

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

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

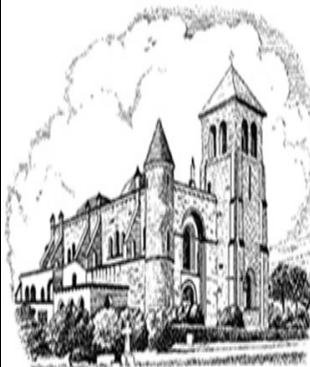
Parish Priest: Rev. John Gorman Tel: 01942 727271

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: 2nd May 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B)

Parish Mass Book: Page 268 Order of Mass: Page

Preface 4 of Easter: Page 74 Eucharistic Prayer 3: Page 28

5th SUNDAY of EASTER (B)

Saturday	6.00pm (StW)	Bryan Hurst
Sunday	9.30am (OLI)	George Naylor
	11.00am (StO)	Harry Simpson
	6.30pm (OLI)	Parishioners

Weekday Masses

Monday	Sts. Philip & James, Apostles 10.00am (OLI)	Mathew Hamill
Tuesday	Feast of the English Martyrs 9.30am (StW)	Peggy Hesketh
Wednesday	9.30am (StO)	Mary Huyton
Thursday	9.30am (StW)	Julie Gettings
Friday	9.00am (OLI)	Denise Collins
Saturday	10.00am (OLI)	Pamela Eckersley

6th SUNDAY of EASTER (B)

Saturday	6.00pm (StW)	In Thanksgiving (VM)
Sunday	9.30am (OLI)	Gerard Hickey
	11.00am (StO)	Josephine Smith
	6.30pm (OLI)	Joseph Topping

Services during the week

Confessions: Sat: 11.00-12 noon (StO)

Rosary: Sun: 9.00am (OLI)

Mon– Sat: 30 minutes before Mass

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)

Holy Hour: 7.00-8.00pm (OLI)

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp will be lit this week for the intention of:

Shane Maloney

Available dates: 9th, 23rd & 30th May

Anniversaries

2nd May	Franciszek Przygoda	Granville Yates
3rd May	Kathleen Lowe	George McNulty
	Richard Mather	Norah Sharkey
4th May	John Mulkeen	William Stoddart
6th May	Alan Harwood	
7th May	Teresa Durkin	Gertrude Halliwell

St. Oswald's Church Grounds

Many thanks to those who came to help begin tidying up the Church grounds last week, which has already made a huge difference. Anyone who is able to help is asked to meet outside Church at 2.00pm on Wednesday.

SYNOD 2020

The Archdiocesan Synod takes place on 19th June. Synod Members are currently discerning how they will vote on the recommendations that have emerged. These will be printed in the newsletter in forthcoming weeks. Alternatively, they can be found in the April edition of the Catholic Pic (www.catholicpic.co.uk), on the Synod Recommendations Website (www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk) alongside theological reflections on the topics, or in the Synod book 'Together on the Road' (available for £3 from Pauline Books and Media, and the Synod Office, email: synod2020@rcaol.co.uk, tel: 0151 486 1206).

The Day of the Lord

Following their post-Easter meeting, the Bishops of England Wales have issued a 'Reflection', as the restrictions brought about by the Covid pandemic begin to ease across the country. After recalling all those to whom we owe a debt of gratitude, both within the Church and within society at large, the Bishops turn their attention to the challenges which we face of 'bringing our communities and the practice of the faith to a still greater expression and strength' as well as the 'veritable treasures' we have at our disposal.

'The greatest treasure is' they say 'the sacramental life of the Church and, pre-eminently, the Eucharist. 'It is the Eucharist, the celebration of the Mass, that makes the Church; and it is the Church, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, which makes the Eucharist. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the lifeblood of the Church. It requires our active participation and, to be fully celebrated, our physical presence.'

The Bishops go on to call for the celebration of the Sunday Mass to be restored to its proper place in the lives of all the faithful.

'At this moment, then, we need to have in our sights the need to restore to its rightful centrality in our lives the Sunday Mass, encouraging each to take his or her place once again in the assembly of our brothers and sisters. We face the task of seeking to nurture the sense of Sunday as "a weekly gift from God to his people", and something we cannot do without; to see Sunday as the soul of the week, as giving light and meaning to all the responsibilities we live out each day; to see the Sunday Eucharist as food for the unique mission with which we have been endowed.

In the time to come we can do no better than to rekindle in our hearts, foster and encourage, a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord and the practice of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, a gift so deeply appreciated in these times of lockdown. We need to begin by fostering this in ourselves. For the Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.

The invitation to Sunday Mass resonates all the more deeply when we consider, as Pope St John Paul II reminds us in the Encyclical Letter *Dies Domini*, that the Sabbath rest is nothing if not a call to remember the gift of God's Creation. The Eucharist is indeed a celebration of the created world, called into life by the Eternal Word, for the bread and wine of the earth becomes the Body and Blood of Christ who is that same Lord of all life. The Christ to whom we come so close in the Eucharist must be the foundation of our strivings, not least in the urgent task we face of caring for creation and our environment.

Pope St John Paul II spoke of our amazement at the gift of the Mass and the abiding Presence of our Blessed Lord in the Sacrament of the Altar. Herein lies our treasure, enriching our relationship with Jesus and bringing together every aspect of our life and mission. This is such an important focus for our task in the coming months.'

Please read the full statement, attached to this newsletter, carefully, and do all you can to make its message known to all, especially those who have not been part of the worshipping community for some time.

Rosary Devotions

This weekend sees the beginning of the May, the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which seems an appropriate time to recommence our praying of the Holy Rosary, as Our Lady asked us to. The Rosary will therefore be prayed each day 30 minutes before Mass, and before the 9.30am Mass at Our Lady's on Sunday.

Youtube Channel

It is now just over 12 months since we began to record Sunday Mass and other devotions on our Youtube channel ([rcchurchesashton](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrCchurChesAshton)) for the benefit of those who have been unable to attend Mass during the Lockdown. I am pleased, therefore, to be able to announce that during that period we have had a total of 11,390 distinct views on the content for the year. Our Adoration video continues to increase in viewing numbers and alone accounts for over 1, 500 of that total.

I would especially like to thank Paul Hurst, who continues to give up a great deal of his time each week to make the recordings, and others who make it available via the Parish website, for all their efforts.

This week there will be a recording of the *Via Lucis* or the Stations of the Resurrection, which will be available soon.