

# 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**

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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 22nd December 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

THE NEW MISSAL: Vigil Masses (Mass during the night) pages 86, 90; St Patrick's 9.15am (Mass at Dawn) pages 91-94  
St Mary's 10.00am and St John's 11.00am (Mass during the Day) pages 94-98

### Parish Diary for the week ahead including Mass Intentions

Sun 22 Dec	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>		Holy Mass <b>St Patrick's 9.15am</b> — Patrick Healy, followed by Crib Building Holy Mass <b>St John's 11.00am</b> —Sheila Anne Thorpe (b/day), followed by Christmas flower arranging Holy Mass <b>St John's 4.30pm</b> —Parishioners Parish Zoom Rosary <b>6.30pm</b>
Mon 23 Dec	23 December		Requiem Mass <b>St John's 10.00am</b> for Arthur Harrison Holy Rosary in Advent <b>St Patrick's 12.15pm</b> Requiem Mass <b>St John's 1.00pm</b> for Teresa Gaskell
Tue 24 Dec	Christmas Eve		Setting up of Crib and Trees <b>St John's 9.30am</b> All welcome! Vigil Mass <b>St Patrick's 5.30pm</b> —The McCormick Family Vigil Mass <b>St John's 7.30pm</b> —Parishioners
Wed 25 Dec	<b>Christmas Day (Solemnity)</b>		Holy Mass <b>St Patrick's 9.15am</b> — The Dobson & Griffiths Families Holy Mass <b>St Mary's 10.00am</b> —Triona McConnell (LD) Holy Mass <b>St John's 11.00am</b> —Patsy McDonald (A)
Thur 26 Dec	<b>St Stephen, Martyr</b>		Holy Mass <b>St Patrick's 10.00am</b> —Gerard Howe
Fri 27 Dec	<b>St John, Apostle, Evangelist (Feast)</b>		Holy Mass, with traditional blessing of wine for the Feast of St John <b>St John's 11.30am</b> —The Carney & Doherty Families Celebratory Meal at <b>Papa Luigi 1.00pm</b>
Sat 28 Dec	<b>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</b>		Holy Mass (Sunday Vigil) <b>St Mary's 5.00pm</b> —Fr Barry McAllister
Sun 29 Dec	<b>The Holy Family</b>		Holy Mass <b>St Patrick's 9.15am</b> — Brian Scott Holy Mass <b>St John's 11.00am</b> —Wendy Leggett (b/day) Holy Mass <b>St John's 4.30pm</b> —Parishioners 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—10.00am-12noon.

**Please pray for those who are sick:** Eileen Hillinshead, 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:** Cliff Jones, Cathy Rigby, Joseph Dickinson, Patsy McDonald, Terence Chadwick, William Schofield, Betty & Tommy Carter, Tom Carney & Dorothy Doherty, Vince Rafferty, Harry Melling, William McCormick, Ellen Littlehales, John McNamara, Teresa Taylor, Marie & Alice McNamara, Elizabeth Hunter, Thomas Houghton, Patrick Gallagher, Anne Meakin, Olive Jordan, Judith Traynor, Ellen Jones, Margaret Casey.

**MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED:** Richard Harrison, Wendy Leggett (B/day), Patsy McDonald, Betty & Tommy Carter (A), The Reid Family, Special Intention (BS), Tera Gaskell (LD), Jim & Pat Green, Intentions of the Parish Clergy, The Homeless & Lonely, Harry Pyke, Kathy & Lee Liston, Gerard Howe, Special Intention.

**THE BRICK FUNDRAISING EVENTS:** A huge thank you to all parishioners, friends & families for supporting the M&S Christmas Hamper Raffle and the recent Extravaganza event at the Swinley. Congratulations go to Marie Johnson who won the M&S Hamper. The Raffle raised a phenomenal £487 and the Extravaganza raised a magnificent £465, a total of £952 has now been given to the Brick. The Brick were overwhelmed again, not just with the cash donation, but also with the clothes and food donated over the last few weeks:

*“Thank you so much for your generous cash donation of £952 to The Brick. With the kindness of donors like you, we stand as a strong defence against homelessness and poverty. In 2023/24 we have directly supported over 15,000 people across Wigan and Leigh who are financially struggling, at risk of or experiencing homelessness. We couldn’t do this work without your donation which will help us to continue to provide our vital services across the community. We want to thank you, because with true collaboration to tackle life’s challenges, comes the opportunity for change. The outpouring of care for our community is incredible. It is humbling to receive the support we have, and a privilege that we live and work in a borough that works so tirelessly to ensure that no one is left behind.”*

**ST MARY’S OLD MASS BOOKS:** if you would like a complete set of the old books for use at home please leave your name on the sheet at the back of church.

**OUR GARDENING TEAMS:** have now finished for the Winter. They will start back again in early Spring . Many thanks to the teams for all their hard work throughout the year . It really is greatly appreciated. Have a well deserved little break!

**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).

**ST PATRICK’S 200 CLUB RECENT WINNERS:** 24th November - Number 12: Ada Scott; 1st December - Number 76: Hayden Touhey; 8th December - Number 95: Susan Winstanley and 15th December - Number 134: Kathryn Marshall. 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).

**ROTAS:** are now at the back of churches for Welcomers and Readers.

**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.



**Wishing everyone a restful and peaceful Christmas and New Year!**

*It has been a challenging and eventful year in the parish, but, as always, it has also been a grace-filled time. We thank God for these graces and look forward to the Jubilee Year of 2025. Advent has been a busy season when we have had the opportunity, in many different ways, to allow God to reveal himself to us: the Advent Service, Peace Vigil, Rorate Caeli Masses, Christingle Service, School Services, Rosaries, Prayer Services... We have also had the opportunity to live out our mission in support of those in need in our own community and beyond.*

*Thank you to all those who have helped our parish community be focused upon Christ and his Mission.*

*May God continue to bless us all through his providence! **Fr O’Shea and Fr Hugh***

Dates for your diary...	
Tuesday 31st December 11.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Midnight Mass at Sacred Heart Church
Tuesday 7th January 9.00am	St Mary’s Church Cleaning Team.
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.