Sunday 20th September 2026

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

MISSAL: pg. p. 778-782

St William Parish, Wigan

The Churches of St Mary, St John and St Patrick

www.stwilliamparishwigan.org

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'It's not fair!'

In every parish there are people who seem to have been there forever. They have opened the church, cleaned the sacristy, served at Mass, sung in the choir, taught children, organised fundraisers and quietly kept things going year after year. And then there are those who appear much later – perhaps someone who comes back to church after many years away, or a new person who suddenly discovers a place within the parish community.

It can be tempting to think that those who have given years of service somehow deserve more. We might even wonder, quietly, why someone who has only just arrived should receive the same welcome, the same love and the same place as those who have been faithful for so long.

That is precisely the uncomfortable question Jesus places before us in today's Gospel.

The workers who have laboured all day cannot understand why those who worked for only an hour should receive the same wage. By our human standards, their complaint seems perfectly reasonable: surely those who have done more deserve more?

Yet Jesus turns our expectations upside down. He invites us to look beyond what we think is fair and to discover something greater: the astonishing generosity of God.

The landowner asks a simple but searching question: "Why be envious because I am generous?" Perhaps this is one of the questions we need to hear for ourselves. How easily we compare our lives with those of others – what they have, what they receive, how much they seem to contribute, or how little they appear to do. But the Gospel reminds us that God's love is not a reward that we earn. It is a gift.

The workers who came at the eleventh hour had not missed their opportunity. The landowner still went out to find them and invite them into the vineyard. There is something wonderfully hopeful here. It is never too late to respond to God. It is never too late to begin again, to return to prayer, to seek forgiveness, or to discover once more that we are loved.

Perhaps some of us need to hear that today. We may feel that we have wasted time or that we have not been faithful enough. We may carry regrets about the past. Jesus assures us that God does not give up on us. His invitation remains open.

And perhaps the Gospel also challenges those of us who have been in the vineyard for many years. Our faithfulness is precious, but it is not a reason to look down on those who arrive later. We are all dependent upon the same generous mercy.

In the Kingdom of God, there is no shortage of love. God's generosity is not lessened when it is given to another. Instead, it reminds us of the extraordinary truth at the heart of our faith: there is always room in God's vineyard, and there is always room at his table.

LIVERPOOL RC ARCHDIOCESAN TRUSTEES INC. REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1199714

Sat 19 Sun 20 Sep	**THE 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **Quarant'Ore continues at St Patrick's** Holy Mass **(Sunday Vigil) St Mary's 5.00pm** - *Edward and James Ackers (A)* Holy Mass **St Mary's 9.00am—** *Philip Hagan (A)* Holy Mass **St Patrick's Church 9.15am—** *Fr Ron RIP* Holy Mass **St John's 11.00am—** *Sheila Percy (A)* Holy Mass **St John's 4.30pm—***Parishioners* Parish Rosary **St Patrick's 6.30pm** **Night Prayer and Benediction closing Quarant'Ore St Patrick's 9.00pm**
Mon 21	**Saint Matthew, Apodtle, Evangelist (Feast)** Holy Mass **St John's 10.00am—** *Anna, special intention* Eucharistic Adoration **St John's 7.00pm** ending with Night Prayer at **7.45pm**
Tue 22	**Week 25 of Ordinary Time** Holy Mass **St John's 10.00am** —*Souls in Purgatory* Holy Rosary **St Patrick's 7.00pm** Holy Mass **St Patrick's 7.30pm—** *James Scanlon*
Wed 23	**St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest** Holy Mass **St Mary's 12noon—** *Michael Hall (B)* Followed by Rosary Eucharistic Adorations and Benediction **St Patrick's 6.15pm** Holy Mass **St Patrick's 7.30pm—** *James Scanlon* Visio Divina Week 2 **St John's 7.00pm**
Thur 24	**Our Lady of Walsingham (Feast)** Holy Mass **St Patrick's 9.30am—** *Anne Shepherd Year 6 attending* Funeral Service **St Patrick's 10.30am**—for Joan Dermott Cleaning at **St Patrick's 6.30pm**
Fri 25	**Week 25 of Ordinary Time** Stay and Pray **St Patrick's School 9.05am**—Year 4 in the junior hall Holy Mass **St John's 10.00am—** *Albert Summers (A)* Holy **Mass St Patrick's** 7.30pm— John Moreton
Sat 26	**Week 24 of Ordinary Time** Holy Mass **St Mary's 10.00am**— Frances and Tony Hindley Ruby Wedding Anniversary *Followed by adoration and confessions until 11.30am* Holy Mass **(Sunday Vigil) St Mary's 5.00pm** - *Beatrice Mary Taylor (A)*
Sun 27	**THE 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** Holy Mass **St Mary's 9.00am— *Brian Cunniff*** *(A)* Holy Mass **St Patrick's Church 9.15am—** *Betty Whyte* Holy Mass **St John's 11.00am—** *Brian Rignall (A)* Holy Mass **St John's 4.30pm—***Parishioners* Parish Zoom Rosary 6.30pm *(A) - Anniversary* *(LD) - Lately Dead* *(B) - Birthday remembrance*

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL WHO ARE SICK: Fr Leo Cooper, Lucy Davies, Linda Evans, all our parishioners and friends, our priests.

ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Maria Cole, Barbara Mallon ***May they rest in peace.***

ANNIVERSARIES: Brian Rignall, Beatrice Mary Taylor, William Cox, Roger Buckland, Richard Lowe, Derek Goulding, Francis Jolley, Albert Clough, Terence Byrne

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED: Albert Summers (A), Christopher Gannon, Harry Hopwood, James & Agnes Howe

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS BURN THIS WEEK FOR:

St Mary's: Harry Warburton
St Patrick's: Arun & Swany
St John's: Ann Stridgeon

VISIO DIVINA – PRAYING WITH SACRED ART:
Wednesday 23rd & 30th September and 7th October
7.00pm–7.45pm | St John's RC Church, Wigan, WN1 1XD
Come and discover Visio Divina – a gentle and prayerful way of encountering God through sacred art.
Over four Wednesday evenings, we will use a different religious image to help us slow down, become still and open ourselves to God's presence. Through Scripture, reflection, silence and contemplation, we will allow the images to speak to us and notice where God speaks to us.
You don't need any experience of Visio Divina, and there is nothing you need to prepare or bring. Simply come as you are and enjoy 45 minutes of peaceful prayer and reflection. Each evening will stand alone, so you are very welcome to come to one, some or all four sessions.
Come and rest in God's presence. All are welcome.

BAPTISMS: Please peak to Fr Paul, Fr John or Fr Thomas 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 10.30am – 4.00pm every day except Sunday pm.
ST PATRICK'S PORCH: Open each weekday from 8:30am-3:30pm

PARISH BARN DANCE: On **Friday 2nd October** at Wigan Cricket Club . **We are taking donations for raffle prizes,** please contact one of the people listed below to arrange drop off. The cost is £12:50 which includes a Live Band and an Award Winning Pie . Bar open from 7pm. Tickets for this event are now available at all 3 Churches**. St. Patrick's see Josh, St. Mary's see Ann Foster, St. John's see Angela (text 07534048487) or Catherine (text 07476586067).** All proceeds will go to Mary's Meals

mary's meals
a simple solution to world hunger

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL - Can you help? We need people to either hand out envelopes and to read out the appeal at the end of Masses on 26th & 27th September, if you are able to support this cause, please add your name to the list at the back of church, or speak to Steve Atherton at St John's

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFESSION: The Year 4 children at **St Mary and St John's school** begin the preparation programme for First Confession and Communion in October. If you have a Year 4 child who lives in the catchment of the school but does not attend the school and wishes to join the programme please contact **Mrs Kearsley 07543389350** asap for more details

Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae
Vita, dulcedo et spes nostra salve
Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Heva
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
In hac lacrimarum valle

Eia ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos
Misericordes oculos ad nos converte
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui
Nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria

SOLEMN EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Thank you to all those who helped to clean and prepare the Church for this weekend. St Patrick's is open until 9pm today (Sunday) if you would like to call in to spend time with the Lord.

MENCAP SPONSORSHIP: Anderson Agbonoga, a parishioner and singer from St. Patrick's, is running the Manchester 10km on 4th October and is raising money for **Mencap**. Please encourage him by sponsoring his effort. A sponsor form is at the back of each church.

MACMILLAN COFFIEE MORNING: A huge thank you to everyone involved. All the bakers—the cakes/ sweet treats were delicious & all beautifully created - such talent! And special thanks for all your generous donations & contributions to the raffle . The total raised came to **£401.96** which is an amazing amount!

YOUNG ADULTS MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON – **Thursday 3rd October**
Archbishop John Sherrington invites young people aged 18-35 to celebrate Mass with him on Saturday 3 October, 5pm at St Philip Neri Church, Liverpool L8 7NL.. The meal following Mass is now fully booked, but all are still very welcome to the Mass. For enquiries, please contact Moses at **m.mui@rcaol.org.uk**

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR— will be said **each Thursday** at St Mary's, starting **Thursday 8th October** until the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. **7.10pm** Rosary for vocations, **7.30pm** Novena and Benediction.

REMEMBERING FATHER RON McGIVERN: Please remember in your prayers our former parish priest of St Patricks, whose 9th anniversary was on 18th September. May he rest in peace and rise in glory

ST FRANCIS CELEBRATING 800 YEARS – **Sunday 4 October, 6pm** The Pilkington Choir will be performing a special concert, followed by tea and coffee and a raffle, to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. The event will be held at **St Francis of Assisi, Garston**, L19 1RT, and all are welcome to attend. Tickets cost £5 and can be bought from Fr David Potter, or from Anne (01744 732504), or bought with cash at the door.

Important dates for your diary...	
Sat/Sun 19th/20th Sept	**Solemn Exposition St Patrick's**
Friday 2nd October	**St William's Parish Barn Dance**—Wigan Cricket Club 7pm,
Sunday 4th October 2pm	**CMS Rosary Sunday Celebrations** at St Cuthberts. All welcome!
Wed 7th Oct 7pm	Parish Bereavement Support Group**—Lappin Room**
Thursday 8th Oct	**Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour begins**
Saturday 10th October	**Adoremus Liverpool at the Met Cathedral**
Wednesday 11 Nov, 18 Nov, 25 Nov, 2 Dec 7-7.45pm	Franciscan Prayer Services, **St John's Church**
Monday 16th Nov	**Tropic Skincare Social Evening**—Campbell Room, St John's
Friday 11th December	**St William's Parish Christmas Party—**Whelley Ex Servicemen's Club