

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**

Nov 30th 2025

First Sunday of Advent - Year A

Prepare the Way of the Lord



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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/ourladyschurchaspull/ live from 9.30am.

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

Response to the Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

CALENDAR - SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Dec 3rd – St Francis Xavier: a friend of St Ignatius Loyola and one of the first members of the "Company of Jesus"; he preached in India and Japan and died in China in 1552.

Dec 4th – St John Damascene: from Damascus (hence the name); a monk, philosopher and theologian, he sprang to the

defence of the Sacred Art in the iconoclast crisis of the eighth century.

Dec 6th – St Nicholas: Bishop of Myra, in what is now Turkey; he died in the fourth century, in Eastern Europe. "Saint Nicholas" distributes presents to children on this day, in remembrance of his charity and care as a bishop.

THOUGHTS

From the late Fr Geoffrey Preston OP Dominican

To the Liturgical celebration of the coming of God to the world there belongs intrinsically Advent, the time of prophecy. For months we have had a succession of Ordinary Sundays, but then it all changes, expressed in the external change of the colour from green to purple. We have a different sort of Sunday, a Sunday with a different feel to it, a different mood and a different significance. We are not left alone. In a succession of Sunday after Sunday we are forced to change. If we are at all sensitive to these matters, we are shown time thickening up, changing depth and density. This is how the Catholic Church constantly behaves. We are not left

undisturbed long. We are always being asked to shift ourselves; always being prodded, pushed or pulled. It happens even week by week as the succession of weekdays is interrupted by Sundays; days when we are told that we have different obligations from those that weigh upon us on the other six days and principally that obligation to be leisurely for twenty-four hours which is more binding and significant for our soul's health than the secondary requirement to celebrate the Mass on Sundays

Our lives are marked by occasions when time twists and turns, by moments of higher awareness, spots of time when we have to reconsider the very meaning of our life itself, people we love die, new people come into our lives and change them, friends are lost, new

friends are made. There are high moments of happiness or sorrow. Our lives are full of moments that will change us. Still, when that happens we can choose to resist the change ...

We may see change as the threat to our well being because we want 'life' to leave us alone rather than to shift and sift us. If we did not think it irreverent to say what we think, we would like God to get off our backs and leave

us alone. We would like to plan our lives alone. We may want that for the best of reasons, perhaps precisely to be able to serve God, but then things happen. The pace and arrangement of our lives is altered without our willing it. The time of our lives thickens up; purple times suddenly interrupt the succession of green days and God sends us a prophet, an Isaiah.

PARISH NOTICES

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Up to Wednesday 26th November include: a Special Intention, Sarah Edmunds (anniversary).

ADVENT SEASON MASSES IN OUR SCHOOLS

All are welcome to join the staff and pupils Tuesday 2nd December 9.30am in Holy Family School.

Friday 5th December 9.30am in Our Lady's School.

(No 9.15am Masses)

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

To the family of the late Maria Stella Hewitt (nee Atherton) late of Aspull. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated in Our Lady's Friday 12th December at 10.30am followed by committal at Wigan Crematorium at 12 noon.

R.I.P. (no 9.15am Mass)

HOLY FAMILY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thanks to all who worked so hard in preparing and looking after the stalls last Sunday and all who gave items for the Fair. Unofficially, the total raised was just over £1000. Well done everyone.

BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Thanks to everyone who supported the Annual Appeal. Total from both parishes - £326.04.

CHRISTMAS POSTERS

The Knights of St Columba Christmas Posters, for your windows at the Christmas Season, are available now in both churches.

200 CLUB - NOVEMBER 2025 WINNERS

1st prize	£50	No 35	Christine Duffy
2nd prize	£30	No 21	George Unsworth
3rd prize	£20	No 13	Taylor

Many thanks to all our supporters

CHRISTMAS MEMORY STARS

Memory Stars will be available to purchase at Holy Family Masses throughout Advent. This is a lovely way to remember lost relatives and friends. Dedicate a star in their memory to hang on the Christmas Tree in Holy Family Church. All proceeds will be used to pay for floral decorations in church over the Christmas season.

DECEMBER DATES FOR THE DIARIES

Blessing of the Outdoor Crib at Our Lady's with Carols followed by light refreshments and mulled wine, Monday 15th December, 6.00pm

Christmas Mass times as usual

Christmas Eve, Wednesday Dec 24th 6.00pm
Our Lady's

Christmas Day, Thursday Dec 25th 9.30am
Our Lady's and 11.15am Holy Family.

Carols around the Tree

1. Scholes/Platt Lane Thursday 4th December 7.00pm
2. New Springs Tuesday 9th December 7.00pm. Opposite the Crown Hotel.
3. Aspull Thursday 11th December 7.00pm.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions will be available at Holy Family Church Saturday 6th December 10.00 to 10.30 am.

THE BRICK

Many thanks for your continued and generous support of the Brick.

Let us not forget them as we enter the Christmas Season.

Every good wish and blessing.

Fr Kevin