

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

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

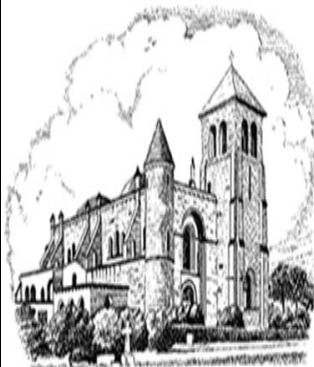
**Parish Priest: Rev. John Gorman Tel: 01942 727271**

**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: 3rd January 2021**

**2nd SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS (B)**

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**2nd SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS (B)**

<b>Saturday</b>	6.00pm (StW)	Kate Walsh
<b>Sunday</b>	9.30am (OLI)	Michael Hogan & Robert Lea
	11.00am (StO)	Parishioners
	6.30pm (OLI)	Phyllis & John McAlea-

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**Weekday Masses**

<b>Monday</b>	9.00am (OLI)	Lawrence & Teresa Pickett
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30am (StW)	Sheila Purcell
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>The EPIPHANY of the LORD</b>	
	9.30am (StO)	Marie Topping
	7.00pm (OLI)	Parishioners
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30am (StW)	Christopher Slevin
<b>Friday</b>	9.00am (OLI)	O'Brien Family
<b>Saturday</b>	10.00am (StO)	McCarrick Family

**FEAST of the BAPTISM of the LORD (B)**

<b>Saturday</b>	6.00pm (StW)	Fr Roberto Guzman
<b>Sunday</b>	9.30am (OLI)	Sue Finigan
	11.00am (StO)	Margaret Wiszowaty
	6.30pm (OLI)	Parishioners

**Services during the week**

**Confessions:** Sat: 11.00am-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:** No Novena this week.

**Anniversaries**

3rd Jan	Barbara Scales	
4th Jan	John Clough	Ellen Cunliffe
	Pauline Sharkey	
5th Jan	William Meagher	
6th Jan	Thomas Myler	Jenny Pearce
7th Jan	Vincent Durkin	
8th Jan	Carol Ashley	Irene Donlon
	John Gee	
9th Jan	Robert Green	Margaret Malone
	Jack Meadows	Patricia Pickston

**Children of Bethlehem**

In place of the usual Crib Offerings, there will be a retiring collection after all Masses this Sunday (3rd Jan) for the Children of Bethlehem.

**A Word of Thanks**

On behalf of Deacon Jim and myself, may I express our thanks for the very many cards, gifts and best wishes handed in over the Christmas period. May God bless you all for your generosity.

## Coronavirus Vaccinations

May I remind you once again of the statement issued by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales before Christmas 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.'

## Year of St. Joseph

On the 8th December 2020, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis declared a 'Year of St. Joseph' with the Apostolic Letter *'Patris Corde'* ('With a Father's heart') to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as:

- i) **'a beloved, tender, obedient father...**who concretely expressed his fatherhood by making an offering of himself in love, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home. Because of his role at the crossroads between the Old and New Testament, St. Joseph has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people. In him, Jesus saw the tender love of God. Joseph is also a father in obedience to God - with his 'fiat' he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to do the will of the Father.
- ii) **'an accepting Father...**because he accepted Mary unconditionally. The Bridegroom of Mary is the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, setting aside his own ideas and reconciling himself with his own history.
- iii) **'a courageous father...**was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence. He had to deal with "the concrete problems" his family faced, problems faced by other families in the world.
- iv) **'a father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work...**a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family.
- v) **'a father "in the shadows"...**centred on Mary and Jesus. Joseph's fatherhood of Jesus is the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father. A father does not simply bring a child into the world, but takes up the responsibility to care for that child, all too often lacking in today's society.'

In response to the Holy Father's letter, it is proposed to begin the restoration of the altarpiece in St. Joseph's Chapel to promote devotion to him during this special year.