

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)



Third Sunday of Easter – 19th April 2026 This Week's Schedule

Sunday 19th April	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Third Sunday of Easter
Monday 20th April		No Mass today	Easter Monday
Tuesday 21st April	10.00am	Requiem Mass for Kathleen Egan	Easter Tuesday / St Anselm (OM)
Wednesday 22nd April	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am 10.00am	Adoration Holy Mass Rosary for Peace	Easter Wednesday
Thursday 23rd April	9.30am	Requiem Mass for Margaret Murray	St George (R)
Friday 24th April	8.15am – 9.15am 9.30am	Adoration Holy Mass	Easter Friday / SS Fidelis & Adalbert (OM)
Saturday 25th April	9.30am – 10.30am 11.00am – 11.45am 12 noon	Adoration Confessions Holy Mass	St Mark
Sunday 26th April	9.00am 11.00am	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Fourth Sunday of Easter

Readings this Week:

During the Season of Easter we walk with the Risen Lord, enjoying his appearing to his disciples. Today's gospel is one of the loveliest accounts of his appearing - and one especially important for the reader. Jesus appears and teaches the two disciples, by reference to the Scriptures, the meaning of his death. This is very close to the way in which the neophytes (newly baptised) would continue to be taught, through hearing the scriptures, during Easter. The reader should take to herself or himself the words of the Gospel Acclamation: "Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us."

Marriage Matters: *How well do we listen to each other?*

As Jesus walked to Emmaus, he listened carefully to His disciples and experienced their grief. An important part of our relationship is listening. We may disagree with our partner's thoughts and judgments, but they are part of who this person is. We need to experience him/her and convey the joy of discovering the person he/she is.

Mass Intentions Received:

Lately Dead: Kathleen Egan, Margaret Murray & Sean Dwyer.

Anniversaries: John McKenna, Teresa Coughlan, Maura Cochrane, Charlie Cochrane, Charlie McDonagh & Catherine Sidebotham.

Other intentions: Thomas Mannion (RIP, Birthday) Pauline McCarthy (Special Intention) & Eboigbe family (Special Intention).

Parish News and Events:

Change to the Schedule this Week: We will celebrate Requiem Masses for Kathleen Egan at 10.00am on Tuesday and Margaret Murray at 9.30am on Thursday. Please come if you are able to pray for Kathleen and Margaret and to support their families. There will be no adoration taking place before Mass on those days.

Prayer Sponsors for Holy Communion Children: The children on our Sacramental Programme are approaching the final couple of months of preparation before they receive the Lord in the Eucharist for the first time. Let us keep them and their families in our prayers. There is a poster on the notice boards with a sign up sheet and prayer cards. Please consider being a prayer sponsor for one of our children. Thank you.

Praying for Peace: Pope Leo held a prayer vigil for peace last Saturday evening during which he continued his call for everyone to work for peace. His reflection, which, as always, is well worth reading, can be found here: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260411-rosario-pace.html>. In words prescient of the controversy that developed during the week he reminded us all that *“The Church is a great people at the service of reconciliation and peace. She advances without hesitation, even when rejecting the logic of war may lead to misunderstanding and scorn.”* He encourages us all, amongst other things, to make time to pray for peace, not to neglect this duty since, *“we must not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the pace of a world that does not know what it is chasing.”* As an initial step, we will offer Mass each Wednesday morning during this Eastertide for Peace and pray one of the Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation. In May we will begin to pray the Rosary after daily Mass and on Wednesdays Peace will be our Rosary intention. For those unable to come to Wednesday morning Mass please consider praying a rosary privately each week for Peace.

Prayer for the Dignity of Human Life: The Bishops of England and Wales will be praying a Holy Hour for the dignity of human life this afternoon at 4.30pm during their Plenary Meeting in Rome. They invite us to join with them in prayer at that time. All are invited to make a private devotion at 4.30pm for the dignity of human life in solidarity with the Bishops.

Charitable Giving: The Foodbank currently has urgent need for long life milk, fruit juice, tinned tomatoes, rice puddings, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Our latest collection, over the two Easter weekends, was 52.5 kg. Thank you again for your generosity. The box for donations is on the left side of the porch.

Good Shepherd Sunday Special Collection: At the end of Mass **next Sunday** there will be a special collection to support the fund that is used to pay for the training of priests and permanent deacons. Please support if you can.

Collection for the Church in the Holy Land: Thank you for your donations to the appeal on Good Friday. The appeal will remain open for a couple of weeks. Donations can be made using the card reader if you wish to do so (the card reader is located near to the stairs to the choir loft) or in an envelope marked “Church in the Holy Land”.

Prompted by the collection for the Shrines of the Holy Land and by Pope Leo’s call for peace, a parishioner shared the following memories this week:

“Nearly 20 years ago I had the privilege of visiting refugee schools in Palestine. During the course of my stay, I was also able to visit some of the shrines in Palestine, despite the fact that the visit had no spiritual or religious agenda. It just so happened that the schools were in places like Bethany, Bethlehem and Emmaus. The risk assessment form I had to fill in, prior to my visit, included warnings about mortar bombs, shells and rocket attacks, which was an indication of the dangers experienced every day by the children I met. I want to somehow try to explain and describe how important it is for us to support the shrines of the Holy Land because it isn’t about the buildings, really, but it is about the people for whom the shrines are a part of their everyday life but which are no longer able to fulfil their purpose, creating a spiritual home for all of us.

Instead of being able to live safely in the land where the Son of God chose to live out his earthly life, families were literally divided by the wall, which still dominates the West Bank of Palestine, near so many of the shrines. I met a grandfather, whose home he shared with his grandchildren had part of the wall built through the middle of his house. The children were well looked after but in incredibly difficult circumstances. Young people had to make their way through blockades, road closures and armed soldiers in order to get to the schools but they succeeded and really valued their education. The schools themselves had no running water and I could see bullet holes that had left their mark in the classrooms. The children and their teachers were so keen to learn that they put up with unimaginable difficulties.

Many of the shrines we hear about in the Gospels were neglected. The community depended upon visitors coming to the shrines but, because of the dangerous situation, at the time, no visitors were coming and I can only imagine that the situation must be much worse now. I was particularly moved by my visit to Emmaus, where the school and the mayor came to greet us. The church was being looked after by one solitary monk. When I went in to visit the church he had not had a visitor there for many months and he was extremely kind to me. I found the atmosphere in Emmaus extremely powerful. Despite its apparent emptiness there was a really strong feeling of being somewhere really important that I have never forgotten. I hope some of the collection for the shrines of the Holy Land finds its way to that solitary monk.

The people I met all deserve our prayers as well as our financial help. I do not know how they are faring now that the fighting has intensified and their lives must be even more difficult. It certainly has not become easier. It is of great sadness that this is happening in the Holy Land but any land is holy. Most importantly, people matter and deserve to live in peace. I am very glad that Pope Leo has taken such a public stand about the wars and I pray that he continues to do so.”

Other News and Events of Interest:

Catholic Social Teaching (CST): Caritas Salford is offering a free online webinar to introduce the basic principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) in an accessible way, with a particular focus on building hope, homes and a positive future for all. This will take place on Thursday 30th April 2026 from 6PM to 7:15PM. With local elections approaching in May, the time is right to raise our awareness of CST and reflect on how it can help to inform the decisions and choices we make in life. Register for your free place or find out more at: www.caritassalford.org.uk/events