

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)



Fourth Sunday of Advent – 21st December 2025 **This Week's Schedule**

Sunday 21st December	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	4th Sunday of Advent
Monday 22nd December		No Mass Today	Advent Weekday
Tuesday 23rd December	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am 1.20pm 7pm	Adoration Holy Mass Funeral Service for Mariamma Jaiswal Confessions	Advent Weekday
Wednesday 24th December	9.30am	Holy Mass	Advent Weekday
<u>Christmas Masses</u> Wednesday 24th December: 5pm, First Mass of Christmas Wednesday 24th December: 7.30pm, Carols Wednesday 24th December: 8pm, Christmas Mass of the Night Thursday 25th December: 9am, Christmas Mass Thursday 25th December: 11am, Christmas Mass			
Friday 26th December	12 noon	Holy Mass	St Stephen
Saturday 27th December	11.00am – 11.45am 12 noon	Confessions Holy Mass	St John the Evangelist
Sunday 28th December	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Readings this Week: Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that line. The link between the First Reading and the Gospel is quite explicit today, since Matthew actually quotes Isaiah. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God's relationship with the Chosen people. There is great sense of a timeless mystery reaching its focal point, as that which was "promised long ago" (Second Reading) now takes flesh in the womb of Mary. (*Source: Salford Liturgy*).

Marriage Matters: Taking courage from love: The Gospel relates how Joseph overcame his serious doubts about Mary – and married her! She too had faced her own fears about the future – and said "Yes!" We too can have doubts and lack confidence in the future, but like Mary and Joseph we can take courage from our love for each other and God's love for us too. (*Source: Marriage Care*)

Mass Intentions Received:

Lately Dead: Patricia Stafford, Mariamma Jaiswal, Robert Lyons, George Gethins, Margaret Hempenstall, Barney Moorhouse, Conway Wright & Tommy McManamon.

Anniversaries: Elizabeth Smith, Catherine Foley, Martina Foley, Charlie McGonagle, Bernadette McKendry & Jane McKendry.

Christmas Remembrances: James Jennings, Mary & Michael Mannion, Florence & Thomas Mannion, Sophia, William & Bill Johnson, Deceased members of the Mannion family, Deceased members of the Johnson & Callaghan family, Deceased members of the Holland family, Agnes Eboigbe, Vincent Agbonrofo, Catherine Agbonrofo, Fidelia Agbonrofo, Dawn Grimes, Mary & Bill Hall, Joe Hall, Mary Flannery, James McMonagle, John Heenan, Deceased members of the Byrne, Carley & Davies families.

Parish News and Events:

Changes to the Schedule this Week: Please note the Christmas Mass and service schedule carefully. There will be an ***extra opportunity for confession on Tuesday evening from 7pm***. This is not a Reconciliation Service but simply the availability of the Sacrament and confessions will continue for as long as there are people waiting. Please note there will be no adoration from 24th December during the Christmas season. Adoration will return to the usual schedule in January. Mass on Friday 26th December will be at 12 noon.

Funeral Service: We also celebrate the ***funeral service of Mariamma Jaiswal on Tuesday 23rd December at 1.20pm***. Mariamma is well known in our community and would often be at daily Mass until having to move out of the area to live with family for health reasons a couple of years ago. If you are able to come to pray for Mariamma and support her family please do.

50/50 Draw: The winners of the December Draw of the 50/50 Club were:

1) Lisa McGonagle 2) Eamonn O'Neill 3) Margaret Bradshaw 4) Clare Downing & 5) Pat McGonagle

Christmas Raffle Draw: Thank you for supporting this year's, Christmas Raffle. In total £3,285 was raised in ticket sales. The winners list is displayed on the noticeboard in the porch. The Christmas Fair raised £5,000.91. Thank you on behalf of the church and the school for your generosity.

Crib Offerings: For the last two years we have donated our crib offerings to the Friends of the Holy Land. They continue to need the support of parishes and we have received the following note: *The Friends of the Holy Land are appealing for support this Christmas by encouraging parishes to nominate the charity as the beneficiary of their crib offerings. Despite a fragile ceasefire, Christians in the Holy Land continue to face immense hardship, yet their hope in Christ endures. Friends of the Holy Land, one of the few charities operating directly with local Christian communities across the West Bank, Gaza, Israel, and Jordan, provides vital practical aid, including education, employment, healthcare, and community support. Testimonies like that of Sonia, a mother whose health was restored through the charity's help, illustrate the lifechanging impact of such solidarity. By contributing crib offerings, parishes can stand with these communities, helping to sustain hope and witness amid suffering.* Our crib offerings will continue to support their efforts amongst these devastated communities. Thank you for your generous support.

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 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.

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.

Bishop John's message for Caritas: Bee-ing there this Christmas

Demand for our diocesan charity Caritas Salford's services is greater than ever as more and more people in our diocese experience poverty, homelessness and discrimination. If you haven't seen their Bee There Advent appeal yet, which asks if you are able to help support people locally, you can read more at www.caritassalford.org.uk/BeeThere . Bishop John has recorded a special message to tell us more about why it's so important, especially at this time of year: www.caritassalford.org.uk/bishop-john-christmas-25/

Advice as energy bills continue to rise

If you or those in your wider parish community are in need of support with rising energy bills, Caritas Salford has put together some helpful advice on their website. 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