

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)



Fifth Sunday of Lent – 22nd March 2026 This Week's Schedule

Sunday 22nd March	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Fifth Sunday of Lent
Monday 23rd March		No Mass Today	Lent Weekday
Tuesday 24th March	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Lent Weekday
Wednesday 25th March	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am 7.00pm	Adoration Holy Mass Confessions	The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)
Thursday 26th March	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Lent Weekday
Friday 27th March	6.30am 8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am 6.30pm	Lenten Penitential Mass Adoration Holy Mass Stations of the Cross with St Winifred's Church Singers	Lent Weekday
Saturday 28th March	9.30am – 10.30am 11.00am-11.45am 12 noon	Adoration Confessions Holy Mass	Lent Weekday
Sunday 29th March	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Palm Sunday

Readings this Week: The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday of Lent is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. There is no more important part of our faith than the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very centre and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions given to candidates for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death. Look ahead to the 3rd Sunday of Easter, where Saint Peter preaches to the crowds – what he teaches them is that life comes after death, as it did for Lazarus, and for Christ himself.

Marriage Matters: *The Lord will lead us back together*

Ezekiel's words apply to us when we are going through tough times in our relationship, when intimacy, physical or otherwise, seems impossible. At such times, Jesus weeps for us as He did for Lazarus. He will bring us back together if we ask Him and are willing to be vulnerable enough to explore together the changes we need to make.

Mass Intentions Received:

Lately Dead: Baby Senan, Paddy Whelan & Fr Bob Morrow.

Anniversaries: Tim Horgan, Josie McIntyre, Gerard Clarke, Francis Mitchell, Madeleine Gilmour, Martin Coady, Bill Lawler, Mary & John Syron.

Other: Pauline McCarthy (Special Intention), Aoife Usher (Special Intention) & Paul Keyworth (Birthday).

Parish News and Events:

Schedule this Week: Final Friday for the early Lenten Mass at 6.30am and Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm

Extra Opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation: Lent is a good time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, especially if you haven't been able to for a while. As well as the regular Saturday morning slot, there will be an additional opportunity this **Wednesday evening, 25th March, starting at 7pm**. Confessions will continue for at least an hour or while there is demand.

Stations of the Cross: Thank you to our school children and the teachers who prepared with them the wonderful Stations of the Cross service on Friday. This coming **Friday, 27th March at 6.30pm**, some of our church singers and musicians will provide the reflective music and singing in between the stations. Please try to join us for the final opportunity to mark the stations before Holy Week.

Easter Service Times: The Easter Triduum is the central liturgical celebration of the Church's year. We will celebrate with the following Masses and services:

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April: **Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30pm** with "Watching" until 10pm.

Good Friday*, 3rd April: **The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, 3pm.**

Holy Saturday, 4th April: **Easter Vigil at 8pm** (including 1 baptism and 3 receptions into the Church).

Easter Sunday, 5th April: **Masses at 9am and 11am**

*In addition on **Good Friday** there will be an opportunity to walk the Way of the Cross with Jesus by participating in the **Stations of the Cross at 12 noon.**

Heatons' Churches Partnership Walk of Witness: Also on **Good Friday, 3rd April**, there is an opportunity to give witness to our faith with other members of Christian Churches in the Heatons as we walk through Heaton Mersey and Heaton Moor together. The start this year is at **St John's, Heaton Mersey at 10am** and, with a stop here at St Winifred's, the walk concludes at St Paul's, Heaton Moor. The Walk is estimated to take 90 minutes and there will be refreshments at St Paul's before a meditative service at 12 noon.

St Patrick's Day: St Winifred's Saint Vincent de Paul group would like to thank everyone for supporting their fundraiser after Mass on St Patrick's Day. In total £430 was raised, which the group will use for their continued work in the community. Thank you for your support.

Charitable Giving: Today is the last day for our Cornerstone Day Centre collection, to support their work to help those who are homeless. Many thanks for all your donations which have been, as ever, very generous. Next week we return to the Foodbank which as you know has a greater demand for food support in times of school holidays. They urgently need long life milk, fruit juice, tinned tomatoes, rice puddings, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, cat and dog food, and carrier bags. We will continue the donations to the Foodbank after Easter. There are lists on the notice boards and on the donation box in the porch. Thank you.

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!

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 are also now available; some may have a box number change but don't worry the number change has been noted. Thank you to all our contributors / donors.

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.

Other News and Events of Interest:

Stations of the Cross: A moving, ecological journey through the Stations of the Cross at the Laudato Si' Centre Woodland. Experience a reflective journey through the Stations, contemplating the Passion of Christ in the midst of nature. Each station will have an ecological link and quotes from Pope Francis' Laudato Si' encyclical. This event takes place on Friday 27 March from 10AM to 11AM. For more information, please contact laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Exploring our Lenten Gospels: The series will conclude on Tuesday 24 March with Bishop John reflecting on the Palm Sunday readings. Please visit the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

Thank You from Caritas: Thank you to everyone who has supported our diocesan charity Caritas Salford in recent months and that is doing so during Lent as we pray, fast and give. The demand for their services has continued to increase and all of your prayers, kindness and generosity make a huge difference to the lives of people in our parish communities. Find out how your support has helped, and see some special thank you messages at: www.caritassalford.org/thankyou

Marriage Care: Interested in training and volunteering as a Relationship Counsellor? Marriage Care is a Catholic Organisation specialising in relationship support and they are currently looking for those who are empathetic, understanding and have an enthusiasm for supporting adult relationships, to train on our Certificate in Relationship Counselling course (CRC) and volunteer with us. This is a great opportunity to make a real difference to couples and families. To find out more please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk