

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)



Second Sunday of Advent – 7th December 2025

This Week's Schedule

Sunday 7th December	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday 8th December		No Mass Today	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S)
Tuesday 9th December	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Advent Weekday or St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (OM)
Wednesday 10th December	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Advent Weekday or Our Lady of Loreto (OM)
Thursday 11th December	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Advent Weekday or St Damasus I, Pope (OM)
Friday 12th December	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Advent Weekday or Our Lady of Guadalupe (OM)
Saturday 13th December	9.30am – 10.30am 11.00am – 11.45am 12 noon	Adoration Confessions Holy Mass	St Lucy (M)
Sunday 14th December	9.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Service of Lessons and Carols	3rd Sunday of Advent

Readings this Week: Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to Christmas (that only comes in the last week). If we view Advent as a Season preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. (Source: *Salford Liturgy*).

Marriage Matters: Advent – a new beginning for us? Today, Isaiah talks about trust and Matthew focuses on forgiveness. Advent is the opportunity to discover new ways to help our partner to trust us and to share themselves. Our prayer can be that we drop our defences, become more vulnerable and have the courage to open ourselves to be able to really listen, to share and to change. (Source: www.marriagecare.org.uk).

Mass Intentions Received:

Latently Dead: Pat Mohan, Phillip McDermott & Eamonn Connolly.

Anniversaries: Priscilla Hefferan, John Humble & Mitsy Cawthorn.

Other: John Heenan (RIP, Birthday), Margaret Clavin (RIP, Birthday), Chris Reilly (101st Birthday) & Denis Reynolds (RIP, Birthday).

Parish News and Events:

Congratulations: To Gabriel Cope who was Baptised yesterday. Congratulations also to Mum and Dad, Michael and Siobhan.

Bambinelli Blessing Next Sunday: St John Paul II instituted the tradition of blessing of the baby Jesus from our cribs on the third Sunday of Advent (*Gaudete Sunday*) during the Angelus in St Peter's Square. Many parish churches have adopted the tradition. After the blessing children are encouraged to take the figure home, wrap it, open it on Christmas morning and place it in the crib. The true gift we receive at Christmas. Next Sunday all are invited to bring along the baby Jesus figure from their crib at home and we will bless it during Mass.

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols: Next Sunday 14th December, 6.30pm in church followed by refreshments in the Kavanagh Centre. **The draw for the Christmas Raffle** will take place after the Lessons and Carols service in the Kavanagh Centre (***please make sure all ticket stubs are returned to be included in the draw!***).

Ecumenical Christmas Carols: in Heaton Moor Village: **Saturday December 20th, 1pm to 2pm** outside the Moor Top Pub – Last year St Winifred's parishioners made up the bulk of this ecumenical endeavour on a rainy afternoon. There is hope we will do so again (although in better weather)! Please come and join in the singing of carols and help bring the light and joy of Christmas to the Moor.

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

Safe Recruitment for Volunteers: If you are a reader, steward/welcomer, cleaner, gardener/grounds helper or eucharistic minister within church please pick up a volunteer documentation pack from one of the welcomers in the porch area. **The pack comes with clear instructions!** Next Sunday, 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.**

Foodbank: We will be collecting for the Foodbank for the next two 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 long life 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.

The Cafod World Gifts leaflets have arrived and are available at the back of church! 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 also available in the church porch for free!

A Message from Cafod: Thank you for supporting CAFOD's Family Fast Day! Thank you so much for your generous contributions of **£1,275** to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal. Your donations in our parish collection and online are helping families like Waré's in Ethiopia. CAFOD's local partners worked with Waré's community to build an underground water tank that now provides safe water for 300 families. Your support this Harvest will help more communities have better access to safe water. You can read more about Ware's story here: cafod.org.uk/harvest

Our School:

Gifts for Caritas – Our School are collecting gifts for Christmas for children who may otherwise go without. They will be distributed by our Diocesan Charity, Caritas. Fr Mark will celebrate Mass in school with the children on Thursday 11th December to mark the giving of the gifts. If parishioners would like to donate **a new toy or cash donation** (cash donations will be used to create grocery hampers and supply pre-paid electricity cards) as part of this appeal, the school would appreciate this help. If you wish to donate, please drop off your gift at the school by Thursday 11th December in the morning.

Other News and Events of Interest:

Diocesan Synod: As Advent ushers in a new liturgical year, the Diocesan Synod Implementation Group offers a brief update on our progress since the March 2025 Synod Voting Day, where 40 recommendations were prioritized under Leadership & Collaboration, Spirituality & Formation, Young People & Schools, and Community & Outreach—supported by Inclusion and clergy-engagement sub-groups. Our emerging vision for a synodal Church in Salford centres on six themes: **prayer, listening, and renewal** as the heart of Eucharistic life; **welcoming, inclusive, and accessible** communities celebrating diversity; **participation and representation** through diverse leadership and formation; **young people and families** fully engaged in faith and service; **collaboration and resources** shared among all; and **outreach, dialogue, and healing** with compassion for survivors and interfaith ties. The Group will advance strategies in 2026 to realise this Holy Spirit-guided path. Handout with more details available in the porch.

Relics of St Carlo Acutis to Visit Diocese of Salford: In January, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two of our churches over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration. St Carlo is the first millennial saint and is celebrated for his profound faith and his use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukemia at the age of 15. The relics will be presented at St Mary's Church, Burnley from 28-29 January 2026 before they travel to St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from 30 January to 1 February 2026. More information will be shared soon with parishes and on the Diocesan website and social media channels.

Loreto College Student Sleep-Out to Raise Money for Cornerstone: Students at Loreto College are holding an annual sleepout for Cornerstone on 12th December. There are forty students and four staff sleeping out on college grounds to raise money and awareness for the homeless. We also have thirty students on a waiting list as so many are keen to take part. We managed to raise over £2,100 last year and would like to match or beat that total this year. If any parishioners felt able to donate, they can do so at the Just Giving page using the link or QR code below. Any words of encouragement would also be much appreciated! Thank you for your support.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/dervla-mcginin-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL