

A BRIEF HISTORY ...

After the penal times of the Reformation and encouraged by King James II, a Jesuit school was established in 1625 in Scholes (from which this area derives its name, Scholes meaning 'School'), where in 1687 Bishop Leyburn confirmed no fewer than 1331 people in two September days! Work started about this time on the building of a church, but the Protestant Revolution of 1688 meant that it was burned down by a mob.



The Jesuits worked quietly on using an upstairs room in nearby Dicconson House as a chapel. Fr Charles Brockholes SJ was the person first recorded as connected to the mission of St. John's. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1704 and was sent to Wigan in 1740. When he arrived in Standishgate, where he paid for the building of a house that had a chapel

upstairs. This house was built between Dicconson Street and Powell Street. From here he administered to a congregation of 300 'customers', as discretion demanded they be described. This was replaced by a purpose built chapel in 1785, which was located approximately on the current site of the Walmsley Cross.



In 1817, the increasing Catholic population of the town, the congregation now numbering 3000, meant that there were calls for a larger place of worship to be built. A plot of land behind the chapel was used for construction and the foundation stone was laid on 27 January 1818. The church was opened on 24 June 1819. The new church cost £9,000 and could accommodate a congregation of 1,000 people. It was 120 feet long, 50 feet wide and 50 feet high, with room for the parishioners in the organ gallery.



For a fuller history of St. John's visit the 'History' page of our website.

Since this time there has been many adornments and improvements made to the building leaving us with the beautiful sacred space that we have today. The Jesuit's long association with Wigan ended in 1933 when the church was handed over to the archdiocese.



200TH JUBILEE YEAR

ST JOHN'S CHURCH WIGAN

Established 1625

Current Church Built 1819



search: St. John's RC Church,
Standishgate, Wigan

A.M.D.G.

EVENTS 2018—2019

A TASTER OF THE EVENTS THAT WILL BE HAPPENING...

Thursday 27th December 2018

Feast of St. John—Launch Mass at 12 noon

Why not join us for Holy Mass to celebrate the launch of our Jubilee Year when the blessing of wine will take place—an ancient tradition on his feast day!

Friday 8th February 2019

Quiz Night in the Parish Hall

Anyone remember the great Quiz Nights held in St. John's Club? A great evening of laughter and entertainment with food and one or two prizes!

Saturday 18th February 2019

The Ladybridge Singers in Concert

Be thrilled by this delightful choir!

Friday 22nd March & 5th April 2019

Two talks on the writings of St. John

Fr Joe Evans will share his thoughts and ideas about the Gospel of St. John, our patron and the Book of Revelation.

Thursday 19th -Sunday 21st April 2019

Sacred Triduum and Easter Celebrations

Celebrating the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord through beautiful liturgy.

Low Sunday Weekend 27/28 April

Quarant'ore

Forty hours of Eucharistic adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Saturday 11th May 2019

Sponsored Walk

A fabulous guided 4.5 mile circular walk from Ryal Fold car park Roddlesworth to Darwen Tower and Sunnyhurst Wood. All money raised will go to charity, helping local people in need.

Sunday 19th May 2019

Joint May Procession at 2.30pm

A procession from St. John's to St. Mary's, joining together with the children from our primary school to honour Mary, our Mother.

Friday 21st June 2019

The Metropolitan Cathedral Choir in Concert at St. John's

Our stunning Cathedral Choir are travelling to Wigan for one night to delight us with their voices.

Sunday 23rd June 2019

Holy Mass at 11.00am with the Archbishop and joint party with St. Mary's

Celebrating 200 years since the opening of both St. Mary's and St John's churches.

Sunday 30th June 2019

Joint Blessed Sacrament Procession at 2.30pm

A procession from St. Mary's to St. John's in the presence of the Lord.

Tuesday 16th July 2019

Holy Mass for the elderly and housebound

Holy Mass to welcome those who find it difficult to attend Mass...followed by tea and cakes.

September 2019

Lourdes Youth Coach 4 Reunion Mass

Holy Mass will be offered in thanksgiving for the coach's many years association with St John's.

Mon 21st— 24th October 2019

Pilgrimage to Walsingham

We will travel together to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk for a 4 day pilgrimage.

Early November 2019

A Requiem Mass set to Faure's Music

Holy Mass will be offered set to beautiful music, remembering all our loved ones and parishioners

Friday 27th December 2019

Feast of St. John, Jubilee Year Closing Mass

After Mass we will enjoy a spectacular display of fireworks as we give thanks for the many blessings we have received during the year.

All visitors are warmly welcome at all times to our church. Many more events are in the planning stage so don't forget to keep in touch by visiting us either in person or through our website and Facebook page.

For the latest news and updates about our Jubilee Year please visit our parish website:
www.stwilliamparishwigan.org and click on our 'Jubilee' page

