



17th May 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter Yr A

MISSAL: pg. 401-404



St William Parish, Wigan

The Churches of St Mary, St John and St Patrick

www.stwilliamparishwigan.org

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Seventh Sunday

In his farewell discourses to the disciples, Jesus stressed the importance of his "return to the Father", the culmination of his whole mission: indeed, he came into the world to bring man back to God, not on the ideal level - like a philosopher or a master of wisdom - but really, like a shepherd who wants to lead his sheep back to the fold. It was for our sake that he came down from Heaven and for our sake that he ascended to it, after making himself in all things like men, humbling himself even to death on a cross and after having touched the abyss of the greatest distance from God. For this very reason the Father was pleased with him and "highly exalted" him (Ph 2:9), restoring to him the fullness of his glory, but now with our humanity. God in man - man in God: this is even now a reality, not a theoretical truth.

Pope Benedict XVI

This week's Saints...

Pope John I, born in Tuscany and elected in 523, led the Church during intense political and religious tension between Catholic subjects in Italy and their Arian ruler, Theodoric the Ostrogoth, whose growing suspicion of Catholic ties to Constantinople was intensified by Emperor Justin's persecution of Arians in the eastern Roman Empire. Sent as an envoy to Justin to seek better treatment for Arians, John succeeded, but the warm reception he received in Constantinople alarmed Theodoric, who imprisoned him on his return; John died shortly after from ill-treatment. His story illustrates the limits and demands of tolerance: while Arianism was viewed as a serious theological error, this did not justify persecuting Arians, and it was the state—not the Church—that sought to enforce religious uniformity through coercion.

St Dunstan (d. 19 May 988) was a Benedictine monk and leading church reformer who became Archbishop of Canterbury and helped revive English monastic life. After serving as abbot of Glastonbury and experiencing exile on the Continent, he returned under King Edgar to become archbishop, shaping reform across England. He also composed Edgar's coronation rite—later the basis for English coronations—and after his death became one of the most popular Anglo-Saxon saints.

St Bernardino was born in Tuscany and orphaned young, distinguished himself early by leading Siena's hospital during an epidemic and later caring for a bedridden aunt before joining the Franciscans at 22. Inspired by St Vincent Ferrer, he became a renowned preacher who walked across Italy addressing huge crowds, condemning usury, urging peace among rival city-states, and championing reform and discipline within the Franciscan order as well as unity in the wider Church.

St Cristóbal Magallanes Jara was born in Mexico in 1869. He was ordained priest at the age of 30 and became parish priest of his home town of Totatiche. He took a special interest in the evangelization of the local indigenous Huichol people and founded a mission for them. When government persecution of the Catholic Church began and the seminaries were closed, he opened a small local "auxiliary seminary." He wrote and preached against armed rebellion. He was arrested on 21 May 1927 while on the way to celebrate Mass at a farm. He was executed without a trial, but not before giving his remaining possessions to his executioners and giving them absolution. With him are celebrated 24 other Mexican martyrs of the early 20th century.

St Rita of Cascia (1381–1457) was an Italian wife, mother, and later Augustinian nun whose life became a witness to forgiveness and persevering prayer. Born near Cascia in Umbria, she desired religious life but was married instead; after years marked by conflict and loss, her husband was killed and both of her sons died soon after. Following these tragedies, Rita entered the monastery of St Mary Magdalene in Cascia, where she lived quietly in penance and service, devoted to Christ's Passion, and was said to have received a wound like a thorn from the Crown of Thorns. Remembered as the patron saint of "impossible causes," she was canonised in 1900.

	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
Sat 16 Sun 17 May	Holy Mass (Sunday Vigil) St Mary's 5.00pm - Eileen McGann (A) Holy Mass St Mary's 9.00am —Bob Mather (A) Holy Mass St Patrick's Church 9.15am —Meirelides Daum LD Holy Mass St John's 11.00am - 40th Birthday Thanksgiving AS with Children's Liturgy Holy Mass St John's 4.30pm - Parishioners Parish Zoom Rosary 6.30pm	
	St John I, Pope, Martyr	
Mon 18	No Mass at St John's Rosary in May St Patrick's 12.15pm Eucharistic Adoration St John's 7.00pm ending with Night Prayer at 7.45pm	
	St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury	
Tue 19	Eucharistic Adoration St Patrick's 6.15pm Holy Mass St Patrick's 7.30pm—Brian Padgett	
	St Bernadine of Siena	
Wed 20	Requiem Mass St John's 10.30am for Rosemary Eccles Eucharistic Service St Mary's 12.00 noon Followed by Keep in Touch	
	St Christopher Magallanes and his Companions, Martyrs	
Thur 21	Holy Mass St Patrick's 9.30 am —Kath Dainty (LD) Year 3 & 4 attending St Patrick's Men's group meeting St Patrick's Lappin Room 7.00pm	
	St Rita of Cascia	
Fri 22	Stay and Pray St Patrick's School 9.05am Year 4 Requiem Mass St Patrick's 10.30am for Greg Campbell Procession of our Lady's Statue followed by Crowning St Patrick's 1.45pm Parish Pub Quiz Night Little Fifteens Wallgate 7.00pm	
	7th Saturday of Eastertide	
Sat 23	Holy Mass St Mary's 10.00am - Mary Clough (A) Wedding Service St John's 12.00pm for Annie Hooley and Marcus Cusani Holy Mass (Sunday Vigil) St Mary's 5.00pm - Michael Hall (A)	
	PENTECOST	
Sun 24	Holy Mass St Mary's 9.00am —James McGuire (LD) Holy Mass St Patrick's Church 9.15am —Chris Higgins Snr (LD) Holy Mass St John's 11.00am - 40th Birthday Thanksgiving AS Pentecost Walk gather at St John's 1.45pm Holy Mass St John's 4.30pm - Parishioners Parish Zoom Rosary 6.30pm	(A) - Anniversary (LD) - Lately Dead (B) - Birthday remembrance

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.

