

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)



Third Sunday of Advent – 14th December 2025 **This Week's Schedule**

Sunday 14th December	9.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Service of Lessons & Carols	3rd Sunday of Advent "Gaudete Sunday"
Monday 15th December		No Mass Today	Advent Weekday
Tuesday 16th December	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Advent Weekday
Wednesday 17th December	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Advent Weekday
Thursday 18th December	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Advent Weekday
Friday 19th December	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Advent Weekday
Saturday 20th December	9.30am – 10.30am 11.00am – 11.45am 12 noon	Adoration Confessions Holy Mass	Advent Weekday
Sunday 21st December	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	4th Sunday of Advent

Readings this Week: In many ways the readings this Sunday are simply a continuation of last week – Isaiah gives us more details about the work of the Messiah, and Paul invites us to continue to be patient until the Lord's Coming. What is slightly different is the voice of John the Baptist this week: last week in Matthew 3 he was proclaiming with utter confidence that "someone is coming". Now, in Matthew 11, he asks Jesus from prison: "Is it you?" For us, as we listen to these scriptures, we are being offered something very particular – the prophecies of Isaiah (and indeed the prophet John the Baptist) are pinned down firmly and securely in the person of Jesus, Son of Mary – in fact, Jesus himself, in his reply to John says as much: "I am the Messiah that Isaiah prophesied." Again, we are invited to hold the images of the prophecies in our minds until Christmas, when we can look on the child in the manger and say, "We know who this is: it is the promised Messiah – God who comes to save us!" (*Source: Salford Liturgy*).

Mass Intentions Received:

Lately Dead: Robert Lyons, Mariamma Jaiswal, Donald McKendry, Anna Maria Twigg & Anna Short.

Anniversaries: Matt Stenson, Sheila Cassidy, William Morton & Elfriede Pagowska.

Other: Deceased members of the Stenson family (Special Intention) & Bernadette McKendry (RIP, Birthday).

Christmas Masses: Bill & Mary Brett & Family, Pat & Ann Brett, Mary & James Mohan.

Parish News and Events:

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place this evening at **6.30pm** in church followed by refreshments in the Kavanagh Centre. Our church singers have been working hard to prepare and our readers are ready. Our 49 child strong school choir have also been working hard with their music teacher. This is a whole parish effort so please come along to take part, sing and share the anticipation of the Advent Season. There will be a social gathering with refreshments in the Kavanagh Centre after the service where the draw for the Christmas Raffle will take place (**please make sure all ticket stubs are returned by 6.00pm today to be included in the draw!**).

Bambinelli Blessing today: St John Paul II instituted the tradition of the 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. Please place your baby Jesus figure on the table or on the steps in front of the altar where they will be blessed at the end of Mass today.

Congratulations: To Scarlett & Billy Cope who will both be Baptised later today. Congratulations also to Mum and Dad, Nicole & Sam. We pray this is a time of grace for all the family as Scarlett and Billy are adopted as God's children and their journey to Eternal Life with him begins here.

Ecumenical Christmas Carols: in Heaton Moor Village: **Next 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: Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are available **today** in the Committee Room of the Kavanagh Centre from 10am until 1pm to check and photocopy ID and collect your volunteer packs. If you are a reader, steward/welcomer, cleaner, gardener/grounds helper or eucharistic minister within church you will need to complete one. **The pack comes with clear instructions! 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.** Thank you all for your generous voluntary efforts and your cooperation with this process to help keep our parish a safe environment for all.

Foodbank: We will be collecting for the Foodbank 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.

Bible Alive: A parishioner has arranged for a number of promotional copies of the January/February edition of Bible Alive for distribution to our parishioners. Bible Alive is published every two months and provides reflections on the daily and Sunday Mass readings as well as inspiring faith based articles. It is a very helpful companion for anyone seeking to deepen their appreciation of the Word of God offered to us during Mass. Please feel free to take a copy from the back of church for yourself and anyone you know who might be interested. If you then wish to subscribe the annual rate is £34.99 (obviously there is no obligation!)

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!

Christmas Social Dance: For Christmas, the "Social Dance" will be held on **Wednesday 17th December** in the Kavanagh Centre, 1pm – 4pm. Entry cost £5 per person, please contact Mary Manock (organiser) on 07704 609349 for further information.

Other News and Events of Interest:

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. 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 leukaemia 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.

Diocesan Synod: The Diocesan Synod Implementation Group has offered 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. Please see the short two page summary of progress available to take away from the back of church.

Advice as energy bills continue to rise: Caritas Salford has put together some helpful advice on their website for anyone in need of support with rising energy bills. Their energy advice service team can support with free sessions and drop-ins in your area. You can find out more by visiting www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport.

Safeguarding Survey - Public Call for Information: The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) are completing a safeguarding inspection within the Diocese of Salford and would like to hear the views of as many people as possible regarding their arrangements for safeguarding. Responses will be collected anonymously unless you choose to provide your contact information, and the survey will close at 11:45pm on Friday 16th January 2026. Please click (or copy) the link below to contribute:

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=SSQzRY2fToOpJmB_Xy63KOz8_ROsBGpBouU_JrRd1dURVhRQVg5ToU2WlFIToMzTTNaVEc1V1g5SC4u&route=shorturl