family; Joe and Irene Cherrington; Maureen and George Cott; Antonia and Thomas Mason; The Salmon family of Rivington.

(Lately dead) Annette Scholes; Mary Hely; Elizabeth (Betty) Thompson in Scotland; Shirley Martin; Patricia Worthington; Susan Barrow.

(Anniversaries) Rita Moore; Joseph and Agnes Unsworth; Pamela Bowden; Jimmie Sheerin in New York; Margaret Moore; May and Alan Southworth Senior; John Brewder.

(Birthday Anniversaries) Bert Seddon; Harry Hart.

SCHOOL MASSES

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

For both Parishes.

Meeting for Parents in Holy Family Church
Wednesday 14th January 6.00pm.

Presentation of the candidates at the weekend Masses Jan 31st/Feb 1st.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday 18th March in school 10.15am Our Lady's and 1.15pm Holy Family.

Walking Day for the Churches of Aspull Sunday June 7th

Celebration of First Holy Communion Saturday 13th June 12noon Holy Family Church and Sunday 14th 3.00pm Our Lady's Church.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Takes place every Sunday before the 11.15am Mass in Holy Family Church. Exposition will also take place in Holy Family School Tuesday 20th January pm.

BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome Leo Alexander and Otis Jude Darbyshire, children of Sophie and Christopher, brothers to Isaac George who was Baptised in Our Lady's in 2019. We wish them well.

SAFEGUARDING - DBS UPDATE

Many thanks to all the Parishioners WHO have been so helpful in completing their DBS forms. I now believe that all Sacristans, Catechists, SVP members, money counters, key holders and of course Parish Priest have completed the process and are now on the system for the Diocese. If this is not the case and you hold one of these roles, please contact me so we can move forward with your application. My number is 07730523701.

Again, thank you for your cooperation, Claire Massingham, Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady's and Holy Family.

MANDY'S MIND CHALLENGE

Mandy Millard from Our Lady's is currently taking on the Move for Mind challenge - moving 31 minutes a day for 31 days in January - and fighting for better mental health for everyone.

You can support her and the MIND Charity via her Just-Giving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/amanda-millard-5>

THE BRICK

Many thanks for your continued and generous support of the Brick.

The Brick continues to need the following food items: breakfast cereals, pasta, rice, pasta sauces, tea, biscuits and tinned meats.

In addition, the Brick do take 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.

As always, many thanks for your generous donations.

Every good wish and blessing.

Fr. Kevin.