

Parish Newsletter

**THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, HAIGH, ASPULL & BLACKROD
WITH THE PARISH OF HOLY FAMILY, NEW SPRINGS**

S.R.C.D.T. REG. CHARITY No. 250037

November 14th/15th 2020

Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year (A)



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Masses :
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - Our Lady's
Sunday 9.30am - Our Lady's
Sunday 11.15am - Holy Family



COVID-19: CHURCH GUIDANCE

From the Bishops' Conference for England and Wales.

The government has announced a four-week national lockdown for England from **Thursday, 5 November**. As it stands, churches will only be permitted to allow people to enter for private individual prayer and funerals. This will last for a period of four weeks until **Wednesday, 2 December**.

You can read a [statement issued by the President and Vice-President of the Bishops' Conference](#) in response to the lockdown by clicking on this link.

Response to the Psalm: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, Alleluia!
Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life.
Alleluia!

SERVICES ONLINE

A number of parishes are streaming masses on line both daily and on Sundays.

One of the nearest to our parish at the moment, in our Diocese, is St Vincent's, Over Hulton. Online Live streaming of mass can be accessed via their website: <http://stvincentsbolton.org/>

Other local churches providing online Live Streaming of masses include:

St Cuthbert's, Bolton www.stcuthberts.org.uk

St Gregory's, Chorley www.stgregoryschorley.org.uk

Further options can be found here: <https://www.churchservices.tv/>

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.

Amen.

(based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori)

CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

Nov 16th - Saint Edmund of Abingdon: Edmund was born in 1175. He became archbishop of Canterbury in 1233. He had frequent disputes with the king and it was while on his way to ask for the Pope's support that he died in exile in France in 1240.

Nov 17th - Saint Elizabeth of Hungary: born in 1207, daughter of the King of Hungary, she was married at the age of 14; after the death of her husband she embraced poverty, caring for the sick in a hospital she herself had built. She died in 1231.

Nov 17th - Saint Hilda: born in 614, outstanding early leader of the Church, she was Abbess of Whitby, which became a great centre of learning. She hosted the famous

Synod in 664 - she loyally accepted the Synod's decision and followed Roman traditions thereafter. She died in 680.

Nov 17th - Saint Hugh of Lincoln: born in France in 1140 and a Carthusian; became bishop of Lincoln in 1185, and was devoted to the pastoral care of his flock - he even helped build the Cathedral with his own hands. He was a supporter of the oppressed, especially the Jewish community, for whom he risked his life. He was declared a saint in 1220.

Nov 21st - Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary: this day saw the dedication in 543 of the Church of Our Lady near to the Temple in Jerusalem: together with Christians of the East we celebrate that dedication of herself which Mary made to God from her very childhood.

PARISH NOTICES

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEKEND

Thoughts for the 33rd Sunday of the Year.

For several years after my Ordination as a priest I felt a bit of a fraud. I had celebrated many funerals and truly believed in the Christian message I preached, year in year out. But I had yet both to be with someone when they died and to lose someone very close to me. Until both these happened I was unable, really, to say with true conviction, "I know how you feel."

We are coming to the end of the Church's Liturgical Year; soon we will be celebrating the Feast of Christ The King on November 22nd and then the First Sunday of Advent on the 29th, when we are reminded of Christ's promise to come again in Glory to judge the living and the departed as we express in the Creed. As indeed last week we remembered the dead of the two World Wars of the twentieth century and subsequent conflicts, giving thanks for such self-sacrifice and renewing our own commitment to justice and peace in our troubled world today.

Perhaps the most challenging funerals I celebrated were for my parents, when I not only presided at the Mass, accompanied by several fellow priests, but spoke about my mum and dad, aware that it was not exclusively to be about my relationship to them. I still remember walking round and round the grounds of Haigh Hall to try to get things right in my head, preparing the words

for Mum's funeral and then, all too soon, for my Dad's.

Even today I often question, do I really believe what I am saying at a funeral and so often also at the committal at the crematorium or the graveside. Do I really believe?

