



26th April 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter Yr A

MISSAL: pg. 379-382



St William Parish, Wigan

The Churches of St Mary, St John and St Patrick

www.stwilliamparishwigan.org

Parish Priest: **Fr Paul Grady** Assistant Priest: **Fr John Causey**
(Fr Paul) St Mary's, Standishgate, Wigan WN1 1XL Tel: 01942 242066
(Fr John) St John's, 13 Powell St, Wigan, WN1 1XD Tel: 01942 247561
St Patrick's Postal Address: 67 Hardybutts, Wigan, WN1 3RZ
Parish email: stwilliam@rcaol.org.uk

Christ the Good Shepherd

In John 10:1-10, Jesus presents Himself as both the Good Shepherd and the gate for the sheep. He speaks of the intimate relationship between the shepherd and his flock, emphasising that the sheep recognise his voice and follow him, while fleeing from strangers. This passage invites us to reflect on the trust and security we find in Christ, who knows each of us by name and leads us to abundant life.

As Catholics, we are called to listen attentively to the Lord's voice amidst the many distractions and false promises of the world. Pope John Paul II reminds us: *"To listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd is to listen to Christ, to follow Him, and to trust in His love for us."* Jesus assures us that by entering through Him—the true gate—we will find safety, nourishment, and the fullness of life. The image of the Good Shepherd reminds us of Christ's unwavering care and his sacrificial love, guiding us gently and protecting us from harm.

Pope Benedict XVI once reflected, *"Jesus, the Good Shepherd, does not abandon us; He knows each one of us, our joys and our sorrows, our hopes and our disappointments."* These words deepen our appreciation of the Lord's constant presence and tender guidance, even when we struggle to discern His voice in the midst of daily life.

Let us pray for the grace to discern the voice of Jesus in our daily lives, to follow Him with confidence, and to trust in His promise that He came *"so that they may have life and have it to the full."* John 10:10. May we also strive to become shepherds to one another, offering kindness, guidance, and support within our faith community, as echoed in the words of Pope John Paul II: *"Be not afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ!"*



	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Sat 25 Sun 26 April	Holy Mass (Sunday Vigil) St Mary's 5.00pm - Irene Bird (A) Holy Mass St Mary's 9.00am - Jack Shields (A) Holy Mass St Patrick's 9.15am - Philomena Cudjoe (LD) Holy Mass St John's 11.00am - Cecilia Cox Holy Mass St John's 4.30pm - Parishioners Parish Zoom Rosary 6.30pm
Mon 27	4th Monday of Eastertide Rosary in May St Patrick's 12.15pm Eucharistic Adoration St John's 7.00pm ending with Night Prayer at 7.45pm
Tue 28	4th Tuesday of Eastertide Eucharistic Adoration St Patrick's 6.15pm with Benediction at 7.05pm Holy Mass St Patrick's 7.30pm - Conomelias Sisver Philpilki (LD)
Wed 29	Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor Holy Mass St Mary's 12.00pm - James and Mary Kearns
Thur 30	St Pius V, Pope Holy Mass St Patrick's 9.30am - Elizabeth Charnock (A) - Y4 & 5 attending Requiem Mass St Patricks 12.00noon for Joan Touhey Pondering and Praying Vatican II St John's Campbell Room 7.00pm
Fri 1 May	St Joseph the Worker First Friday Stations of the Cross St John's 9.30am Holy Mass St John's 10.00am — David Smith (A) Requiem Mass St John's 12.00noon for Marie Braddock
Sat 2 May	St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor Holy Mass St Mary's 10.00am - May & Joseph Blackburn First Saturday Rosary St John's 10.00am Church Cleaning St John's after Rosary Holy Mass (Sunday Vigil) St Mary's 5.00pm - Theresa Linacre
Sun 3 May	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Holy Mass St Mary's 9.00am - David Brogan Holy Mass St Patrick's Church 9.15am - Mary Gavaghan (A) Followed by Keyholder meeting in Lappin Room Holy Mass St John's 11.00am - Chris Higgins snr (LD) Holy Mass St John's 4.30pm - Parishioners Parish Zoom Rosary 6.30pm

(A) - Anniversary
(LD) - Lately Dead
(B) - Birthday

BAPTISMS: please speak to either Fr Paul or Fr John if you would like your child baptised.

CONFESSION: For 10 mins. after each weekday Mass.

St Mary's Saturday: 10.30 – 11.30am & 4.15 - 4.45pm and St John's Sunday: 3.45pm - 4.15pm.

PRIVATE PRAYER:

St Mary's Church is open from 10.30am – 4.00pm on every day except Sunday pm.

St Patrick's Porch is open from 8:30am-3:30pm Monday to Friday.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL WHO ARE SICK: Anthony Hughes, Fr John, Linda Evans, all our parishioners and friends, our priests.

ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Marie Braddock, Chris Higgins Snr, Philomena Cudjoe, Peter Atherton, Terence Blackledge, Kathy Grundy, Terry Sharrock, Conomelias Sisver Philpilki, Marlene Osborne, Rosemary Eccles . **May they rest in peace.**

ANNIVERSARIES: Mavis Bennett, Walter Heyes Hill, Terry Dixon, James Sinclair, Frances Kelly, Helen Hurst, Thomas Patrick McNulty, Anthony Dutton, Mary Unsworth, James Winstanly, Cathy May, Peggy Dean, Cecilia Cox.

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED: Mary Gavaghan anniversary, Chris Higgins Snr (LD), George Hutchins (LD). Cathy May

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS BURN THIS WEEK FOR:

St Mary's: Fr John Causey

St Patrick's: Special Intention

St John's: Jennifer Jones



DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH: You will notice that two of the saints we celebrate this week have 'Doctor' after their name. These saints are not called doctors because they studied medicine, but because they are great teachers of the faith whose writings and teachings continue to guide the Church; they are saints formally recognised by the Church for their outstanding contribution to Christian doctrine and theology. The word *doctor* comes from the Latin word *docere*, meaning "to teach".

Of the 38 Doctors officially recognised by the Church, only four women have been named, making their recognition especially significant:

- St Teresa of Ávila – teacher of prayer and spiritual reform
- St Catherine of Siena – mystic and spiritual counsellor to popes
- St Thérèse of Lisieux – apostle of spiritual simplicity and trust
- St Hildegard of Bingen – abbess, theologian, mystic, and composer

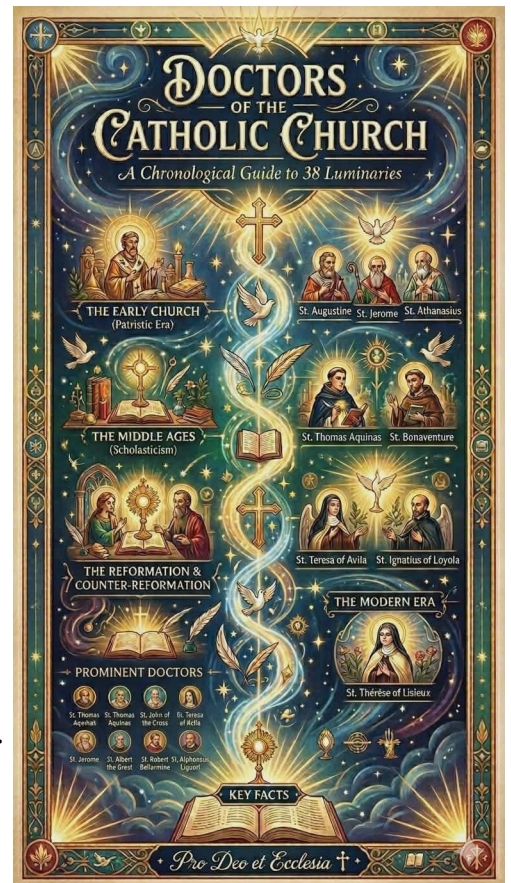
Their inclusion highlights that deep theological wisdom is not limited to scholars or clergy, but flows from **holiness and lived faith**.

