

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)



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 15th February 2026 This Week's Schedule

Sunday 15th February	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday 16th February		No Mass Today	Weekday
Tuesday 17th February	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Weekday / Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order (OM)
Wednesday 18th February	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am 7.00pm	Adoration Holy Mass Holy Mass	ASH WEDNESDAY
Thursday 19th February	9.30am	Requiem Mass for James McCann	Lent Weekday
Friday 20th February	6.30am 8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am 6.30pm	Lenten Penitential Mass Adoration Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Lent Weekday
Saturday 21st February	9.30am – 10.30am 11.00am-11.45am 12 noon	Adoration Confessions Holy Mass	Lent Weekday / St Peter Damien (OM)
Sunday 22nd February	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	First Sunday of Lent

Readings this Week: Back in the 60s some groups “adopted” Jesus Christ as an icon of rebellion, overturning authority and tearing up the rule book – possibly because of the frequent confrontations between Our Lord and the Pharisees. Today's Gospel, however, shows us Jesus not as rule-breaker, but as rule-fulfiller, bringing an even greater depth to the rule that had guided the people of Israel for centuries. Jesus does not throw out the rulebook – or as the first reading says, He does not command us to be godless! He challenges us in this Gospel to see how far our keeping God's Law will go: will it just be about the letter of the Law (“I have never killed anyone”), or will it look deeper (“Have I ever been angry? Have I been violent in my thoughts?”). The challenge of the Kingdom of Heaven is to keep the commandments first and foremost from within, so that our outward behaviour conforms to the requirements of God's Law.

Marriage Matters: *Making the right choices* - Choices! How difficult sometimes to make the right choices. What to eat today, how to save money, what clothes to wear, what we or our children need. For Christians, prayer and a set of Christian values influence the choices we make. Why not ask the Lord's help to decide what issue is uppermost for us today and dialogue about it?

Mass Intentions Received:

Lately Dead: James McCann, Joan Heneghan, Maura Biggins & Agnes Gavin.

Anniversaries: Fr Patrick Crowley, George Palmer, William Dowds, Aidan Kennedy, Rosemary Casey, Ita Daly, Norman Murtough & Anne Buckley.

Other: Anne & Tony Brown (50th Wedding Anniversary).

Parish News and Events:

Changes to the Schedule this Week: Adoration returns each day from Tuesday 17th at 8.15am, 9.30am on Saturdays. On Ash Wednesday there will be an additional Mass in the evening at 7pm. On Thursday we will celebrate the funeral of James McCann with a Requiem Mass at 9.30am, there will be no Adoration on that day. On Friday and for Fridays throughout Lent, as a particular Lenten offering, we will celebrate an additional Mass at 6.30am. On Friday evenings throughout Lent, we will pray the Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm.

Lent 2026: Lent begins this Wednesday and is always a time to re-start when we recall that God's plan for us is freedom from all that weighs us down, especially that which weighs heavy on us spiritually. As we begin this journey together, we are reminded on Ash Wednesday of the 3 primary spiritual practices that are there to help us become more free: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Whatever we choose to do as a Lenten discipline it is good to keep these three in mind.

Fasting can be from food and Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting during Lent. All Fridays are also days of abstinence from meat. But these days perhaps it is more important to "fast" from some other activity that has become a destructive force in our lives. Excessive use of the internet, social media or other time consuming activities would be one example...and there are others.

In terms of **prayer**, we will offer an additional Mass at the early time of 6.30am on Fridays. We will also pray the Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm on Fridays, enclosing that whole day in prayer. Perhaps this season is a time for to begin or expand a habit of prayer: a few moments of stillness at the beginning and/or end of each day; a devotion such as the Rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet; or, if able, some time before the Blessed Sacrament during times of adoration, even if not a whole hour.

In terms of **almsgiving** there are, of course, many options. In the parish there will be collections for Cafod (and the soup lunch on 24th February), a collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children on 22nd March and an annual opportunity to support the Shrines of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Or why not consider joining or supporting financially the parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society Conference. On Tuesday 17th March (St Patrick's Day), there will be a fundraiser held by the parish Saint Vincent De Paul group after the morning Mass in the Kavanagh Centre, more details nearer the date. We also continue to support local charities especially Wellspring and the Foodbank. Whatever almsgiving or other act of discipline we adopt in Lent it is important to recognize that the spiritual goal is a strengthening of our relationship with the Lord and a corresponding detachment from any unhealthy attachments we have.

Mission Appeal: Total raised £1,075. Many thanks for your continued support.

Car Park Improvement Works: At the time of printing we anticipate the work being completed. Thank you for your patience.

Altar Server training: We will hold an evening of training for our altar servers on **Thursday the 19th of February at 6.00pm**. Please would parents email: stwinifredstockport@gmail.com to let us know who to expect. Following a time of learning and practice in the Church we will gather for pizza in the Kavanagh Centre. If anyone is interested in becoming an altar server and have received their first holy communion, please let us know by email as well.

Charitable Giving: Our most recent donation to the local foodbank amounted to 51.2kg. This generous contribution is estimated to provide approximately 25 meals for those in need. This collection has now finished. Thank you for all your generous donations, especially the milk, which are always very gratefully received!

Cornerstone Day Centre: During Lent we support this diocesan charity in Hulme for homeless people. It is part of Caritas Salford and provides free meals, showers and advice clinics covering housing, benefits and energy support, etc. Also drop-in sessions with GP and nurse, and with drug, alcohol and mental health specialists are offered. Last year they ran 302 activity sessions to increase people's skills, confidence and well-being giving support to the whole person. For their store cupboard they would like the following items: breakfast cereals & porridge oats, coffee, sugar, long life milk, bottles of squash/cordial, individually wrapped biscuits/cakes, tinned meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, rice pudding & custard, complete meals (stews, curries), cook-in sauces as well as stock cubes, condiments, rice and pasta. Thank you.

Cafod Lenten Fast Day is on Friday, 27th February: On Tuesday 24th February, you are invited to our Bread and Soup Lunch in the Kavanagh Centre from 12 noon to 1.30pm to raise funds for our sisters and brothers around the world who struggle with the ravages of war, famine and drought. Come along and bring a friend! Thank you to Evelyn, one of our parishioners, who has offered to sell her original artwork at the event, to help add to the funds. Everyone welcome!

Walk with Me Lenten & My Day by Day Booklets are available in the church porch for free!

50:50 Draw Winners for January: 1) Tony Blagborough 2) Pat Cartney 3) Karen Fleming 4) Ena Kennedy

Other News and Events of Interest:

Talk from Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP – At 6pm on 17th February, Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP will be giving a talk as part of a series of guest lectures from Manchester Universities Catholic Chaplaincy. The theme will be '*How we can keep our hope alive today.*' Catholic Chaplaincy Church of the Holy Name, 339 Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9PG. British Sign Language available. For more information, please contact mucc@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Exploring God's Creation within Catholic Theology: Dr Finlay Malcolm from the University of Manchester will be delivering an interactive teaching session exploring how our care for creation and the environment is integral to Catholic faith and theology. The event will take place on **25th February, 7-9pm**, at Guardian Angels Roman Catholic Church in Bury. For more information and to sign up see: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/exploring-gods-creation-within-catholic-theology/>