Sunday 27th September 2026

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

MISSAL: pg. p. 782-785

St William Parish, Wigan

The Churches of St Mary, St John and St Patrick

www.stwilliamparishwigan.org

Parish Priest: **Fr Paul Grady** *Assistant Priests:* **Fr John Causey, Fr Thomas Clarke**
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A Parish that Shares

There is something very down-to-earth about the Gospel this Sunday. A father asks his two sons to go and work in the vineyard. One says no, but then thinks better of it and goes. The other says yes, but never actually gets round to doing what he promised. Jesus is reminding us that faith is not simply about what we say. It is about what we do.

That feels particularly appropriate as we consider Harvest in our parish and look to our CAFOD Family Fast Day this Friday. We know something about the importance of looking after one another. In our communities, people have always understood that when a neighbour is struggling, you do what you can. You take round a meal, put something in the food bank collection, check in on someone who lives alone, or simply stop for a chat and ask, "Are you alright?" Often, we don't make a great fuss about these things. We just get on with them. And there is something very Gospel-like about that.

Harvest is another expression of that same spirit. We give thanks for the food on our tables, for those who grow and produce it, and for the blessings we so easily take for granted. But we also remember that not everyone has enough to eat or reliable access to clean water.

CAFOD helps us to put a human face on that reality. This Harvest, we hear the story of Tayla, a twelve-year -old girl in Zimbabwe. She was finding it difficult to concentrate at school because she was often hungry and had to walk long distances to collect water. Through the work of CAFOD's local partners, a solar-powered water system has been provided for her community. There is now clean water available, and the school can grow vegetables to provide nutritious food for the children.

It is a simple but powerful reminder of what our generosity can help to achieve. Something as ordinary as access to water can change a child's day, her health, her education and her hopes for the future.

And that is why our support for CAFOD matters. It reminds us that the family of God stretches far beyond our own parish and Wigan. The child we will never meet, living thousands of miles away, is still our sister or brother in Christ.

It can be tempting to think that what we give is only a small thing in the face of such enormous need. But perhaps that is where the Gospel challenges us. God doesn't ask us to solve every problem. He asks us to respond faithfully to the opportunities placed before us. A tin of food. A donation to CAFOD. A prayer. A kind word. An invitation to someone who might otherwise be on their own.

These may seem like small things. But parish life should be built on small acts of generosity, repeated week after week, year after year. They are the quiet ways in which God's love takes root among us.

Perhaps the real harvest God is looking for is not simply what we gather into our churches and homes, but what grows among us: generous hearts, caring neighbours and a parish community where nobody is forgotten.

LIVERPOOL RC ARCHDIOCESAN TRUSTEES INC. REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1199714

Sat 26 Sun 27 Sep	**THE 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** Holy Mass **(Sunday Vigil) St Mary's 5.00pm** - *Beatrice Mary Taylor (A)* Holy Mass **St Mary's 9.00am— *Brian Cunniff*** *(A)* Holy Mass **St Patrick's Church 9.15am—** *Betty Whyte* *Followed by coffee morning in the Lappin Room* Holy Mass **St John's 11.00am—** *Brian Rignall (A)* Holy Mass **St John's 4.30pm—***Parishioners* Parish Zoom Rosary 6.30pm
Mon 28	**Week 26 of Ordinary Time** Holy Mass **St John's 10.00am—** *Mary Kitty Augustine* Eucharistic Adoration **St John's 7.00pm** ending with Night Prayer at **7.45pm**
Tue 29	**St Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels (Feast)** Holy Mass **St John's 10.00am** —*John Siney (LD)* Holy Rosary **St Patrick's 7.00pm** Holy Mass **St Patrick's 7.30pm—** *Will Nelson & Kayleigh Smith*
Wed 30	**St Jerome, Priest, Doctor** Holy Mass **St Mary's 12noon—** *John Coffey (A)* Followed by Rosary Eucharistic Adorations and Benediction **St Patrick's 6.15pm** Holy Mass **St Patrick's 7.30pm—** *Margaret Moreton* Visio Divina Week 3 **St John's 7.00pm**
Thur 1 Oct	**St Thérèse of the Child Jesus (Lisieux)** Holy Mass **St Patrick's 9.30am—** *Louisa Hill Year 6 attending* Cleaning at **St Patrick's 6.30pm**
Fri 2	**The Holy Guardian Angels** **CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY** Stay and Pray **St Patrick's School 9.05am**—Year 4 in the junior hall Holy Mass **St John's 10.00am—** *Ray Burnham* Holy **Mass St Patrick's** 7.30pm— *James Sinclair* Parish Barn Dance **Wigan Cricket Club Doors open 7.00pm**
Sat 3	**Week 25 of Ordinary Time** Holy Mass **St Mary's 10.00am**— *Kathleeen Moss (LD)* *Followed by adoration and confessions until 11.30am* Holy Rosary **St John's 10.00am** - *followed by church cleaning* Holy Mass **(Sunday Vigil) St Mary's 5.00pm** - *Fr Mark Ackers (A)*
Sun 4	**THE 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY COLLECTIONS** Holy Mass **St Mary's 9.00am—** *Andrew and Marie White (A)* Holy Mass **St Patrick's Church 9.15am—** *Julia Gavaghan* Holy Mass **St John's 11.00am—** *Fr Joe Kendal* CMS Rosary Sunday **St Cuthberts 2pm** Holy Mass **St John's 4.30pm—***Parishioners* Parish Zoom Rosary 6.30pm *(A) - Anniversary* *(LD) - Lately Dead* *(B) - Birthday remembrance*

