



The Parish & Church of St Mary

Parish Priest: Fr John Johnson.

St Mary's Presbytery, Standishgate, Wigan, WN1 1XL

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St Mary's Church is open for Mass & services
& private prayer during the day.

Sunday 12th March 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YR A

'O that today you would listen to his voice: "Harden not your hearts".'

Saturday	11.3	5.00pm: Vigil Mass: Tony McNicholas
Sunday	12.3	9.00am: Alice O'Donohue 6.30pm: Stations of the Cross & Benediction
Monday	13.3	12.00pm: Sini John
Tuesday	14.3	8.30am: Mary Johnson & Phyllis Edwards
Wednesday	15.3	12.00pm: Kath & Arthur Simm
Thursday	16.3	12.00pm: Requiem: Michael Nieland
Friday	17.3	12.00pm: Requiem: Ann Staunton
Saturday	18.3	10.00am: Norman Seed Exposition after Mass Confessions: 11.00 - 11.45am & 4.30 - 4.45pm 5.00pm: Vigil Mass: Parishioners
Sunday	19.3	9.00am: Annie Fleetwood 6.30pm: Stations of the Cross & Benediction

THIS WEEKEND
CAFOD

4TH SUNDAY OF
LENT
NUGENT
CHARITIES

Feast & Memorials this week

Friday: The Feast of St Patrick; Saturday: St Cyril of Jerusalem, Blessed Roger Wrenno, Bl. John Thules.

...PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

The People of Ukraine and Russia at this deeply troubling time.

The People of Turkey and Syria

The sick: Les Sharkey, Helen Adams, Frances Southern-Cox, Tereciamma Sebastian: *all those close to us and who ask for prayers.*

Lately Dead: Edie Gibson, Chris Burke, Dennis Brennan, Ann Staunton, Colin Birchenough, Michael Nieland. *May they rest in peace.*

Anniversaries: Mary Johnson, Phyllis Edwards, Norman Seed, Tony McNicholas, Kath & Arthur Simm, Alice O' Donohue.

Mass Intentions Received: Tony Siney, Kathleen Hitchen, Mary & Malcolm Vickers, Edie Gibson, Alice Arrowsmith, Connie Havard, Michael Nieland.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION each Sunday at 6.30pm: As part of our parish Lenten devotions the Stations of the Cross and Benediction will take place in St Mary's every Sunday evening during Lent.

"We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world"

LENTEN ALMS: your donations to the poor can be placed in the box at the back of church. The Archbishop has chosen 'Asylum Link Merseyside' as this year's charity

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY: The collection will be taken this weekend 11th/12th March and throughout Lent.

NUGENT CHARITIES: 18th /19th March

THE SACRAMENTS FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS: Quite a number of parishioners, because of health reasons or age, have not been able to attend Mass and the Sacraments. If any parishioner who is house bound and who would like to receive the Sacraments during Lent, could you please let the parish priest know (or ask a friend or relative to do so) and arrangements can be made with him to visit you.

ST PATRICK'S FEAST DAY. Friday 17th March. Procession of St Patrick's statues and banners from school into St Patrick's church, begins at 1:45pm followed by Mass at 2.00pm.

IRISH NIGHT: Celebrate St Patrick's Day on Friday 17th March at Whelley, Ex-Servicemen's Club, Vauxhall Rd, Wigan. Music, food, dancing, entertainment and great company.

Tickets £15.00 from St Patrick's Church after Mass. *Ring Josh: 07713520717.*

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Ready now for collection at the back of church to begin Sunday 9th April.

If you would like envelopes to Gift Aid your weekly contribution to St Mary's as a UK tax payer (your donation must not exceed the amount you pay in tax annually), please ask Fr Johnson or at the office for a GA form. The Parish benefits 25p for each pound gift-aided. It is also possible to pay your offering by standing order. Please ask for a Standing Order Mandate form.

CHRISM MASS: Metropolitan Cathedral Liverpool 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th April.

St Mary's Parish is sharing a coach with our neighbouring Parish of St William's. Price £5.00. The coach will pick up and leave St Patrick's Church by 5.15pm then pick up and leave St Mary's Church at 5.45pm. Please print your name and telephone number on the sheet in the porch if you would like to go.

CONFIRMATIONS 2023: Any young person in Year 8 who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation can register for Sacramental preparation at www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk
The website for registration closes 17th March.

SAINTS CELEBRATED THIS WEEK. *St Patrick:* Patron saint of Ireland. *St Cyril:* 315-386 Born near Jerusalem. Famous for his instruction of catechumens. *Blessed John Thules (Thulis):* Born Upholland 1568. Ordained in Rome, 1590; sent on the English Mission. Arrested by the Earl of Derby in 1616 and hanged at Lancaster with *Blessed Roger Wrenno*, a Chorley weaver who had harboured him.

'THE MASS IN CLOSE UP' by Fr Anthony Jones: The Greeting: *Immediately after making the Sign of the Cross, the Priest greets the congregation; he welcomes them and recognises who they are. They are not just any old crowd of people: these are God's People, baptised into Christ, adopted children of God and alive with his very Spirit. The Priest recognises them for who they are and in reply the congregation acknowledges the Priest for who he is, the ordained minister whose endowment of the Spirit, received at his ordination, makes the Eucharist possible. Thus their reply to his greeting is: **And with your spirit.** And with your spirit seems unnatural to our ears; we would not normally respond to someone's greeting in that way. But **Et cum spiritu tuo** (the exact Latin equivalent) would have sounded equally odd to the ears of those who spoke Latin as their mother tongue in those early days of the Church when this response was originally composed. **And also with you** would be more natural and what you would expect. But the inclusion of the unexpected and jarring word spirit in the response draws immediate attention to the fact that the person to whom it is addressed is possessed of an extraordinary Spirit, received at ordination and necessary for the celebration of the Mass. First there is the dialogue between **Priest and People.** That dialogue goes on throughout the Mass. This is the main reason why the altars were turned round in the 70s so that the priest and people could face one another; you don't normally speak to a person's back. In the early Church, the altars faced the people then as they do now. But there is dialogue going on at a deeper level. Apart from a couple of prayers before Holy Communion, every major prayer in the Mass is addressed to the Father. But every major prayer is addressed **to the Father through Jesus Christ our Lord.** The dialogue that is going on is not between us and God but between the **Church and God**, the Church being ourselves in union with Christ. In this sublime context, there is also a dialogue going on between our individual souls and God, the Spirit breathing where he will.*

Fr Jones is retired parish priest of Our Lady, Star of the Sea Parish in Llandudno, N. Wales and friend of Fr Johnson. His book brilliantly describes the history, development, structure and meaning of the Mass and can be found easily on line. Hopefully short excerpts will be included in the newsletter as space allows. Highly recommended.

PARISH REPOSITORY: Beautiful Holy Communion gifts for now on sale. St Patrick's Day cards, Mothers' Day cards, Easter cards and much more. Visit after Mass.

CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. (Initial allocation of £100,000). For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.