

**ST OSWALD & ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Liverpool Road, Ashton-In-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 9NP
Liverpool R.C. Archdiocesan Trustees Reg. Charity No. 232709

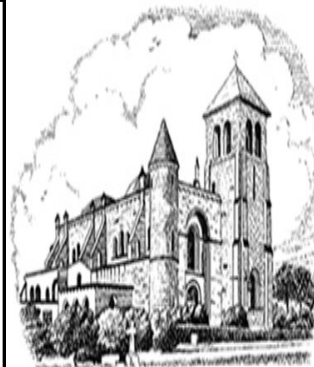
Parish Priest: Rev. John Gorman Tel: 01942 727271

Deacons: Revv. Paul Blinston, Jim Byrne, John O'Brien (rtd)

Parish Office: 01942 727249 Open: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9am—2pm

Email: stoswaldstedmund@rcaol.org.uk

Parish Website: www.stoswaldandstarrowsmith.org.uk



Week commencing: 13th December 2020

3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT (B)

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3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT (B)

Saturday	6.00pm (StW)	Tom Ainscough
Sunday	9.30am (OLI)	Frances Strickleton
	11.00am (StO)	Parishioners
	6.30pm (OLI)	Gwendoline Cowser

Weekday Masses

Monday	St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor
	9.00am (OLI) John Vinson
Tuesday	9.30am (StW) Vera Hayes
Wednesday	9.30am (StO) John Fagan
Thursday	9.30am (StW) Frank Currie
Friday	9.00am (OLI) Harry Leadbetter
Saturday	10.00am (StO) Les Hill

4th SUNDAY of ADVENT (B)

Saturday	6.00pm (StW)	Kevin Borman
Sunday	9.30am (OLI)	Margaret Johnson & Mary Hgan
	11.00am (StO)	Frank Howgate
	6.30pm (OLI)	Parishioners

Services during the week

Confessions: Sat: 11.00-12 noon (StO)

Rosary: There will be no public recitation of the Rosary until further notice.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon—Fri: 10.00am-12 noon (StO)

Fri: 7.00-8.00pm (OLI)

Sat: 11.00am-12 noon (StO)

Novena: Wed: 7.00pm (OLI)

Anniversaries

13th Dec	Mary Boffey
14th Dec	Mary Cahill
15th Dec	Joan Brannigan Margaret Taylor
16th Dec	Roy Jackson Selina Whittle
17th Dec	Harry Leadbetter Hannah Naylor Joan Owen
19th Dec	Raymond Baldwin

Catholic Pictorial

Copies of the December edition of the Catholic Pictorial are available at the back of Church or, alternatively, a digital edition may be viewed at : <https://bit.ly/3n0XQj2>

Children of Bethlehem

As we approach Christmas, I was glad once again to receive a message this week from Fr Rami Asakrieh, the Franciscan Parish Priest of Bethlehem whom we met on our last trip to the Holy Land. Normally, the whole of Advent is a major event in Bethlehem as the eyes of the world are turned upon it and they prepare to welcome pilgrims for Christmas. But, just as this year has not been normal for any of us, this is especially so of the Christian community in the Holy Land who have been without the support, both spiritual and financial, which pilgrims bring.

As a result, our annual fund for the Children of Bethlehem will be opened with immediate effect, should anyone wish to make a donation. In place of the usual crib offerings, there will be a retiring collection after all Masses on the 2nd Sunday after Christmas (3rd January).

Christmas Mass times

The following schedule will apply for Masses over the Christmas weekend:

Christmas Eve:	9.00am	St. Wilfrid's
	7.00pm Vigil	St. Oswald's
	9.00pm Vigil	St. Wilfrid's
Christmas Day:	9.30am	Our Lady's
	11.00am	St. Oswald's

There will be **No** Midnight Mass or evening Mass on Christmas Day.

Due to limits on capacity in each Church, **ALL** Masses will be ticketed, and there will be **NO** admission without a ticket, including children. Tickets are available after Mass at the weekend, and during the week.

Each Mass has a different coloured ticket, and so is valid to that Mass only. You may obtain tickets for your household only. Please only request tickets which you know will be used, otherwise you will be denying someone else the opportunity to attend Mass. Each ticket is numbered, and you will be asked to give the name, address and telephone number of each ticket-holder, and the number in the household.

If, for any reason, you are unable to attend Mass e.g. due to illness or a change in circumstances, please return the ticket, even at the last possible moment, as this may allow someone else to be admitted.

Between Christmas and New year, daily Mass will be at 10.00am each day, apart from 12 noon on New Year's Day. There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Oswald's between Christmas and New Year.

Masses for the Feast of the Holy Family (27th December) are as follows:

Saturday Vigil Mass:	6.00pm	St. Wilfrid's
Sunday:	9.30am	Our Lady's
	11.00am	St. Oswald's

Coronavirus Vaccinations

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales this week issued the following statement in relation to Coronavirus vaccinations:

'The development of a vaccine against COVID-19 presents an important breakthrough in protecting others, as well as oneself, from the virus; a virus which has not only caused a global pandemic and led to a huge loss of life, but has also placed a great burden on healthcare workers and systems.

Each of us has a duty to protect others from infection with its danger of serious illness, and for some, death. A vaccine is the most effective way to achieve this unless one decides to self-isolate.

At present, debate concerns the use of the vaccines developed by Pfizer & BioNTech, Moderna, and AstraZeneca. Some have questioned the use of the Astra Zeneca vaccine since it has been developed from cell-lines originating from the cells of an aborted foetus in 1983.

The [Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith](#) and the [Pontifical Academy of Life](#) have expressed the view that one may in good conscience, and for a grave reason, receive a vaccine sourced in this way, provided that there is a sufficient moral distance between the present administration of the vaccine and the original wrongful action. In the COVID-19 pandemic, we judge that this grave reason exists and that one does not sin by receiving the vaccine.

Both the Pfizer & BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have a different source since they are mRNA-based vaccines. On 2 December 2020, the Pfizer & BioNTech vaccine was approved for use in the UK.

Each Catholic must educate his or her conscience on this matter and decide what to do, also bearing in mind that a vaccine must be safe, effective, and universally available, especially to the poor of the world. Catholics may in good conscience receive any of these vaccines for the good of others and themselves. In good conscience, one may refuse a particular vaccine but continue to have a duty to protect others from infection.'