



3rd May 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter Yr A

MISSAL: pg. 383-386



St William Parish, Wigan

The Churches of St Mary, St John and St Patrick

www.stwilliamparishwigan.org

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“Do not let your hearts be troubled” (John 14:1–2)

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places...” (John 14:1–2)

These words are not a denial of sorrow; they are a command to trust. On the night before the Cross, Jesus does not offer his friends an explanation, but his own Presence: “Believe... in me.” In other words, when our hearts are unsettled—by illness, family strain, grief, uncertainty about the future—Jesus draws us back to the deepest truth of our lives: **God is not distant, and we are not alone.**



For Catholics, that faith is never abstract. We place our confidence in the Lord who continues to act among us: he feeds us with his own life in the Eucharist, heals and strengthens us in the sacraments, and gathers us into one family, the Church. The promise of “many dwelling places” is therefore not a sentimental image but a steady foundation for Christian hope. Jesus speaks of the Father’s house as our true home—prepared by him, secured by his Paschal Mystery, and offered to us as a gift.

Pope Benedict XVI, reflecting on this Gospel, noted that Jesus’ command—“Believe in God, believe also in me”—is not two separate steps but “one single act of faith”, because in Christ “God has shown his face” (Regina Caeli, 22 May 2011). That is enormously consoling: the God we trust is not a vague idea, but the Father revealed in the Son who knows our fears from the inside and carries them with us. When we look at Jesus—his compassion, his truthfulness, his willingness to lay down his life—we are not merely learning about God; **we are encountering God.**

And the “many dwelling places” are not a sign of distance, as though heaven were a far-off relocation. They speak of belonging. There is room for the weary, the doubtful, the sinner returning home, the saint quietly persevering. **There is a place “for you”: personal, named, and lovingly prepared.** This hope does not remove the Cross from our path, but it changes how we carry it. If Christ has gone ahead of us, then today’s trials are not the final word. So when anxieties rise, we do something very Catholic and very practical: we come back to the Lord in prayer, we lean on the Mass, we seek reconciliation, we ask for help, and we entrust our dead to God’s mercy—confident that the Father’s house is wider than our fears, and that love is stronger than death.

Lord Jesus, when our hearts are troubled, teach us to trust the Father by trusting you. Draw us back to the Eucharist and the grace of the sacraments; strengthen all who are anxious or grieving; and lead us at last to the Father’s house you have prepared.

Amen.

	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
Sat 2 Sun 3 May	Holy Mass (Sunday Vigil) St Mary's 5.00pm - Theresa Linacre Holy Mass St Mary's 9.00am - David Brogan (A) 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	
Mon 4	The English Martyrs (Feast)	
	Rosary in May St Patrick's 12.15pm Eucharistic Adoration St John's 7.00pm ending with Night Prayer at 7.45pm	
Tue 5	5th Tuesday of Eastertide	
	Eucharistic Adoration St Patrick's 6.15pm with Holy Rosary at 7.20pm No Mass at St Patrick's Church cleaning St Mary's 9.00am	
Wed 6	5th Wednesday of Eastertide	
	Eucharistic Service St Mary's 12.00 noon Followed by Holy Rosary Come to 'Talk about our Faith' in St Mary's Presbytery 1.00pm—3.00pm , all welcome	
Thur 7	St John of Beverley	
	Holy Mass St William's School 2.00pm —Emily Henthorn, Parishioners most welcome Pondering and Praying Vatican II St John's Campbell Room 7.00pm	
Fri 8	5th Friday of Eastertide	
	Stay and Pray St Patrick's School 9.05am Year 6 Holy Mass St John's 10.00am — Mary Mallin Stay and Pray St Mary's & St Johns School 2.45pm Year 1	(A) - Anniversary (LD) - Lately Dead (B) - Birthday
Sat 9	5th Saturday of Eastertide	
	No Mass, Confession or Adoration at St Mary's First Holy Communion Mass St John's 10.00am - All first Holy Communicants in St Williams parish Holy Mass (Sunday Vigil) St Mary's 5.00pm - Christine Summers (A)	
Sun 10	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	Holy Mass St Mary's 9.00am - Margaret Henry (A) Followed by coffee morning in St Mary's presbytery Holy Mass St Patrick's Church 9.15am - John Breheney (A) Holy Mass St John's 11.00am - Birthday Thanksgiving Holy Mass St John's 4.30pm - Parishioners May procession and Benediction at St Mary's 6.30pm with First Holy Communion Children Parish Zoom Rosary 6.30pm	

Fr Paul sends his apologies for the changes in the Holy Mass schedule this week, this is due to him attending a memorial Mass and a Requiem outside of our parish

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: Fr Gerry Cobham, Greg Campbell, Rosemary Eccles, Margaret O'Neil.
May they rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARIES: Emily Henthorn, Francis Xavier Myers, Kieran McLoughlin, James Winstanley, Agnes Dumican, Beatrice Dalton, Mary Ann Thomas, Bernadette Burbridge, Elizabeth Halliwell, Hilda Houghton, Teresa Richardson, Mary Jane & Henry Gregory, Mary Connor, Jane Winstanley, Margaret Green,

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED: Kath Dainty, Greg Campbell, J Divani, Anne Lumena, F Barber, Margaret O'Neil, Chris Higgins Snr, Rosemary Eccles

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS BURN THIS WEEK FOR:

St Mary's: Deceased members of the Burke family

St Patrick's: For health and peace

St John's: Mildred Speakman



THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, THURSDAY 14TH MAY A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION—MASSES:

10am St John's
12 Noon St Mary's
7:30pm St Patrick'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 'Taize' style prayer. Keep the dates free! More information next week.

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 10 THE HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH: This week, on **THURSDAY 6TH MAY**, 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.

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

If you would like to help carry at St Patrick's crowning, please see Josh

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

ST PATRICK'S RESTORATION UPDATE: Work to address the dry rot in the sacristy is progressing well. The area remains out of bounds as sections of the floor have been lifted and excavated to reach affected areas beneath. We appreciate your continued patience and understanding while this essential work is carried out.

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.

PARISH PUB QUIZ: On Friday 22nd May teams of six are invited to take part in our St William Parish Quiz. The venue for this event is the Function Room at Little Fifteen, Wallgate, Wigan. The bar will be open. The room is booked from 6pm and the kitchen will be open if you would like to eat. The Quiz starts at 7pm. Tickets are £20 per team of six. There will also be a raffle on the night. Prizes are most welcome—collecting at the back of each church. Tickets available next weekend in each church.

SPRING BINGO FINAL TOTAL: Our recent Spring Bingo event raised a fantastic £590 for church funds. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the evening. Keep an eye out for details of our next Bingo event, in the Summer, being announced soon!

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 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

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL As part of the Archdiocese celebrations for the Franciscan Jubilee Year, we're putting together a light-hearted social media series for May—and we'd love to involve you (and your pets!). We're planning a simple "guess the pet" feature: One day we'll post a photo of a pet and invite people to guess which priest it belongs to. The next day we'll reveal the answer with a photo of you and your pet. If you have a pet (and especially if it's something a bit more unusual than a dog!), it would be great to include you. **All we need is:** A clear photo of your pet—A photo of you with your pet, and a short line about what your pet means to you or what they've taught you, especially relating to God and/or St Francis. If you'd be happy to take part, just send these through to communications@rcaol.org.uk

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>Little Fifteens, Wallgate</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