

Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Winifred

Saint Winifred's Church, Mauldeth Road, Heaton Mersey, SK4 3NB (0161) 432 4412; **Website:** www.stwinifreds.org.uk; **Email:** stwinifredstockport@gmail.com **Facebook:** @St Winifred's RC Church; **Parish Priest:** Fr Mark Paver; **Parish Office:** Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm (Mary Ward)



First Sunday of Advent – 30th November 2025 **This Week's Schedule**

Sunday 30th November	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	1 st Sunday of Advent
Monday 1st December		No Mass Today	Advent Weekday
Tuesday 2nd December	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Advent Weekday
Wednesday 3rd December	9.30am	Requiem Mass for Mary Keaveney	St Francis Xavier
Thursday 4th December	9.30am	Requiem Mass for Neville Stanton	Advent Weekday / St John Damascene
Friday 5th December	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Advent Weekday
Saturday 6th December	9.30am – 10.30am 11.00am – 11.45am 12 noon	Adoration Confessions Holy Mass	Advent Weekday / St Nicholas
Sunday 7th December	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	2 nd Sunday of Advent

Readings this Week: Advent opens with a great promise: “In the days to come...” the hope of a people who need God. “...The master is coming” is also a promise, not a threat to breed fear, but to answer our cry. So, Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past, with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that He is coming back. We are encouraged to stay awake and treat every day as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with mercy. Nevertheless, we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this prayer or that confession or the other change in the way we live to tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord's coming, we must remember that it might be today! (*Source: Salford Liturgy*).

Encouragement for Married Couples: The Bishops of England and Wales invite us to share “Something precious and practical: the Word of God applied to the life of marriage”. Beginning this week we will share very brief reflections on the weekly Scripture sourced from *The Two in One Flesh Group*: **1st Sunday of Advent, Year A:** God's Word is clear – we can only be certain of each current moment in our day-to-day lives. To live as couples in the ‘present moment’ more often, we need to apply ourselves to today's call from Jesus to “stay awake”. Also St Paul tells us, “the time has come: you must wake up now”, because now is all we have. (*Source: www.marriagecare.org.uk*)

Mass Intentions Received:

Latently Dead: Mary Keaveney, Neville Stanton, Judy Miller & John Coyne.

Anniversaries: Theresa Palmer, Austin Waldron & John Morton.

Parish News and Events:

Changes to schedule this week: We will celebrate Requiem Masses for Mary Keaveney at 9.30am on Wednesday and Neville Stanton at 9.30am on Thursday. Please join us in support of the families. There will be no adoration taking place before Mass on those days.

Congratulations to Beau Walton who was received into the Catholic Church, was Confirmed and received Holy Communion for the first time as a member of the Catholic Church during our Mass on Saturday. Ordinarily adults are received into the Church or Baptised at Easter but for various reasons it wasn't possible for Beau to be received then. It was good to be able to celebrate the Sacraments for Beau this weekend with his family present and we now look forward to accompanying him on his journey of faith.

Parish Christmas Fair: This year's Christmas Fair will take place next **Saturday, 6th December at St. Winifred's School (1pm – 4pm)**. Any tombola donations of bottles / chocolates would be happily received (collection box in the porch). We would be grateful for any donations of **delicious home baking**, if anyone is able to help! And if anyone needs raffle tickets, there are still some available. Many thanks for your support.

Christmas Dates for the Diary: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols **Sunday 14th December, 6.30pm** in church; Ecumenical Christmas Carols in Heaton Moor Village: **Saturday December 20th, 1pm to 2pm** outside the Moor Top Pub – All welcome to help bring the light and joy of Christmas to the Moor.

Safe Recruitment for Volunteers: Diocesan and National Safeguarding Policy requires us to follow certain procedures when recruiting volunteers. For some roles a volunteer must obtain a DBS certificate. For others, while a DBS certificate is not necessary, we are required to obtain and keep on file certain documentation. This includes a basic application form, copies of 3 forms of identification and 2 references. We must obtain this documentation for every current volunteer as well as new volunteers. The volunteers affected include: readers, stewards/welcomers, cleaners, gardeners/grounds helpers, and eucharistic ministers within church. After the Masses today we will be handing out packs for volunteers to take away and complete. ***The pack comes with clear instructions!*** On December 14th our safeguarding reps will be available from 10am to 1pm in the Committee Room of the Kavanagh Centre to receive completed packs and check ID. **If you already have a DBS certificate because of a parish role you do not need to complete this process as your documentation has already been provided.**

Christmas Mass Times: Our Christmas Mass times will be as follows:

Wednesday 24th December: First Mass of Christmas, 5pm; Carols, 7.30pm; Mass during the Night, 8pm

Thursday 25th December: Christmas Morning Masses, 9am and 11am

Lessons and Carols: Our church singing group for our lessons and carols service on Sunday 14th December made a good start on Wednesday last week. It's not too late so if you would like to join and be part of the group. We have two more rehearsals on Thursday December 4th and Thursday December 11th both at 7pm.

Foodbank: We will be collecting for the Foodbank for the next three weeks in the run up to Christmas. As you may know there is always a surge in demand on foodbanks during school holidays when children don't have access to a hot meal during the day on which many families rely. The most urgent items are longlife milk, fruit juice, sponge puddings, tins of meat (e.g. ham, corned beef), chickpeas, coconut milk, packets of biscuits, shampoo and nappies sizes 7&8. No cereals or pasta, please. Your donations are always much appreciated.

Wellspring: Today is the last day of our Rucksack Project and Wellspring collections. Many thanks for your rapid response to the plea for milk - a couple of gallons were delivered together with the clothing so far. Thank you for all your contributions towards helping people who are without a place to call home.

The Cafod World Gifts leaflets have arrived and are available at the back of church! World Gifts are a range of life-changing virtual gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families and communities living in poverty. Please take a leaflet home and look through it. You may be surprised by what you can buy and gift to others!

Walk with Me & My Day by Day Advent Booklets are available in the church porch for free!

50:50 Draw Winners for November: 1) Bernadette O'Connell 2) Dorothy Billington 3) Andrew Camilleri 4) Paula Newton 5) Stella Hewitt

Other News and Events of Interest:

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: Our diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage group invites you to a special Mass in preparation for the feast of the Immaculate Conception at 3pm on Sunday 7 December at St Patrick's, Collyhurst. Following Mass, information will be shared by the Salford Lourdes Pilgrimage group on plans for the 2026 pilgrimage.

Caritas Salford Advent Appeal: Our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, has released its 2025 Advent appeal to shine the spotlight on the true meaning of Christmas. To watch their latest animation and to find out more about how to help local people who are facing acute crisis this Christmas, please visit: <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/campaign/bee-there-2025/>

Taizé Service: You are welcome to join the candlelit Taizé Service on Tuesday, 2 December at 7.00pm at the Church of St Nicholas, Kingsway, Burnage, Manchester, M19 1PL. Scripture, Prayer, Meditation with chants from Taizé.

Laudato Si' Centre Volunteer Call-out: Retired Educators - The Diocese of Salford's Environment Team is inviting retired education staff to volunteer at the Laudato Si' Centre to assist with their successful programme of school visits. To find out more, please email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.

December Carol Services: Diocese of Salford Schools' Singing Programme: The Diocese of Salford Schools' Singing Programme will be hosting a series of free carol services in churches across the diocese this December. Find your nearest service at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/>