FIRST FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS: From this Friday the Stations of the Cross will be prayed on the first Friday of the Month, in St John's church at 9.30am. Everyone is welcome to join this beautiful act of piety before Mass.

PONDERING & PRAYING VATICAN II | SESSION 10 THE HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH:

This week, on **THURSDAY 30TH APRIL**, we begin continue studying the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*) Tea and coffee will be available from 6.45pm. Everyone is most welcome to come along! If you would like a copy of the document to read before the session please ring Chris on 07712 552410 and he will arrange a copy for you.

PRAY IN MAY During the month of May, Mary's Meals is inviting churches and schools to take part in their **Pray in May** campaign, encouraging prayer and reflection for children around the world who rely on a daily school meal. Mary's Meals provides nutritious school meals to children living in poverty, enabling access to education and long-term hope. To support participation, **free Pray in May resources** are available for use in parishes, religious communities, with individuals and church groups. Resources are suitable for worship, prayer, reflection and learning, and can be adapted appropriately for



Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia,
 Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
 Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia,
 Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

O Queen of heaven, be joyful, alleluia,
 For He whom you have humbly borne for us, alleluia,
 Has arisen, as He promised, alleluia,
 Offer now our prayer to God, alleluia.

different settings. Mary's Meals UK is also offering **free talks** delivered by trained speakers. Talks can be tailored for **parishes, primary and secondary schools, and church groups**, and explore themes of **prayer, compassion, global poverty and faith in action**. Those wishing to arrange a talk are invited to contact: anna.houghton@marysmeals.org

McMILLAN COFFEE MORNING: Held in the Campbell Room in St John's Presbytery after the 11 o'clock mass on Sunday 13th September. All parishioners are invited to attend this event for a very worthy cause. Homemade cakes would be gratefully received thank you

PROCESSION SEASON IN ST WILLIAMS PARISH

Sunday 10th May, St Mary's—May procession, Crowning & Benediction 6.30pm

Friday 22nd May, St Patrick's—May procession, Crowning, Adoration & Benediction 1.45pm

Sunday 7th June, St Johns—Eucharistic procession following 11am celebrating the Feast of Corpus Christi

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN ST WILLIAM'S PARISH

Please hold in your prayers all the children of our parish who will be making their First Confession and First Holy Communion in the coming weeks.

SHARE YOUR YOUTH PILGRIMAGE MEMORIES! This year marks 50 years of the Archdiocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes, and we'd love your help to celebrate this special milestone by sharing your memories. Did you meet your partner on the pilgrimage? Have several generations of your family travelled to Lourdes? Were you part of the very first pilgrimage, or did you experience a moment there that stayed with you forever? Whatever your memories or experience – we want to hear from you!

Please send your memories and/or photos – to communications@rcaol.org.uk by 13 May. Selected submissions may be featured in The Pic, on the archdiocese and Animate's website and social media channels, and in a special scrapbook of memories being created for the youth pilgrims travelling this year.

AN AFTERNOON OF RECOLLECTION FOR WOMEN: Saturday 2nd May 2pm at Our Lady and All Saints Church Parbold and afterwards in the Priory for tea and coffee. All ages welcome!

Important dates for your diary...

Saturday 9th May	St Mary & St John's First Holy Communions <i>St John's Church</i>
Monday 11th May 7pm	Planning Meeting in the Lappin Room for future social events
Saturday 16th May	St Patrick's First Holy Communions <i>St Patrick's Church</i>
Sunday 10th May	St Mary's; May Crowning and Procession
Friday 22nd May 1.45pm	St Patrick's; May Crowning and Procession
Friday 22nd May 7:30pm	Parish Quiz Night <i>venue to be confirmed - more details to follow!</i>
Saturday 6th June	St William's First Holy Communions <i>St John's Church</i>
Saturday 11th July	Rosa Mystica Mass and Devotions <i>St Mary's Church</i>
Mon 10th—Thurs 13th Aug	Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham
Sunday 13th September	McMillan Coffee Morning —Campbell Room, St Johns after 11am Mass
Saturday 10th October	Adoremus Liverpool at the Met Cathedral