

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**

January 15th 2023

Second Sunday of the Year (Year A)



Parish Priest Rev. Kevin Foulkes
Presbytery 48 Haigh Road
Aspull
Wigan WN2 1YA
Telephone 01942 516732

www.aspullourlady.wigan.sch.uk
www.aspullhollyfamily.co.uk

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 ONLINE

Sunday Mass from Our Lady's via the Parish Facebook page using this link
www.facebook.com/ourladychurchaspull/ live from 9.30am. It is also available via the Parish WhatsApp group.

Response to the Psalm: Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!

**The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia!**

CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

17th January - St Anthony: 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.

19th January - St Wulstan: Wulstan was born in Warwickshire about 1008 and died in 1095.

He became a Benedictine monk of the cathedral priory of Worcester, but in 1062 was appointed bishop, and was one of the few Anglo-Saxons in high office to survive the Norman Conquest. He was renowned as a confessor, for his care for the poor and sick and for the high standards he demanded of his clergy.

21st January - St Agnes: martyred at the age of twelve or thirteen, according to St Ambrose, around the year 300.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Taken from the Music and Liturgy of the SSG (Society of St Gregory)

"It may be a new Liturgical Season of Ordinary Time but the Liturgy today continues the theme of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord commemorated last weekend, with a consideration on the Incarnation of Jesus. The Readings we will hear this weekend tell us that Christ was the perfect servant of the Father and that we too become servants of the Father's will, strengthened by the Blood of the Lamb of God. But Jesus was the only servant ever to fulfil completely the prayer,

'Your will be done', for he freely accepted and gave himself up to death that others might share life through his sacrifice on the Cross.

Today's Gospel. This is the year when we read through the Gospel of Matthew. So the choice of a Reading from St John's Gospel seems to break the cycle. It seems that the choice of the First Reading dictated the selection of these verses from the Fourth Gospel. You might find it interesting to read the accounts of Jesus' Baptism in the other Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. We have to remember that John the Baptist's disciples didn't disappear after his execution. In the Acts of the Apostles we read of

Christian missionaries meeting people who knew only of John's Baptism. So it was essential for the early Church to emphasise that the Baptist's work was one of preparation for the coming of Jesus.

First Reading at Mass. It is easy to see why this, the second of the "Servant Songs" of the prophet Isaiah, is seen as foretelling the mission of Jesus. The writer was thinking of a strong leader who would achieve the restoration of the Jewish nation after the long years of exile in Babylon. A true servant of God who would make Israel a light to the world. It is doubtful he was thinking in terms of converting the world to Judaism, rather that

the fidelity of the nation to their God would be an example of right living.

The Second Reading for today. It is proved from the opening sentences of St Paul's letter to the Corinthians that he had a soft spot for the Church community he had founded in the very cosmopolitan city of Corinth. He makes a statement of the high purpose that has been set before them as followers of Jesus Christ. It is only as one reads through the body of the letter that his distress at how far they had fallen from the ideal becomes apparent.

Fr. Kevin

PARISH NOTICES

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for the sick, especially those in hospital, and we also remember Jean Coyne, Dorothy Cottam, John Brewder, James Connor, Tony Hull, Les Hurst, Barry Gallagher, Irene Rooney, baby Patrick Jennings, Chris Graffham and Albert Winstanley.

LATELY DEAD

Tom Hackett, Valerie Baron and Fr David O'Kane, retired priest of the Diocese.

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

1. To Cecilia Hackett, sister of Eileen Hawkins on the death, peacefully at home, of her husband Tom, aged 94 years.
2. To Mike Baron and family of Haigh Road, on the death, last weekend, of his mother Valerie.

R.I.P.

ANNIVERSARIES

Janie Mitchinson, Tracey Whittle, Vincent Caine, Mary Storey, May Whittaker, Pat Reeves, Colin Cook, Hilary Gavin, Joan Coleman, Bill Fury, James Wimsey, Robert Dittman, Mary Franklin and priests of the Diocese Aidan O'Riley and Andrew Curran.

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

As of Wednesday 11th January include: Kathleen Banks (lately dead), Tony and Phyllis Cochrane (anniversary), Ken Slater (lately dead) and Valerie Baron (lately dead).

CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS

If you have a cough or cold or "just a sniffle", please consider wearing a mask in church to protect your fellow worshippers.

ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th to 25th January.

MANY THANKS

To those who took down the cribs, trees and Christmas decorations in both churches - as much hard work as putting them up!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are invited to join their catechists during the Liturgy of the Word within the Saturday Vigil or Sunday Masses at Our Lady's or Holy Family on the following dates:

4th/5th February, 11th/12th February, 4th/5th March, 11th/12th March.

'LOVE FOR OUR LIFETIME 2023'

Marriage preparation in the Bolton Deanery of St Joseph for all couples who are planning to marry in the near future. Saturday 25th Feb and 4th March, Saturday 9th & 16th September, 2 to 5pm at the Schoenstadt Centre, Kearsley, Bolton. Registration online from fr.reginald@schoenstatt.org.uk or fr.bryan@schoenstatt.org.uk

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

When handing in the Mass cards and the Hymn Books please hand them in separately and be kind enough to refold the cards properly ready for the next person who will use them after you.

Every good wish and blessing.

Fr Kevin.