

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

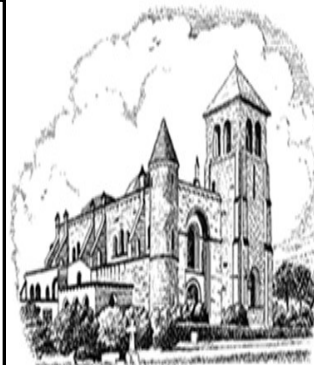
Liverpool Road, Ashton-In-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 9NP
Liverpool R.C. Archdiocesan Trustees Reg. Charity No. 232709

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

Parish Website: www.stoswaldandstarrowsmith.org.uk



Week commencing: 31st May 2020

PENTECOST SUNDAY (A)

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PENTECOST SUNDAY (A)

Saturday	6.00pm	Dave Hackett
Sunday	9.30am	Parishioners
	11.00am	Teresa Mills
	6.30pm	Private Intention

Weekday Masses

Monday	Our Lady, Mother of the Church
	9.00am Sick & Retired Priests
Tuesday	9.30am Gina Vernassa
Wednesday	St. Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs
	9.30am
Thursday	Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest
	9.30am Hadley Ford
Friday	St. Boniface, Bishop & Martyr
	9.00am Jane & William Meagher
Saturday	10.00am Annie Kirkwood

TRINITY SUNDAY (A)

Saturday	6.00pm	Jean Unsworth
Sunday	9.30am	John Vinson
	11.00am	Parishioners

Children's Liturgy

Parents of children who regularly attend Children's Liturgy may be interested to know that CAFOD have an on-line Children's Liturgy. Just go onto the CAFOD website (www.cafod.org.uk) and register for Children's Liturgy under Schools and Youth. You will then receive an email to log in at 10am on a Sunday morning.

Services during the week

Confessions: There are no Confessions until further notice.

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

Holy Hour: There are no public Holy Hours until further notice.

Novena: There is no Novena until further notice.

St. Oswald's Church Car Park

Regrettably, after persistent and on-going anti-social behaviour, it is necessary to install bollards to the entrance of St. Oswald's Church car park, both for the security of the Church and the well-being of local residents.

With effect from this weekend, access to the car park will be from 8.00am-5.00pm each day, at which time the bollards will be raised.

It should be noted that St. Oswald's is not a public car park and should be used for Church

Ashton Food Bank

Many thanks to all those who responded to the appeal on behalf of Ashton Food Bank which has been tremendous.

Items may be dropped off between 9.30-11.00am on Fridays at St. Thomas' Church Hall.

Annuity Fund

Due to the current restrictions, the Annuity Fund draws from March onwards have been postponed and will be made at the earliest opportunity.

Latest Developments

Once again, the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening for the Solemnity of Pentecost will be recorded and uploaded onto the Youtube channel **rchurchesashton** for you to view it on Sunday morning.

Monday of this week is the Feast of Our Lady, Mother of the Church and a recording of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary has been made for you to join in prayer, and this will be available on the same channel from Monday.

The following information was received from the Archdiocese on Friday afternoon.

*'As far as church reopening is concerned, there is a staged response . We are at **Stage 1**: the closure of our places of worship. **Stage 2**: will be the opening for private prayer. **Stage 3**: will move us towards liturgical celebrations in the presence of small numbers. There may well be a number of other stages.*

*This is in preparation for **stage 2**: a reopening for private prayer.*

The Archbishop has set in place a clear procedure for this to happen. To reopen a church, the Dean will collate all requests for each Pastoral Area. These will be presented to the Archbishop, who will issue a document of permission indicating which churches can open and at what times. No other churches may be opened for any reason other than those so decreed.

In considering which churches should be reopened as part of stage 2 two main points need to be considered:

- 1. A team of volunteers will need to be trained so that we can safely manage the numbers who come and go and the necessary sanitisation that will be needed before and after each visit.*
- 2. Is that church usually open? - if not this may not be the right time to begin opening outside liturgical celebrations.*

Our main concern will always be the safety of our priests and people. For some people there is a real desire to come and pray in church, there will be others who will continue to pray at home and observe the restrictions that will still apply to them.'

Until further information is available as to what the 'necessary sanitisation' involves, and what is meant by 'before and after each visit' is it impossible to say whether we will be able to gather a team of volunteers together. Clearly, this cannot be left to the ladies who clean the Church each week, many of whom are still self-isolating.

What is also clear is that, if the current norms for social distancing (i.e. 2 metres apart) are still in force whenever public Masses are allowed to take place, this will severely restrict the number of people who will be able to attend (less than 20% of the normal capacity) depending on which Church is being used. While this may be not be a problem for weekday Masses, it will be for Sunday Masses, and so we will have to consider what measures will be necessary in those circumstances.

No decisions have been made and we await further instructions.

Mass for Bishop Vincent Malone

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP will celebrate Mass for Bishop Vincent Malone on Monday 1 June at 4.00 pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool. The Mass will be celebrated without a congregation and will be livestreamed so that his family and friends may join the celebration. Details of the livestream are available on the Cathedral website at

<https://www.liverpoolmetro cathedral.org.uk/mass-for-bishop-vincent-malone/>

Under current restrictions it is not possible to celebrate a Funeral Mass in a church building and Bishop Malone's body will not be taken to the Cathedral. In line with the restrictions, Bishop Malone's funeral will be a private graveside service.

Bethlehem Fund

I received news this week from Fr Rami Asakrieh, the Franciscan Parish Priest of Bethlehem, whom some of you have met, to say that the Basilica of the Nativity has now finally been re-opened to pilgrims, but that the plight of the local population, especially the Christian families, remains very difficult. He is therefore very grateful for the assistance we have been able to provide via our Bethlehem Fund.

He has forwarded a recording of some aspects of life in the community, which can be viewed on www.bethlehemparish.org