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

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: John Siney, Mary Elizabeth Chambers ***May they rest in peace.***

ANNIVERSARIES: Brian Rignall, Beatrice Mary Taylor, Brian O'Shea, Mary Anne Gleeson, Agnes Curran, Eveline Egan, Mary Cagney, John Clossick, Ann Farrell, Agnes Bibby, John McCormick, Louisa Hill, Margaret Brady, Teresa Egan

MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED: Ray Burnham, John Siney (Southport—LD), Sr Genevieve (A), Mary Joseph (A), Fr Joe Kendal, Jack Welding, The McCormick Family, Patrick & Sean O'Donnell

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS BURN THIS WEEK FOR:

St Mary's: Kathleen Moss
St Patrick's: Abraham & Annamma
St John's: Fr Joe Kendal

VISIO DIVINA – PRAYING WITH SACRED ART:

Wednesday 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.

PARISH BARN DANCE: SOLD OUT! We are still taking donations for raffle prizes, please contact one of the people listed below to arrange drop off. **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. **On the night—doors open 7.00pm, the band will start at 7.30pm**

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL: Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. *Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/ envelope or call 0303 303 3030.*

MARY'S MEALS:

FILM SCREENING: The Wigan Family of Parishes is supporting the **Kachila Community through Mary's Meals** this year, and we invite you to come along to a **special screening** of **Lettie 2026** – the story of a young lady who was supported by Mary's Meals as a girl. This inspiring short film will help us understand the incredible difference Mary's Meals makes by providing school meals to children in some of the world's poorest communities. There will be two screenings: **Tuesday 13th October – St Aidan's Club, Winstanley** and **Thursday 15th October – Campbell Room, St John's, Wigan.** For both screenings it is **7.00pm arrival and 7.30pm start—Tea/Coffee & Biscuits provided—ALL WELCOME.**

THE WIGAN FAMILY OF PARISHES CALENDAR 2027 is now available in all our churches. Produced by Andy Connellan for the Season of Creation with pictures of the Wigan Flashes. Priced at £8, all proceeds are going our Mary's Meals feed a school project (Kachila Community) in Zambia which the Wigan family is supporting. Available to order at the back of church from this week

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

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.

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

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.

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.

HOLY HOUR AT SACRED HEART WIGAN: Holy hour: 2pm Monday 5th October at Sacred Heart church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with October devotions concluding with Benediction. Refreshments afterwards.

ST PATRICK'S WEEKDAY MASS READERS: Please collect your latest Reading Rotas from the Sacristy as soon as possible.

ANNUAL ROSARY SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS: The Wigan and District Catholic Men's Society warmly invites everyone to this year's Rosary Sunday Celebrations, taking place at St Cuthbert's Church, Pemberton, on Sunday 4th October at 2pm. Everyone is warmly welcome to join us in prayer and devotion to Our Lady.

HOLY ROSARY DURING OCTOBER: We will pray the Holy Rosary on Mondays, at 12:30pm, during the month of October at **St Patrick's**. There will also be an opportunity for an evening Rosary at 7pm on Tuesdays

PRAYER PETITIONS TO OUR LADY OF KNOCK: Can now be submitted in the box at the back of St Patrick's Church or through any of the presbytery letterboxes. Please do not put any money in the envelopes. The deadline to submit is Sunday 25th October.

Important dates for your diary...	
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