Our belief in eternal life and, indeed, in all that we believe as Christians, needs to be nourished by prayer, Scripture, reflection, Mass and the Church's tradition. Otherwise we could so easily be side-tracked to an almost pagan or pre-Christian misunderstanding of it all, settling for perhaps childish expressions that we will all too soon outgrow. As a celebrated writer once said, "Once people stop believing in God, they start believing in anything."

The death and resurrection of Jesus is our hope here and in the hereafter for our departed loved ones and for ourselves.

Fr. Kevin

MASS INTENTIONS

Received this week:

- Michael Purtill Junior
- Lisa Cozens (nee Fairhurst)
- John and Evelyn Orrell
- Brian Wimsey
- The November Dead List
- John Edward Livesey

LATELY DEAD

Bob Westmorland, Lisa Cozens (nee Fairhurst) and Gerald Horan. R.I.P.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for the sick, especially those in hospital with Covid-19, and we also remember Tony Webber, Ken Thomas, Kevin Croston and Maureen Duckworth.

ANNIVERSARIES

Agatha Brown, John Edward Livesey, Michael Purtill Junior, Pauline Moore, Jack Wellings, Bill Dickinson, Rita Hanley, John and Evelyn Orrell and priests of the Diocese Jim Dwyer, George Hamer, Josh Sheeky and Joseph Hope.

PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY

To the families of :

- Bob Westmorland. His funeral will take place in Our Lady's, 2.00pm on Wednesday 18th November and 3.00pm at Wigan Crematorium.
- Lisa Cozens (nee Fairhurst) in Holy Family Thursday 19th at 1.00pm followed by burial in Gidlow Cemetery at 2.00pm.
- Gerald Horan of Whelley, funeral Tuesday 24th November in Holy Family followed by burial in Gidlow Cemetery.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

These will take place as soon as we are allowed.

THANKS

Once again to our team of gardeners who were hard at work again this week at Our Lady's.

GRATEFUL THANKS

For all those who support the Gift Aid schemes in our parish and thanks to those who organise. The claim for 2019-20 net for Holy Family £2717 and for Our Lady's £7814.

CENTENARY BIRTHDAY MEMORIES 1920 - 2020

John and Evelyn Orrell were born in November 1920 and will be remembered in Mass this weekend and by their family. They lived in Whelley and were parishioners of Holy Family from 1964 to 1993 when John died. Evelyn died in 1986. May they Rest In Peace and Rise In Glory.

OUR LADY'S CHURCH COLLECTION ENVELOPES

Will still be available for collection from Our Lady's Presbytery.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

If you know anyone who would like a copy emailing to them then let Fr Kevin or Kevin Riley have their email address.

LIVE STREAM SERVICES THIS WEEK

During this period when we are unable to attend Mass in our parishes, this weekend's live stream masses at St Vincent's are:

Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm

Sunday - 10.00am

Weekday live stream masses - Wednesday and Friday - 9.30am to 10.00am.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In these times when many of us cannot attend Mass, we can still receive the sacrament through Spiritual Communion, especially while following a Mass on-line.

SVP MESSAGE

Our Lady's SVP Conference, like many other Conferences, is twinned with two SVP Conferences in parishes in more challenging areas of the world for Catholics. One is St Mary's in Kerala, India, our other is St Augustine's in Sudan.

As part of our twinning commitment we send £75 each quarter for this important work from your generous donations here at Our Lady's. Unfortunately, we have not been able to do this since lockdown as our two main means of generating income have not been possible: the sale of hanging baskets and of poinsettias. If anyone would like to donate to support the Twinnage programme, then contact Margaret Riley or leave a cheque, in an envelope, with Fr Kevin made out to Our Lady's SVP.

National SVP has uploaded five short videos to YouTube about the work of Twinnage in India. These can be viewed by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIfuYMc21hi4CsScjddxFrcv7LKldq86>

(If you only have time to watch one of these videos, can I suggest you watch the one on 'Adopted Families' – I'm sure you will find it uplifting.)

Every good wish and blessing.

Fr Kevin