

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 Second Sunday of Christmas – 4th January 2026 This Week's Schedule

Sunday 4th January	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	The Second Sunday of Christmas
Monday 5th January		No Mass Today	Christmas Weekday
Tuesday 6th January	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am 7.00pm	Adoration Holy Mass Holy Mass	The Epiphany of the Lord (S) Holy Day of Obligation
Wednesday 7th January	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Christmas Weekday / St Raymond of Penyafort (OM)
Thursday 8th January	9.30am	Requiem Mass for Robert (Bob) Lyons	Christmas Weekday
Friday 9th January	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Christmas Weekday
Saturday 10th January	9.30am – 10.30am 11.00am – 11.45am 12 noon	Adoration Confessions Holy Mass	Christmas Weekday
Sunday 11th January	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	The Baptism of the Lord

Readings this Week: Often we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on this Sunday and so it is not every year that we have the readings before us today. The Gospel takes us back to the Mass of the Day for Christmas and St John's great prologue in which he gives us a clue as to what he will unpack in the rest of his Gospel: the identity of Jesus, the Word (*logos*) who became flesh, who was with God in the beginning and who was God. Already in the Old Testament there were hints of this profound truth at the heart of the Christian faith. One example is in the presentation of Wisdom in the first reading. In his great opening to his letter to the Ephesians, St Paul's reflections (our Second Reading) make the plan that comes from God personal to us: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him." We begin this new year confident and secure that we were chosen before the foundation of the world to contribute to the fulfilment of God's plan.

Marriage Matters: He chose us "*to be holy and spotless and to live through love in his presence*". '*Holy and spotless*'....with all the messiness of our lives...clothes, toys, all over the floor, washing up in the sink? Yes. '*Holy!*'...'*through loving*'. So, whether cleaning up the mess or working to earn money, you are doing loving things. You are 'holier' than you think! (*Source: Marriage Care*)

Mass Intentions Received:

Lately Dead: Robert (Bob) Lyons, Patricia Stafford, John Connolly & Adrienne Young.

Anniversaries: Michael Fowley, Mary & Joseph Carley, Bernadette McKendry and Tim Cawthorn.

Other: Michael Mannion (RIP, Birthday) & Tom Kildunne (90th birthday).

Parish News and Events:

This Week's Schedule: Adoration returns this week before Masses from 8.15am to 9.15am and from 9.30am to 10.30am on Saturday. On Thursday we will celebrate the funeral of Robert (Bob) Lyons with a Requiem Mass at 9.30am. There will be no adoration that day.

The Epiphany of the Lord on Tuesday is a Holy Day of Obligation. In addition to the 9.30am Mass, there will be an additional Mass at 7pm.

Congratulations: To Annie-Mae who was Baptised yesterday. Congratulations also to Mum and Dad, Nigel & Stacey.

Crib Offerings: 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.

Ecumenical Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: On **Sunday January 18th, 2026, at 3pm**, we will host our local prayer service for Christian Unity during the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We will be joined by local Anglican, Methodist, United Reform, Congregational, Evangelical and Salvation Army ministers and congregants for this annual prayer service. The order of service is provided by the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church and has the title, "**Light from Light for Light**". The preacher will be Rev. Liz Rowles, Vicar at St John the Baptist and St Paul's Anglican Churches. Refreshments will be provided after the service in the Kavanagh Centre.

Bible Alive: A reminder that 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!).

Sunday of the Word of God: The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, **Sunday January 18th**, is Sunday of the Word of God. During the Masses that day we will re-commission our parish readers recognising the important work that they do in proclaiming the Word to us. If anyone is interested in the Ministry of Reader please send an email to the office: stwinifredstockport@gmail.com.

50-50 Club Draw: Over the next couple of weeks 50-50 Club Agents will be collecting subscriptions for 2026. To help with the administration of the draw, if possible, could members please write cheques payable to 'St Winifred's' for 3, 6 or 12 months' worth of entries. Historically the funds raised from this draw (50% of the subscriptions – the remaining 50% being prizes) have been used to support the running and maintenance costs of the Kavanagh Centre. With the centre now generating revenue through rental to groups it should be possible to redirect the funds to support other areas of parish life and charitable causes where possible. In the coming year we anticipate significant capital spend on the car park to improve the currently concreted areas close to the doors of the church. More about that work to come. The money raised through the 50-50 club will contribute to these costs in 2026.

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_JrRd1dURVhRQVg5ToU2WIFIToMzTTNaVEc1V1g5SC4u&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.