

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

Tel: 01942 247561

St Patrick's Postal Address: 67 Hardybutts, Wigan, WN1 3RZ

St Mary's Postal Address: St Mary's, Standishgate, Wigan WN1 1LX

email: stwilliam@rcaol.org.uk web: www.stwilliamparishwigan.org



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 29th December 2024 – The Holy Family (C)

THE NEW MISSAL: pages 107-110

Parish Diary for the week ahead including Mass Intentions

Sun 29 Dec	The Holy Family	Holy Mass St Patrick's 9.15am — Brian Scott Holy Mass St John's 11.00am —Wendy Leggett (b/day) Holy Mass St John's 4.30pm —Parishioners Parish Zoom Rosary 6.30pm
Mon 30 Dec	6th day within the octave of Christmas	Holy Mass St John's 10.00am - Terence Chadwick (A)
Tue 31 Dec	6th day within the octave of Christmas	Holy Mass St Patrick's 10.00am —Harry Pyke (LD) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (11.00pm) followed by Midnight Mass at Sacred Heart Church
Wed 1 Jan 2025	Mary, Mother of God (Solemnity)	Holy Mass St John's 10.00am —William Schofield (A)
Thur 2 Jan	Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazienzen ◀	Holy Mass St Patrick's 10.00am —Jan, Kathy & Lee Liston
Fri 3 Jan	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	Holy Mass St John's 10.00am —Benjamin Southern (A) First Friday Rosary St Patrick's 12.15pm
Sat 4 Jan	4 January	Holy Mass St Patrick's 10.00am —For Priests & Religious First Saturday Rosary St John's 11.00am NB time change Holy Mass (Sunday Vigil) St Mary's 5.00pm —Betty & Tommy Carter
Sun 5 Jan	The Epiphany of the Lord	Holy Mass St Patrick's 9.15am — Jan Martin, Kathleen & Michael Gannon Holy Mass St John's 11.00am —Jim & Pat Green, with Children's Liturgy Holy Mass St John's 4.30pm —Parishioners Parish Zoom Rosary 6.30pm

(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-12.30pm.

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: Winifred Cowap, Frank Dorgan, 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:

OUR BEAUTIFUL CRIB SCENES: thank you to all those who have erected and decorated our crib scenes in all three of our churches. Please continue to visit them during the Christmas period. The offerings collected are for the work of Nugent, within the Archdiocese. For more information please visit their website at: www.wearenugent.org

AN INVITE TO A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY:

“A Bishop’s task is to preside over a local Church as a visible principle of unity within it and a bond of communion with all the Churches.” (69) “This is why the Assembly desires that the People of God have a greater voice in choosing Bishops.”

XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2024

The Vatican Synod clearly says that in the appointment of bishops the voice of synodal bodies must be heard. As you know, the process is underway for the appointment of a new Archbishop of Liverpool. You are invited to contribute to this process to have your voice heard. This is an exciting development in the life of the Church! There will be two meetings, held with the blessing of Archbishop Malcolm, on:

- Thursday 16th January 2025 at St Mary’s Leyland, PR25 1PD (7.00pm – 9.30pm) and
- Saturday 18th Jan 2025 at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, L17 1AA (10.30am - 1.00pm)

Each gathering will be the same – so only come to one of them. There will be two parts to the meeting: Firstly, we will begin by looking at where we are as a diocese and our future development and secondly we will consider the qualities needed in our future Archbishop.

This is open to everyone here in the Archdiocese. To reserve a place at one of the meetings please fill in the online form in the link below: bit.ly/ASCMeetingAOL For more information speak to Chris Higgins or email him at: c.higgins@rcaol.org.uk

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).

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.

HOLY COMMUNION BADGE COMPETITION: Following the success of last year’s holy communion badge competition, we are pleased to announce that the **closing date** for this year’s competition will be **Monday 27 January 2025**. It is an opportunity for children making their holy communion to design a special badge that will be given out to every child who participates in this sacrament next year. If you are a teacher or a catechist or a parent, please click here for more details: <https://tinyurl.com/FHCBadges>, or email badges@rcaol.org.uk.

“A MOTHER’S FORGIVENESS”: **Peace Sunday Mass followed by Gee Walker talk** 19th January 2025, 11am (talk at 1.15pm) Metropolitan Cathedral. After Mass at the Cathedral, join Gee Walker who will talk about the murder of her son Anthony, forgiveness, reconciliation and justice. This is a partnership event by Pax Christi and the Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission.

LIVE SIMPLY GROUPS – NETWORK EVENT: How to influence decision makers: Advocacy Training 25th January 2025, St Anne’s Parish Centre, Ormskirk This is an in-person training event being run by Hope for the Future and CAFOD about how to make systemic change by influencing political decision makers. It is also a chance for Live Simply groups to come together and share their experiences and plans for the new year. Please contact p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk to register.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS: Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King (L3 5TQ) on **Sunday 9 February 2025 at 11.00am**. For more information, please contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk.

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. 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...	
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 by Thursday 8pm at the latest.