



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



September 27th 2026

Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Year A

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Sacrament of Reconciliation

	MASS TIMES
Saturday	6.00 pm
Sunday	9.30 am 11.15 am
Monday	9.15 am
Tuesday	9.15 am
Wednesday	9.15 am
Thursday	9.15 am
Friday	9.15 am
Saturday	11.00 am
Saturday	11.30-12noon

Our Lady's
Our Lady's
Holy Family
Our Lady's
Holy Family
Our Lady's
Holy Family
Our Lady's
Our Lady's
Our Lady's Church

Please note, Mass times may vary for good reasons. Please check further in the Newsletter for any possible changes this week.

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:

Gospel Acclamation:

Remember your compassion, O Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia.

**My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them,
and they follow me.**

Alleluia.

CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

29th Sept – The Archangels: each of their names an attribute resembling the Almighty: Michael is "Who is like God"; Gabriel is "Strength of God"; and Raphael "God has healed".

30th Sept – St Jerome: born in Dalmatia in 340, he studied in Rome and was baptised; he became secretary to Pope Damasus I, when he set about translating the Bible into Latin and promoting the monastic life. He settled in Bethlehem where he trained others in Scriptural studies and died in 420 at the age of 80.

1st Oct - St Thérèse of the Child Jesus: born

in France in 1873, she entered the Carmelite monastery at Lisieux at an early age. By her words and example, she taught humility, simplicity and faith in God. She died in 1897, aged 24. Her autobiography, "The Story of a Soul" records her immense love of God and personal determination to grow in prayer.

2nd Oct – The Holy Guardian Angels: in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the feast of the Guardian Angels began to be celebrated in Austria, Spain and Portugal. In 1608 Pope Paul V made it a universal feast. It celebrates God's constant care for each of his children.

THOUGHTS

**From Companion to the Sunday Gospels,
Year A by Dom Henry Wansbrough,
renowned Biblical Scholar, Monk of
Ampleforth Abbey**

Sunday's Gospel – Parable of the two sons.

The writer of Matthew's Gospel loves giving

Parables of Jesus contrasting 'goodies and baddies' like these two contrasting sons in the Gospel.

Matthew's parable put everything in black and white terms with no shades of grey (wise and foolish wedding attendants, sheep and goats).

The writer of Luke's Gospel uses a different kind of parable in which the characters, just like ourselves, often do the right thing for the wrong reason.

The sayings of Jesus were handed down by word of mouth for some years before being written down.

Did perhaps the straightforward contrast in Matthew (it is odd that both changed their minds without a reason) develop into Luke's parable of the prodigal son? Both times the "goodie" son ends up bad and the "baddie" son ends up good but in Luke's version both changes of mind are motivated and there is great emphasis on the son's repentance and the father's overwhelming joy at getting him back.

The lesson in today's story from Matthew is given also by Jesus' word in the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of St Luke "It is not anyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' who will enter the kingdom of heaven but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven".

It is no use simply saying that Jesus is Our Lord, we have to express it in our behaviour.

PARISH NOTICES

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED RECENTLY

Up to 16th September include: James Wright (anniversary), Canon Patrick MacNally (90th birthday), Anne Glover (anniversary), Louise Rose (lately dead), Mass for a successful operation in Derry Northern Ireland, Evelyn Orrell (anniversary), a 95th birthday for Marie Maloney, Mass for baby Maya Cahire (sick).

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

1. To the family of the late Kenneth Wilson of Aspull. His Funeral Service will be celebrated in Our Lady's Church Friday 2nd October at 2.00pm prior to interment at Westwood Cemetery, Ince, Wigan.
2. To the family of the late Gabrielle Edwards of Aspull. Funeral to be arranged.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 26/27

Parents' meetings in school

Our Lady's 9am Monday 28th September

Holy Family 9.00am Tuesday 29th September
Presentation of the new candidates for Holy Communion in 2027 will be the weekend masses of 3rd/4th October.

Any questions concerning a child's eligibility to take part, please contact Fr Kevin directly in person at Mass, not by email or phone calls alone.

CAFOD HARVEST FAMILY FAST DAY

This year's appeal in both churches will be this weekend of 26th/27th September. The Fast Day is next Friday 2nd October. Collection October 3rd and 4th. (Total amount in recent years for both Parishes – Oct 25 £930, Oct 24 £995, Oct 26 £940.

BECOME A CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEER

Do you have a passion for Faith, Justice and inspiring young people? Cafod is seeking volunteers to visit local Catholic Schools to lead assemblies and workshops about our

work and mission and help children and young people learn how they can make a positive difference in the world. Full training and support provided. Further information please contact Anna Letizia on 07710 094449 or email aletizia@cafod.org.uk

WREATH MAKING

Sunday 22nd November 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Our Lady's School Hall.

WALKING DAY 2027

Please make a note in your diaries. Next year's Aspull Walking Day will be Sunday 13th June starting at 2.00pm.

POLITE REMINDER

If asked for a character reference for employment, please ask Fr Kevin first before putting his name forward as a referee! Also, it helps if Fr Kevin actually knows who you are. He has recently had to decline providing a reference for an individual he had not seen for many years.

THE LAST TABOO?

One of the most important things we ought to do is make a will and update it from time to time. It is good for our own peace of mind and is of great help to our families. We also need to specify that we wish a Requiem/Funeral Mass to be celebrated, especially important if members of our family no longer attend Mass. Also, we need to inform our family of our wish to be buried and where or cremated and where the ashes are to be interred or scattered. It also helps to choose the hymns or Scripture Readings that have particular significance for us, for the celebration of our Funeral Mass.

Every good wish and blessing

Fr Kevin