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: Matthew Killeen *May they rest in peace.*

ANNIVERSARIES: William Glover, Kathleen Winstanley, Winifred Glover, Bertha Mitchell, Mary Finney, James Lowe, Nellie Stead, John Littlehales, Francis Jolley, Harry Johnson, John Breheny, Gerard Naylor, Kevin Melia, Joyce Speed, Jimmy Whyte, James McGurrin, Gilbert Kendrick, Sharon Devine, Vincent Charnock, Edward Gannon, Audrey O'Donohue, John Littlehales

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED: Greg Campbell, Dennis Ashton, Jean Crookall, Kath Dainty, Special Intention, Anne Shepherd, James MaGuire, Margaret O'Neil, Vincent Charnock, Edward Gannon, Derek Gibson, Audrey O'Donohue, Thomas Anthony Siney, Mary Siney, For the Sick

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS BURN THIS WEEK FOR:

St Mary's: Ann Stridgeon

St Patrick's: Mr & Mrs W Langin

St John's: Clare Pulford



WIGAN FAMILY OF PARISHES, PENTECOST WALK Sunday 24th May, assemble in St John's courtyard from 1.45pm. Similar to last year, we will walk through Wigan town centre and finish in Mesnes Park. Volunteers are required to carry banners, act as marshals and first aiders. If you can help please sign the sheet at the back of church. All welcome (including dogs), bring a picnic!

PONDERING & PRAYING VATICAN II | SESSION 12 THE UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS: This session will be postponed for a week. There is no session this week.

PARISH PUB QUIZ: Is this Friday. Teams of six—tickets are £20 per team Please see: St Mary's—Anne Foster, St John's—Chris Higgins, St Patrick's—Josh Marshall. Today is the last chance to get a team together!

KEEP IN TOUCH: Wednesday 20th May from 1.00pm as there is no Mass at St Mary's.

SCHOOL OF PRAYER: Over the next twelve months a series of prayer experiences will be offered each half-term over four consecutive weeks. In the Catholic Church there are a wealth of ways in which we can pray and develop our spiritual life—this is an opportunity to experience some of them. You are invited on Wednesday 10th, 17th, 24th June and 1st of July to experience 'Taizé' style prayer. Keep the dates free!

CATHEDRAL FRIENDS EVENT SATURDAY 4th JULY You are warmly invited to an exclusive guided tour of the Lutyens Crypt – a hidden architectural gem rich in atmosphere and heritage. Discover the vast, awe-inspiring underground space, hear its fascinating story, and experience a side of the Cathedral few ever see. Following the tour, indulge in a delightful afternoon tea featuring delicate sandwiches and hand-crafted, artisan cakes. Tickets are only £35. [Email friends@metcathedral.org.uk](mailto:friends@metcathedral.org.uk) for yours early to avoid disappointment.

CONGRATULATIONS: to our children who received the Lord in Holy Communion for the first time yesterday at St Patrick's. Thank you to all those involved in preparing the children.

ST MARY'S EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Rotas are available for collection from the Sacristy.

TAIZÉ PRAYER
St John's Church, Wigan

A simple, peaceful service of Scripture, silence, candles and sung prayer in the Taizé tradition.

All welcome—come and rest in God's presence.

DATES (WEDNESDAYS):
10 June • 17 June • 24 June • 1 July

TIME:
7.00 – 7.45pm

WHERE:
St John's Church, Wigan

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.

CLEANING VACANCY – St Patrick’s Primary School: A cleaning vacancy has arisen at St Patrick’s Primary School. The role is for 15 hours per week, Monday to Friday, 3:00pm – 6:00pm. The successful candidate will be subject to DBS checks, including international checks if required. If you are interested, please contact the school office and ask for Mrs Davies on 01942 244361.

AN EVENING TALK BY MARY HARDIMAN: WALKING WITH JESUS: All are invited to an evening talk entitled ‘Walking with Jesus’. A captivating and thought-provoking speaker, Mary will be presenting her thoughts on the gospel story of The Road to Emmaus. She will be asking searching questions and helping us see its relevance in our faith journey. **7.00pm Wednesday 20th May** Our Lady and All Saints school Parbold WN8 7HD.

KEVIN McCLOUD’S LISTED BRITAIN - We’re excited to announce that our mother church, the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, will be featured in the new series ‘Kevin McCloud’s Listed Britain’ which started on **Wednesday, 13th May at 9pm** on More4. Tune in to episode 4 on **Wednesday 3rd June at 9pm** to see Kevin McCloud explore the stories behind our wonderful cathedral and it’s stunning, unusual architecture



PILGRIM WALK FOR YOUNG ADULTS – A Pilgrim Walk for young adults who are aged 18-35 is taking place on **Saturday 6 June**. We will gather at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Portico L34 2QT and begin the walk at 10am. Then we will come back to the church for mid-day Mass, followed by lunch and fellowship time. If you are interested, please book online using the QR code

ST PATRICK’S RESTORATION UPDATE: The first stage of work to treat and remove dry rot in the Sacristy has now been completed successfully. The affected areas will be plastered this week prior to decoration.

PROCESSION SEASON IN ST WILLIAMS PARISH

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

Important dates for your diary...

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