

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**

Feb 22nd 2026

First Sunday of Lent - Year A



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

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

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 |



SERVICES LIVE-STREAM & ONLINE

Sunday Masses from Our Lady's via the Parish Facebook page using this link

www.facebook.com/ourladychurchaspull/ live from 9.30am.

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

Response to the Psalm:

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

23rd February – St Polycarp: Polycarp was one of the “second generation” Christians, a disciple of the Apostles. He became bishop of Smyrna but was arrested in Rome and burned to death for his faith; the account of

his martyrdom emphasises that his death, like his life, was a fragrant offering to God.

27th February - St Gregory of Narek: Abbot and Doctor of the Church.

THOUGHTS

From the Society of St Gregory

Once again, we reach the battle that is Lent as the Opening Prayer, the Collect for Ash Wednesday neatly describes it!

We celebrate forty days of spiritual warfare in order to celebrate for a further fifty days the marvellous season of Easter. It is also the time to suspend the normal activities so as to focus on the key things of the season, prayer, fasting, alms giving, as well as reconciliation, preparing for the Sacraments and acts of

charity. We also mark the season by omission, the absence of the Gloria sung or said at Mass, the word Alleluia we reserve for Easter, flowers are removed from church and the number of Saints' Days is kept to a minimum so that the rhythm and flow of the Lenten Liturgy is not interrupted too much.

This year, being Year A, we shall all have the chance to hear those three great passages from the Gospel of St John on Water, Light and Life and to reflect on these major Baptismal themes this year.

PARISH NOTICES

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Up to 18th February include: Pat Banks (anniversary), Mary Dowling (anniversary),

David Adams Senior (anniversary), Chris Parkes (sick), a 95th Birthday Mass, Therese and Fred Heinke (anniversary).

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Funeral service for the late Margaret Kelsall will take place on Thursday 12th March in Holy Family Church at 11.00am followed by committal at Wigan Crematorium at 12 noon.

The Funeral Mass for the late Sheila McKiernan will be celebrated by Fr Kevin at Sacred Heart, Westhoughton 12 noon Friday 13th March followed by interment in Westhoughton Cemetery.

R.I.P.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the Headteacher of Our Lady's Primary School, Anthony Cregan, and his wife Rachael on the birth this week of their second son, Ronnie James, a brother for Finley. We are delighted by the news.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

To Betty McDevitt, mother of Nicola Myers, who will be celebrating her 95th birthday on Monday. We wish her well.

MANY THANKS

For several donations to Church funds made in memory of the late Shirley Martin of Blackrod whose Funeral Mass was celebrated at Our Lady's 2nd January 2026. R.I.P.

LENT

CALENDARS FOR CHILDREN

Plenty are available at Mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Short celebration of the Stations during Lent Thursday mornings after the 9.15am Mass in Holy Family and Friday mornings after the 9.15am Mass at Our Lady's.

SCHOOL SERVICES

With the distribution of Lenten Ashes will be made in our primary school, Tuesday 24th 10.15am Holy Family School, 11.00am Our Lady's School. In addition to Mass in church at 9.15am.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL TALKS

Will begin again on Wednesday 25th February at 10.30am in St Katharine's, Blackrod led by Fr Kevin and the Reverend Angela Wynne, Vicar of St Katharine's.

This year's topic is to consider the life, mission and example of five of over one hundred Archbishops of Canterbury, a role that began in 597 AD and will continue with the Installation of the new and first female

Archbishop, Sarah, on 5th March, the Feast of the Annunciation and the day of our fifth and final Lenten Talk.

25th February - St Augustine - Fr Kevin

4th March - St Dunstan - Rev Angela Wynne

11th March - St Thomas Becket - Fr Kevin

18th March - Thomas Cranmer - Rev Angela

25th March - Michael Ramsey - Fr Kevin

All are welcome. Light refreshments served afterwards.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.

CAFOD

The Lenten Family Fast Day, this coming Friday 27th February with a collection next weekend in all the churches of England and Wales, 28th February/1st March.

CAFOD have developed a new [virtual envelope](#) which allows you to make your Fast Day donation online and link it to your parish. To find out more go to cafod.org.uk/envelope.

Also, a group of generous supporters of CAFOD have agreed to match fund online donations up to £378,000.

It is hoped that the annual appeal this weekend will be made in our Parishes by children from our Parish schools.

VOLUNTEER(S)

Are needed to provide transport three days a week for an elderly man with Special Needs to attend a local Day Care Centre. He lives off Whitley Crescent, Wigan, WN1 and requires transport to 'One Vision', Unit 4 at the Hope Enterprise Centre off Scott Lane, Wigan.

An allowance for fuel expenses is payable.

Further information can be obtained from Damian Shawcross 07561 129525 or damian2701@aol.com or Fr Kevin.

Every good wish and blessing.

