

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)



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph – 28th December 2025 This Week's Schedule

Sunday 28th December	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Monday 29th December		No Mass Today	St Thomas Becket (F)
Tuesday 30th December	9.30am	Holy Mass	Christmas Weekday
Wednesday 31st December	9.30am	Holy Mass	Christmas Weekday / St Sylvester I (OM)
Thursday 1st January 2026	12 noon	Holy Mass	Mary, Holy Mother of God (Solemnity)
Friday 2nd January	9.30am	Holy Mass	SS Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen (M)
Saturday 3rd January	11.00am – 11.45am 12 noon	Confessions Holy Mass	Christmas Weekday
Sunday 4th January	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	The Second Sunday of Christmas

Readings this Week: As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more “dramatic” events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today’s Gospel reminds us (especially in the shorter version), there were also the so-called “hidden years” - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. The family is a basic unit of our Christian society, despite coming under threat nowadays. Our celebration of this feast, and the Word of God we proclaim, announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. (*Source: Salford Liturgy*).

Marriage Matters: The readings today challenge us to listen sensitively to each other; to be prepared to let go of our own desires and to be deeply aware of each other’s thoughts and feelings as we make decisions together. For this we need to ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to the gifts of compassion and understanding, courage and hopefulness. (*Source: Marriage Care*)

Mass Intentions Received:

Latently Dead: Patricia Stafford, Mariamma Jaiswal, Adrienne Young & Robert Lyons.

Anniversaries: Bernadette McKendry, Eamonn Kelly, Aisling Mary Murray & Mary Murray.

Other: Bill Murray (RIP, Birthday).

Christmas Remembrances: Bill & Mary Brett & Family, Pat & Ann Brett, Mary & James Mohan, 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, Deceased members of the Murray, Mitchell & Sage families, Berny Shanahan, Mary Flannery, Deceased members of the Clavin & Maguire families, The Usher family, Neville Stanton, Ann & Charles Cooke, Tony Cooke, Margaret McGurk, Peter Cooke & The Cooke, Halpin & Stanton families.

Parish News and Events:

Changes to the Schedule this Week: Please note the New Years Day Mass will be at 12 noon. Adoration will return to the usual schedule on 6th January.

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 will remain in place until the Feast of the presentation of the Lord (February 2nd) and our offerings will continue to support the efforts of Friends of the Holy Land amongst the devastated communities there. Thank you for your generous support. Donations can also be made using the card reader.

Other News and Events of Interest:

Christmas Tree Recycling in aid of Francis House: Please register on the Francis House website to recycle your Christmas tree in January in aid of the charity.
[https://www.francishouse.org.uk/registration-is-now-open-for-christmas-tree-collections/e-Children's Hospice](https://www.francishouse.org.uk/registration-is-now-open-for-christmas-tree-collections/e-Children's-Hospice)

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. To submit your response, please follow the link here:
https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=SSQzRY2fToOpJmB_Xy63KOz8_ROsBGpBouU_JrRd1ldURVhRQVg5ToU2WlFIToMzTTNaVEciV1g5SC4u&route=shorturl.

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.

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/

Thank you

Christmas is a time that heightens our awareness of the blessings in our lives. So many people contribute in many ways to make our parish what it is: to make our church and grounds beautiful, our celebrations special and enrich the life of our community. I won't list them because I will inevitably and inadvertently miss someone. Thank you for all you do in service of the parish. Thank you too for all the many cards and gifts. I wish everyone a joyful and peaceful Christmastide and many blessings for the year ahead.

Fr Mark