

ST OSWALD & ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

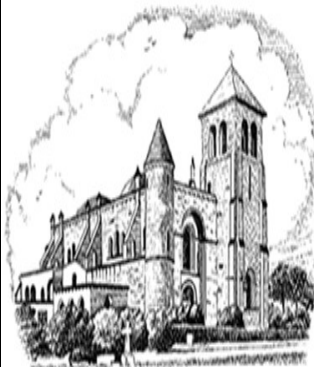
Parish Priest: Rev. John Gorman Tel: 01942 727271

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: 9th May 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER (B)

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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

Weekday Masses

Monday	9.00am (OLI)	Special Intention (MH)
Tuesday	9.30am (StW)	Emilia Donnir
Wednesday	9.30am (StO)	Joan Marsh

SOLEMNITY of the ASCENSION

	7.00pm (OLI)	Parishioners
Thursday	9.30am (StW)	Edna & John Doherty
	12.10pm (StO)	Bernard & John Kirkland

Friday	St. Matthias, Apostle	
	9.00am (OLI)	A gender-confused son

Saturday	Our Lady of Fatima	
	10.00am (StO)	Teresa Mattocks

7th SUNDAY of EASTER (B)

Saturday	6.00pm (StW)	Sheila & John Purcell
Sunday	9.30am (OLI)	Parishioners
	11.00am (StO)	For a 75th Birthday
	6.30pm (OLI)	Special Intention

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: No Novena this week

Holy Hour: 7.00-8.00pm (OLI)

Sanctuary Lamp

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

Winifred Banks

Available dates: 23rd & 30th May

Anniversaries

11 th May	Joseph Clarke	Jennie Robinson
	William Robinson	
12 th May	Maria Cunliffe	Nellie Glover
	James Haseldene	Kathleen Shaw
13 th May	Gertrude Balmer-Winrow	
	Harold Dewhurst	Mary Rowan
14 th May	Agnes Pilkington	
15 th May	Len Cunliffe	Ann Duffy
	Donal Kenny	Yvonne Webb

The Ascension of the Lord

Thursday of this week is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. There will be a Vigil Mass at Our Lady's on Wednesday evening at 7.00pm in place of the Novena, and Masses on Thursday at 9.30am at St. Wilfrid's and at 12.10pm at St. Oswald's.

St. Oswald's Church Grounds

Thanks once again to those who came to help with work on the Church grounds. Anyone who is able to help is asked to meet outside Church at 2.00pm on Wednesday.

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.

SYNOD 2020

The Archdiocesan Synod takes place on 19th June and Synod Members are currently discerning how they will vote on the recommendations that have emerged. A full list of these recommendations are attached to the newsletter this weekend, and you are invited to let our Synod members know your views by indicating next to each recommendation, on a scale of 1-5, whether you think that recommendation is **not important (1)** or **urgent (5)**. The deadline for responses is Sunday 30th May.

Acknowledgement

I gratefully acknowledge a most generous and substantial donation which has been made to parish funds in recent weeks.

Walsingham Pilgrimage

We are now more confident that our pilgrimage to Walsingham will be able to go ahead this year from Monday 23rd-Thursdays 26th August, staying half-board in Elmham House in the Friday Market. Cost per person, including transport, is £195 for a standard room and £240 for an en-suite room. A £25 deposit is required. Booking forms are now available from Deacon Malcolm (tel: 725522) or Anne-Marie (tel: 821526)