

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 Lent – 15th March 2026 This Week's Schedule

Sunday 15th March	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)
Monday 16th March		No Mass Today	Lent Weekday
Tuesday 17th March	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	St Patrick (Feast)
Wednesday 18th March	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Lent Weekday
Thursday 19th March	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Church Open for Prayer Holy Mass	St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)
Friday 20th March	6.30am 8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am 6.30pm	Lenten Penitential Mass Adoration Holy Mass Stations of the Cross led by St Winifred's School	Lent Weekday
Saturday 21st March	9.30am – 10.30am 11.00am-11.45am 12 noon	Adoration Confessions Holy Mass	Lent Weekday
Sunday 22nd March	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings this Week: When we get to Easter, there are two symbols of the resurrection that we use in Church: fire and light (the Easter Candle) and water (the Font). Last week we reflected on water, and this week there are passages all about light – true light, that defeats the blindness of sin. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for Baptism, but speaks to all of us who have been baptised, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that one of the oldest titles of the newly baptised was “neophyte”, which means “newly enlightened”. There is a subtle link between the readings on this Sunday: in the first reading, David is anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord seizes on him. This anointing lights him along the right path - ‘no evil would I fear’ as the Psalm says. Then Paul tells us more about this light: it is Christ shining on us, calling us to live as children of light. All this is summed up in the Gospel, the marvellous story of the healing (by being ‘anointed’ with spittle) of the man born blind. Jesus is the light of the world.

Marriage Matters: *Stop and see, be aware:* God was aware of David’s adultery with Bethsheba, Uriah’s wife, and how he arranged Uriah’s murder to cover his sin. Amid political and business ‘cover ups’ in today’s world, it’s important to ‘stop and see’ – the beauty of nature, the beauty and goodness of your spouse. Don’t be too busy to recall the joys you have brought to each other.

Mass Intentions Received:

Lately Dead: David Rushe, Paddy Whelan & Fr Bob Morrow.

Anniversaries: Tony Yaffe, Kathleen Lomax, Philip Dermody, Mary Kyriacou, Paddy Daly, Gerard Campfield & Catherine Bracken.

Other: Deceased members of the Byrne family (Special Intention), Louise Miller (Special Intention), Vera Matthews & Joanna Murtough (Mother’s Day).

Parish News and Events:

Changes to the Schedule this Week: On 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. This Thursday, 19th March, the Church will be open for prayer at 8.15am but there will be no adoration that day as Fr Mark has been asked to celebrate Mass at St Anne’s High School prior to our parish Mass.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers. Today we give thanks to God for our mother's, those with us and those who have gone before! Please take a daffodil or two (whatever they can spare) for your mother as you leave church today!

Gift Aid Offertory Envelopes 2026 – 2027: The new boxes of envelopes for registered Gift Aiders are available in the Church porch. Please collect your box. It is important that you use the box number assigned to you, for your donations to be correctly recorded. If you are no longer a taxpayer, please let us know, as we will need to cancel your membership of the scheme. If you would like to join the scheme, please contact the parish office. Boxes for non-gift aid will be available next Sunday. Thanks to all our contributors / donors.

Stations of the Cross with our School Children: This **Friday 20th March at 6.30pm** in church our school children will lead our Stations of the Cross. They have been working very hard to prepare a prayerful devotion to help us all on our Lenten journey. Please join us if you can. The following week **Friday, 27th March** our church singers and musicians group will provide music in between the Stations. Again, please try to join us if you can for this traditional Lenten devotion.

Church Singers and Musicians: The growing group of church singers and musicians are holding rehearsals for the Stations of the Cross and the Easter Triduum and the next one is this coming Wednesday March 18th at 7pm in the Church. No prior experience is necessary please come along to help enhance our praise! All are welcome!

Safeguarding Training for Parish Volunteers: If you are a volunteer in the parish and you have not completed safeguarding training there is training available to support you, no matter what your role is. Please take a look and complete relevant modules here: <https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/>

Confirmation 2026: Thank you to those who have already registered, you will have received a letter inviting you to a parents' meeting regarding this year's programme. Anyone who is 13 or above (year 8) is eligible to receive the Sacrament, which "is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1285). If you would like your child to be included in the programme for 2026, please make contact with us by email - stwinifredstockport@gmail.com.

St Patrick's Day: To celebrate the feast of St Patrick after morning Mass this Tuesday, 17th March there will be refreshments in the Kavanagh Centre and a chance to raise some funds to support the work of our St Vincent de Paul Society Conference. If anyone can donate prizes that could be used for the raffle, it would be appreciated. A box is provided in the porch for donations. Thank you!

Lourdes - Parish Youth Group: In the past two years a group of young people in the parish have joined with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. We hope to do so again and need to start making plans. It's a great way to make new friends while growing in faith and service under the gaze of Our Lady and St Bernadette. Young people from year 8 and above can join. The pilgrimage and travel dates are 29th July to 6th August. The cost is £695 (which will be part subsidised by the parish and fundraising) and this includes coach travel and full board hotel accommodation. Any parishioner who is interested please contact the parish office in the first instance by email: stwinifredstockport@gmail.com.

Lourdes Fundraiser – Save the Date! The group of young pilgrims preparing to travel to Lourdes this year as young volunteers are planning to host a quiz night in the Kavanagh Centre on Saturday 18th April. More details, including start time(!) to follow but for now, please save the date!

Other News and Events of Interest:

This Lent, Will You Make a Change to Change a Life? Whether you're making a change to your diet, fasting, amending your behaviour or adapting your thoughts and focus...as you pray, fast and give this Lent, the change you're making could also help change lives in your parish. By remembering our diocesan charity, Caritas Salford, during Lent, your actions, donations and prayers will make a real difference to the lives of the local people experiencing homelessness, poverty and discrimination in Greater Manchester and Lancashire. Visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/Lent now for ways you can help. Thank you.

Youth Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne - Following on from the success of last years pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, the Diocesan Youth Team are offering young people in Years 7, 8 and 9 another opportunity to go to Lindisfarne from Friday 22 May – Sunday 24 May 2026. The cost is £120 which includes travel by coach and full board accommodation. We will be staying on the island at the SVP Camp. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Exploring our Lenten Gospels: Each Tuesday during our Lenten period, a series of reflections will be given online by various speakers, exploring the meaning of our Lenten Gospels and their implications for our lives today. The series will continue on Tuesday 17th March with Sr Joan Kerley reflecting on the raising of Lazarus and will close with Bishop John reflecting on the Palm Sunday readings. For more information on how to book your free place, please visit the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>