

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 22nd 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year A



Parish Priest Rev. Kevin Foulkes
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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.

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

Response to the Psalm:

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Gospel Acclamation:

**Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
Everyone who believes in me shall never die.
Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.**

CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

25th March – The Solemn Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord (Lady Day) – nine months before Christmas: In both the Churches of the East and the West, the origins of this Solemnity can be traced to the earliest centuries of the Church. It commemorates the appearance of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary. Gabriel announces Mary's chosen status, and she answers with an assent, a version of which

will later become a refrain for her son, "Let God's will be done in me". As always Mary points to Christ and her "yes" to God's will sets into motion the wonderful and great mystery of the Incarnation. Of course, as such, Mary's stance is the model that each of us is called to have before God: in faith and trust we are called to accept the will of God in our lives.

THOUGHTS

From the Source Book for Seasons

The last and greatest sign of Jesus' ministry is also the last and greatest sign of the Season of Lent: the raising of Lazarus. It is this sign that has the crowds gathering palms and proclaiming Jesus as the bringer of the Resurrection. Jesus demonstrates in no uncertain terms his power over death. It appears that he delays his arrival precisely to show the extent of God's power. The series of Old Testament passages from salvation history concludes with a proclamation from the prophets, especially fitting today with its theme of death and life. The prophet Ezekiel

proclaims God's promise to open graves and have people rise from them. A great Psalm of longing follows the Reading today: "Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord". The theme reappears in our Second Reading in a different form: Paul writes to the Christian Community in Rome about the death of the body in sin and the life that comes from the Spirit.

From the Society of St Gregory

The focal point of the Annunciation is the mission of Mary: her acceptance of the will of God and her role as the instrument and

bearer of God's coming into the world described so beautifully and exclusively in the Gospel of St Luke, but we are encouraged to pay attention also to the phrase "The Holy Spirit will come upon you". This is more than a promise that God's spirit will protect Mary.

St Luke demonstrates that the Church in every generation lives in a period of time influenced by the Spirit, that same Spirit who came upon Mary comes upon each one of us in our journey of faith in this world.

PARISH NOTICES

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Up to 18th March include: Kevin Croston (anniversary), Harold Mather (lately dead), John Duffy Anniversary), Anita Teresa Ecclestone (birthday anniversary), Fr Barry McAllister (anniversary), Sheila Peet (lately dead), Mary McGuirk (lately dead), Mr & Mrs Gillgannon (anniversary).

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

This Wednesday 25th March is the fifth and final Lenten Talk 10.30am in St Katharine's, Blackrod. Fr Kevin will speak on Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury in 1960s.

FUNERAL SERVICE

For the late Sheila Peet 11.30am Tuesday 24th March in Our Lady's Church. Committal in Wigan Crematorium. 9.15am Mass at Holy Family as usual.

FUNERAL MASS

For the late Breda Bibby 10.30am in Holy Family Church, Monday 30th March. Committal at Wigan Crematorium at 12 noon. Mass at Our Lady's as usual at 9.15am.

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

To the family of the late Sheila Taylor of Aspull, whose Funeral Service took place in St Patrick's Church on 17th March. R.I.P.

READERS FOR HOLY WEEKS

Volunteers are needed for the Ceremonies of Maundy Thursday (7.00pm April 2nd), Good Friday (3.00pm April 3rd) and the Easter Vigil (6.00pm April 4th). Please let Fr Kevin know your availability. The final list will be printed on the double Newsletter for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday 31st March. A clipboard is available at the back of church for volunteers. Please sign up.

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

BLACKROD TOWN COUNCIL

Extends a warm invitation for your organisation to attend the Annual Assembly on Tuesday 21st April 2026 in the Council Chamber, Church Street, Blackrod at 18.30. The purpose of the Annual Assembly is to receive the annual report of the Town Council and to discuss Parish or Community affairs and pass resolutions thereon. This meeting is a fantastic opportunity to make connections and showcase all the wonderful work that takes place within our community. We welcome all present to report on your organisation or group's activities throughout the past twelve months.

From Mrs Lara Nuttall the Town Clerk of Blackrod Town Council.

If anyone would like to represent our Parish at this meeting please have a word with Fr Kevin.

Every good wish and blessing.

