

# The Parish of St William *served by* the Churches of St Mary, St John & St Patrick

Parish Priest: **Fr Ian O' Shea** Assistant Priest: **Fr Hugh Donleavy**

Residing: St John's Presbytery, 13 Powell St, Wigan, WN1 1XD

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## Wigan Family of Parishes:

St William Parish  
(St Mary, St John & St Patrick Churches)

Fr Ian O'Shea, Fr Hugh Donleavy

St Edward the Confessor Parish  
(Sacred Heart & St Cuthbert Churches)

Fr Giorgio Miles  
Deacons: Rev Anil Lukose  
& Rev Mick Moffatt

St Jude Parish  
St Aidan Parish  
Fr John Causey

Deacon: Rev Jim Cardy



Becoming the Church God is calling us to be...

LIVERPOOL RC ARCHDIOCESAN TRUSTEES INC.  
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 232709

## Sunday 15th December 2024 – Gaudete Sunday (C)

THE NEW SUNDAY MISSAL: pages 71-74

Parish Diary for the week ahead including Mass Intentions

Sun 15 Dec	<b>Gaudete Sunday</b>		Holy Mass <b>St Patrick's 9.15am</b> — <i>Martin Cafferty (LD)</i> , followed by <i>Coffee Morning</i> Holy Mass <b>St John's 11.00am</b> — <i>Margaret Roberts (LD)</i> Holy Mass <b>St John's 4.30pm</b> — <i>Parishioners</i> Christingle Service <b>St John's 6.00pm</b>
Mon 16 Dec	<i>Third Monday of Advent</i>		Holy Mass <b>St John's 10.00am</b> — <i>Kathleen Southern (A)</i> SMSJ School Advent Service <b>St John's 2.00pm</b> Holy Rosary in Advent <b>St Patrick's 12.15pm</b> St Patrick's Men's Group Meal, <b>Basmati 7.00pm</b>
Tue 17 Dec	<i>17 December</i>		Gardening <b>St Patrick's 9.30am</b> Holy Mass <b>St John's 10.00am</b> — <i>M T Joseph</i> Eucharistic Adoration <b>St Patrick's 6.15-7.15pm</b> Holy Mass <b>St Patrick's 7.30pm</b> — <i>Arthur Harrison Scott (LD)</i>
Wed 18 Dec	<i>18 December</i>		Eucharistic Adoration <b>St John's 8.45-9.45am</b> Holy Mass <b>St John's 10.00am</b> — <i>Judith Traynor (A)</i> Holy Rosary <b>St Mary's 12.00 noon</b> Keep in Touch Christmas Special <b>St Mary's Presbytery 1.30pm</b> — <i>mulled wine, mince pies and raffle</i> Holy Mass <b>St Patrick's 7.30pm</b> — <i>Teresa Gaskell (LD)</i>
Thur 19 Dec	<i>19 December</i>		Holy Mass (Y5 attend) <b>St Patrick's 9.15am</b> — <i>Wilf Martin (LD)</i> Christmas Clean <b>St Patrick's 6.30pm</b> Traditional (Latin) Holy Mass <b>St John's 7.30pm</b> — <i>The Gaskell Family</i>
Fri 20 Dec	<i>20 December</i>		Y1 Stay & Pray <b>St Patrick's Junior Hall 9.05am</b> Holy Mass (SMSJ attend) <b>St John's 10.00am</b> — <i>Patricia Hayden (A)</i> St Patrick's School Advent Service <b>St Patrick's Church 12.40pm</b> Holy Mass <b>St Patrick's 7.30pm</b> <i>Krystyna Pilkington (LD)</i>
Sat 21 Dec	<i>21 December</i>		Holy Mass <b>St Patrick's 9.15am</b> — <i>Peter Moran</i> Holy Mass (Sunday Vigil) <b>St Mary's 5.00pm</b> — <i>Steven Walmsley</i>
Sun 22 Dec	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>		Holy Mass <b>St Patrick's 9.15am</b> — <i>Patrick Healy</i> , followed by <i>Crib Building</i> Holy Mass <b>St John's 11.00am</b> — <i>Sheila Anne Thorpe (b/day)</i> , followed by <i>Christmas flower arranging</i> Holy Mass <b>St John's 4.30pm</b> — <i>Parishioners</i> Parish Zoom Rosary <b>6.30pm</b>

(A) - anniversary  
(LD) - lately dead

**CONFESSION:** For 10 mins. after each weekday Mass; St Mary's 4.15-4.45pm on Saturday and St John's 3.45pm-4.15pm on Sunday

**PRIVATE PRAYER:** St Mary's is open during the day—10.30am -5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 10.00am – 4.00pm on Thursday; 2.00-6.00pm on Saturday and until Midday on Sunday. **St Patrick's Porch** is open during the week—8.30am-3.30pm.

**Please pray for those who are sick:** Ann Stridgeon, David Collins, Paul Collins, Beatrice Taylor, Anne Davies, Angela Parkinson, Lisa Burke, Doreen Edwards, Margaret Connelly, Margaret Ashall; Wendy Leggett, Archbishop Emeritus Patrick Kelly, Winifred Langin, Carol Green, Shirley Leggett, Karen Leggett, Dorothy Hutson, Leanna Mason, Anne Lawson, Kathleen Burke, Anthony Rutter, Albert Winstanley, Celia Marshall, Paul Fairhurst, Michael Pitcher.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Muriel Percival, John Rylance, Cathy Rigby, Joseph Dickinson, Kathleen Southern, Judith Traynor, Patricia Hayden, Joseph Ellis Green, Catherine Brown, William Glover, Thomas Penman, William Walsh, Mary Berry, Dawn Taylor, Doris Stokes, Susan Winstanley, Kathleen Winstanley.

**MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED:** Peter Jennings (LD), Catherine Duffy, Glenn Sweeney, Martin Cafferty (LD), Teresa Gaskell (LD), Private Intention, The McCormick family, Patrick & Sean O'Donnell, D W Langin, Priests & Religious, Gerard Howe, Teresa Gaskell, Arthur Harrison Scott.

**BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI:** Next Sunday 22nd December the blessing of the 'Bambinelli', the Baby Jesus which will go in your crib at home over the Christmas season. Please remember to bring your Bambinello with you to church!



**CAN YOU PLAY THE ORGAN/KEYBOARD?** Mass at St Mary's on Christmas Day will be at 10.00am. At the moment we don't have anyone to accompany the singing of carols that day. The church has both a pipe organ and a keyboard. If you can play either and would be available to play that day, please do speak to one of the priests. Many thanks.

**CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA:** Thank you for all those who attended. What a great atmosphere and night of fun! We raised well over £500 for the Brick! It is wonderful as a parish community to be able to support those in need in our area.

**FATHER O'SHEA'S FAREWELL CELEBRATION EVENING:** Tickets, priced £10, will be on sale at all Masses this weekend, for Father O'Shea's Farewell Celebration Evening. The Celebrations begin at 7pm on Friday 10th January at Whelley Ex-Servicemen's Club. There will be live music, a DJ, hot food and a raffle; with a few surprises included too! All are welcome to say 'Thank You and Farewell' as Father O'Shea prepares to move on after seven years here in Wigan. Tickets are available from the following people: Lisa Edwards (St Mary's); Chris Higgins (St John's) and Josh Marshall or Katie Price (St Patricks).

**MASS INTENTIONS AT ST PATRICKS:** A box has been installed, at the back of the church, to post Mass Intentions through. Alternatively, please post Intentions through the presbytery letterbox. Thank you.

**THE BRICK CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** Thank you for all your items of warm clothing—The Brick was so pleased to receive them. As we approach the festive season we know it can be a difficult time for many, especially during the cost of living crisis. We are collecting for Christmas items over the next week. If you can, with charity, please donate any of the following over the next week: Christmas pudding/cake, selection boxes/chocolates, ready made (tin or packet) custard, gravy granules, packet stuffing, tinned vegetables, savoury snacks, biscuits, jam/marmalade, tea/coffee/hot chocolate, long life milk, long life juice. **"Help to fill a plate this Christmas"**

**ST JOHN'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY CHRISTINGLE:** Please come along at support our children at 6.00pm today, 15th December. It is a beautiful way of further preparing for the feast of Christmas.

**WELL DONE:** to all those children from St Mary and St John's and St Patrick's Primary School who represented themselves beautifully at the recent CAFOD Advent Service. Photos can be found on Facebook.

**ST PATRICK'S 200 CLUB RECENT WINNERS:** 20th October – Number 156: Sara Glaze; 27th October – Number 91: Paul Langin; 3rd November – Number 90: Sue Scott; 10th November – Number 71: Yvonne Unsworth; 17th November – Number 121: Steve Aaron. Please see Jackie to collect your winnings.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ENGAGED COUPLES TO PREPARE FOR MARRIAGE?** The Archdiocese is now recruiting and training volunteer facilitators to join the marriage preparation team. The facilitator training will be held at St Helen's Church, Alexandra Road, Crosby L23 7TQ and consists of 5 sessions: Monday 27 January 2025 (7.00pm – 8.30pm), Monday 3 February, Monday 10 February, Monday 17 February and Saturday 1 March 2025 (10.00am – 2.00pm)

This new team will be asked to offer marriage preparation course for couples twice in 2025. If this is something you are interested in, please contact [m.mui@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.mui@rcaol.org.uk).

**ARCHDIOCESAN TRIP TO ROME: 7-13 November 2025** As part of the Jubilee celebration, the Archdiocese of Liverpool are organising a trip to Rome on 7-13 November 2025. Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information, please contact Pat Murphy [mpmmurphy@aol.com](mailto:mpmmurphy@aol.com).

**JUBILEE 2025—PILGRIMS OF HOPE:** 2025 has been declared a Jubilee Year within the Church. Over the coming weeks and months we will be exploring this as a community. Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, and subsequent Holy Doors in Rome over the following days.

Here in the Archdiocese, the year of Jubilee will be opened at the 11.00m Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Sunday 29th December. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Here in our parish, the Year will be opened at Masses on Sunday 12th January, the Baptism of the Lord. Over the next few weeks we will share an exciting Calendar of Events for 2025.



Dates for your diary...

Friday 27th December 11.30am	St John's <b>Fest Day Mass and Lunch</b> at Papa Luigi (1.00pm). Save the date
Sunday 29th December 11.00am	Archdiocese of Liverpool Opening of the Jubilee Year Mass at the Cathedral
Tuesday 31st December 11.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Midnight Mass at Sacred Heart Church
Thursday 9th January 9.30am	St Patrick's Primary School's Mass of Thanksgiving and Farwell for Father O'Shea
Friday 10th January 7.00pm	Farewell Party for Fr O'Shea, Whelley Ex service mens club
Sunday 12th January	Opening of the Jubilee at Masses in our Parish

**PLEASE NOTE** that items for the newsletter should be emailed to [news\\_items20@aol.com](mailto:news_items20@aol.com) by Thursday 8pm at the latest.