

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 22nd 2023

Third Sunday of the Year (Year A)



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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/ourladyschurchaspull/ live from 9.30am. It is also available via the Parish WhatsApp group.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord is my light and my help.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom, and
cured all kinds of sickness among the people.
Alleluia!

CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

24th January - St Francis de Sales: born into a noble family in Annecy in 1597, he was ordained priest and worked strenuously for the Church by distributing printed essays on the Catholic faith; he became Bishop of Geneva, exemplary in his pastoral care. He also wrote "The Introduction to the Devout Life", a handbook of holiness. He is the patron saint of journalists and writers.

25th January - We celebrate the Conversion of St Paul.

26th January - SS Timothy and Titus: disciples and companions of St Paul, they were entrusted with the care of the Christian communities of Ephesus and Crete respectively. In the New Testament are

preserved Paul's letters of pastoral advice to them.

27th January - St Angela Merici: born in Brescia, Italy, around 1470, Angela entered the Third Order of St Francis and gathered girls around her to share the work of charity. She founded the Ursulines (who were devoted to education of poor girls) in Brescia in 1535 and died in 1540.

28th January - St Thomas Aquinas: Famous theologian, born in Aquino, Italy, around 1225; entered the Dominican Order, and studied under St Albert the Great in Cologne; outstanding writer and teacher of Philosophy; he died, aged forty-nine, in 1274. He had a great influence on the Western Latin Church.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS SUNDAY

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

First Reading: Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3.

When this was written both the Jewish homelands, Judah and Israel, were menaced by the great powers of the day, but Isaiah looks forward to a time when the misery of the conquered lands will be lifted from them. He

uses war-like imagery to picture their triumphant joy on that day, dividing the spoils of war. The yoke and rod, symbols of Assyrian power, will be broken just as the power of the tribes of Midian was broken in battle when the Israelites were travelling to the Promised Land. Today's Reading stops short at that point but the chapter continues to foretell the birth of a king who will restore the fortunes of all the land.

Second Reading: Paul to the Corinthians.

Paul's Letter to the Corinthians throws light on the contentious nature of the first generation of Christians. Far from being all sweetness and light there was obvious and serious disunity in the Church Paul had founded in Corinth. Various factions were following different leaders who were at odds with each other as to how to interpret the essential message of Christ. This wasn't the teaching Paul had given them and so he abruptly reminds them in whose name they were baptised as if to say, he's the one you should be following.

Gospel

We can see why the First Reading at today's Mass was chosen. The writer of Matthew's Gospel deliberately links Isaiah's prophecy of a future king with Jesus' settling in Capernaum on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus' message is urgent, the Kingdom of God is not some heavenly future life, it is the here and now (which is exactly what we pray in the Our Father). The response of the fishermen matches this sense of urgency. Did those disciples already know something about him? At any rate they responded quickly and with enthusiasm to his call.

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

Michelle O'Shea, Sharon Jones, Mary Leather, Valerie Baron, Mary Cecily Boulding and Thomas Hackett.

ANNIVERSARIES

Arthur Rolfe, Harry Foulkes, Teresa Ryding, Bill and Annie Roberts, Hilary Gavin and priests of the Diocese Michael Timothy, John Cribben, William Fallon, Tom Manley and Tony Petty.

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

As of Wednesday 18th January include: James Wimsey (anniversary), Thomas Hackett (lately dead), Bob Dittman (anniversary), Hilary Gavin (anniversary), Michelle O'Shea (lately dead) and Bill and Annie Roberts (anniversary).

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

To Paul Gallagher and the parents of Sharon Marie Jones of Whelley. Her Funeral service will be at Our Lady's, 3pm Wednesday 8th February prior to cremation at Wigan Crematorium, 4pm. R.I.P.

ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th to 25th January.

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.

WEDDINGS 2023

April 12th, Holy Family - Cerys Knowles and Darren Block

Aug 5th, Our Lady's - Morgan Brophy and Chris Unsworth

Aug 12th, Our Lady's - Simon Trim and Jessica Stott

FRIENDS OF WALL HEY

Invite you to attend an **Auction of Mining Memorabilia** at Aspull Legion 7:00pm. Thursday 16th March 2023. Pie and pea supper, a talk on local mining heritage by Tom Morton, exhibition of local mining heritage photographs and artefacts, live music, raffle, and an auction of local prints and Wigan memorabilia. £5 per ticket. Available at the back of church after weekend Masses. Lesley Price, Philip Livesey.

Every good wish and blessing.

Fr Kevin.