

# 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**

December 8th 2024

Second Sunday of Advent Year C

Prepare the way of the Lord



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[www.aspullourladys.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.aspullourladys.wigan.sch.uk)  
[www.aspullhollyfamily.co.uk](http://www.aspullhollyfamily.co.uk)

Sacrament of Reconciliation **Saturday** 11.30-12noon Our Lady's Church

## MASS TIMES

<b>Saturday</b>	6.00 pm	Our Lady's
<b>Sunday</b>	9.30 am	Our Lady's
	11.15 am	Holy Family
<b>Monday</b>	9.15 am	Our Lady's
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.15 am	Holy Family
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.15 am	Our Lady's
<b>Thursday</b>	9.15 am	Holy Family
<b>Friday</b>	9.15 am	Our Lady's
<b>Saturday</b>	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/](https://www.facebook.com/ourladyschurchaspull/) live from 9.30am. It is also available via the Parish WhatsApp group.

**Response to the Psalm:** What great deeds the Lord has worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

**Gospel Acclamation** Alleluia, alleluia!  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

## **CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK**

**Dec 9<sup>th</sup> – Transferred Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** Patron of Our Lady's Parish and School.

**Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – St Lucy:** a Sicilian martyr who died in the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian; she is an example of innocence

and faithfulness, and her cult was very popular in the early Church.

**Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – St John of the Cross:** born in 1542. A Carmelite friar and friend of St. Teresa of Avila, who encouraged him to work for the reform of the order, which he did despite great suffering. A remarkable poet and mystic, he died in Andalusia in 1591.

## **THOUGHTS**

### **Second Sunday of Advent.**

Last Sunday's apocalyptic language of the Gospel is replaced this weekend by a text which picks up the message of this Sunday's First Reading. The words of the prophet Isaiah will find a glorious fulfilment in the person of Jesus. Note how precisely the writer fixes the moment of John the Baptist's preaching against the backdrop of the wider world, as if to remind the reader that the coming of Jesus has an universal effect.

### **Parish Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception**

While the Gospel for today's feast may be

the account of the Annunciation and Conception of Jesus, this Solemn Feast celebrates, instead, the conception of Mary in her mother's womb. She was conceived through the natural, physical married love of her parents. This celebration is kept nine months before the feast of her nativity on 8th September. Prepared by God's grace from the very first moment of her life to receive Jesus Christ, God's grace preserved Mary from sin from conception to the end of her life because of her role in the Mystery of Salvation as the Mother of God. We ought not to confuse this celebration with the virginal conception of Jesus.

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# PARISH NOTICES

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## PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY AND FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. To Wioletta Frank and Family of Aspull on the death of her husband Seweryn. His Funeral was held on December 5th with a Polish priest in Bolton prior to cremation at Wigan.
2. To the family of the late Kathleen Gallagher of New Springs. Funeral Mass at Holy Family Church 12th December 12 noon, prior to interment at Gidlow Cemetery 1.30pm. Her husband Barry's funeral was celebrated in Holy Family 23rd March 2023. (no 9.15am Mass).
3. To Shirley Martin and relatives on the death of her husband Wilf. His Funeral service will be celebrated in Our Lady's Church, Monday 16th December 12 noon prior to interment in Blackrod Cemetery.
4. Condolences to Will Tatlow and family on the death of his dad William in Portsmouth.

R.I.P.

## MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

As of Wednesday 4th December include: Michael Hull (anniversary), Rita Moore (anniversary - Dec. 24th), Mary Crampsey (anniversary), Winifred McGurrin (birthday anniversary), Alan Philips (lately dead), Fr John Unsworth (anniversary - priest of the Salford Diocese and former parishioner), Mary Josephine Unsworth (birthday anniversary) and Marian Johnson (anniversary).

## CAROLS ROUND THE TREE

1. New Springs 7.00pm Tuesday 10th December with refreshments afterwards at the Crown.
2. Aspull 7.00pm Thursday 12th December - refreshments afterwards in Aspull Church Primary School.

## THANKS TO ALL

who supported the Annual Poppy Appeal for the Royal British Legion. The total raised from both parishes was £334.81 (total in the local district £27,477.30).

## 200 CLUB - NOVEMBER 2024 WINNERS

1st prize £50	No 64	Hazel Johnson
2nd prize £30	No 18	Mary Unsworth
3rd prize £20	No 58	Fr Kevin

Many thanks to all our supporters

## THANKS

1. To those who organised and gave donations to the Holy Family Parish Christmas Fair last Sunday. The first for five years. The hard work raised about £950 for the Parish.
2. To the organisers and bakers of last Sunday's Social Sunday at Our Lady's Church.
3. To Margaret Adams for organising the shopping trip to Worcester last Sunday. A most enjoyable day.

## CHRISTMAS POSTERS

From the Knights of St Columba now available.

## ALMANACS

The Yearbook of the Diocese of Salford are available at £5. These now include a full Liturgical Calendar.

## BCMCS

Looking for a Christmas gift, BCMCS youth are busily rehearsing for their production of Frozen at Walmsley Parish Church, Egerton, from the 20th - 23rd March 2025 Tickets available soon from the BCMCS Facebook page, website or for more information see Mandy Millard.

## THE ALMA MATER FUND

The Knights of St Columba's National Action Project 2024/26. The fund provides financial grants and advice to students facing crisis pregnancies at universities across the UK, in order to support them in pursuing their academic roles while raising their children. Further details of the project, to support or donate, or to apply for assistance please visit [almamaterfund.org.uk](http://almamaterfund.org.uk)

## THE BRICK

As Christmas approaches let us not forget those who need our support through the Brick which continues to experience very high levels of demand, especially in the winter conditions. The Brick has requested the following food items: Breakfast Cereals, Pasta, Rice and Pasta Sauces.

Every good wish and blessing.

