

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

May 17th 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter - Year A

Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!



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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/ourladyschurchurchaspull/ live from 9.30am.

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

Response to the Psalm:

I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

**I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord. I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice.
Alleluia.**

CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

19th May – St Dunstan: Dunstan was born near Glastonbury in 909 and died as Archbishop of Canterbury in 988.

20th May – St Bernardine of Siena: born near Siena (Italy) in 1380, Bernardine became a Franciscan and was ordained priest in 1404; he gained a reputation as a great preacher and propagated devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. He died in 1444.

21st May – St Christopher Magallanes: He was ordained priest and helped to found schools, a newspaper, catechism centres for

children and adults, carpentry shops and an electric plant. Arrested and shot without trial, in Mexico, on 21st May 1927 while en route to celebrate Mass.

22nd May – St Rita of Cascia: married at the age of 18; after the violent death of her abusive husband and the death of her children, she joined the Augustinian monastery in Cascia (Italy) at the age of 36. Rita lived as a wife, mother, widow and nun, buried her family, helped bring peace to her city - and never lost her faith in God or her desire to be with Him.

THOUGHTS

From the Source Book for Sundays and Seasons 2002 for the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

The Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus must have felt like loss to those who loved him most. Left to themselves they each must have experienced the personal emptiness that comes from the loss of a person loved and admired. Even so they did

not feel loss just as individuals; they felt it as a community.

When Jesus left them stranded at the place of the Ascension they sought out more familiar surroundings; they returned to Jerusalem. They went back to the upper room of the place they called home. They went as a group. Together they kept a kind of wake. Together they prayed.

We know there is more to this story. We know the Holy Spirit will find them there and the adventure will begin anew. Their "wake" was really a vigil preparing for the gift of the Holy Spirit, but at this moment there was silence, sorrow and fear. It was hard and even in a group they must have felt alone.

When we are in the presence of mourners we

want to reassure them with a promise of hope. We want to hold them and help them. In their loss they cannot recognise the world around them. They need the comfort of familiar places and faces .

It is in the community that individuals find hope. It is in community that individuals find the gift of the Holy Spirit.

PARISH NOTICES

NEXT WEEKEND

We celebrate the conclusion of the Easter Season, the Feast of Pentecost.

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Up to 13th May include: Steven Roberts (anniversary), John Green (anniversary), Tony Hull (anniversary), Melanie Cochrane (anniversary), Margaret Connelly (sick), Monica Hurst (anniversary), Cyril Unsworth (anniversary), Michael Woodworth (anniversary) and a Special Intention.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

On Saturday we welcome Arabella Rose Lowe and on Sunday Finley Robin Unsworth.

SCHOOL MASSES

Tuesday 9.30am in Holy Family Church
Friday 9.30am in Our Lady's Church

CROWNING OF OUR LADY

Marian procession, then Crowning of Our Lady Tuesday 19th May after the 9.15am Mass. On Holy Family Primary School field weather permitting - enter through the gate direct onto the field. All are welcome. The Year4/5 children will be attending the Mass and parishioners are welcome to follow them across the road and join the Crowning of Our Lady celebration.

SPUC COLLECTION

Many thanks for those who generously responded to the collection and those who helped with the collection. A total amount will be in next week's Newsletter.

DATES FOR DIARIES

1. Walking Day Sunday June 7th 1.30pm
2. Celebration of First Holy Communion Saturday 13th June 12 noon in Holy Family, Sunday 14th 3pm in Our Lady's.
3. Confirmation for Secondary pupils in the Deanery will take place at St Mary's, Horwich, 6.30pm Thursday 18th June.

ADVANCE NOTICE

On June 19th our former Parish Priest at Our Lady's (1992-1996) and Vicar General of the Salford Diocese, Monsignor Canon Michael Quinlan, now retired in Ireland, will be celebrating his 60th Anniversary of his Priestly Ordination. I am sure we would like to send our own good wishes to him. His address is 1 Knockanacraig Place, Bally Rickard, County Kerry, Ireland, V92 XCH2. We wish him well.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

To our Bishop John Arnold, formerly Lead Bishop in England and Wales for Cafod and now Lead on Environmental Issues on his recent election as President of the International Catholic Charity Caritas for a four year term beginning in May 2027. He was elected at the Charity's Regional Conference in Zagreb recently. Bishop John said, "I will do my best to promote the work of Caritas in its European and indeed global role". He described the impact of the organisation as "Truly impressive ... I certainly feel honoured to be entrusted with this office."

RETIREMENT

I recently had a meeting at my request with Canon Peter Hopkinson, the Vicar General in the Diocese for Clergy Welfare, to review personally the process for clergy retirement in our Diocese. He explained that in Canon Law a priest must formally inform the Bishop of his impending 75th birthday and suggest to him a mutually agreed date to leave the Parish. I will be 75 on December 14th this year. In no way will I be moving immediately afterwards. It seems sensible to wait until, say, after Easter 2027, giving time to make the practical arrangements both for me, and for my successor, to a smooth transition.

Every good wish and blessing.

Fr Kenia