

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

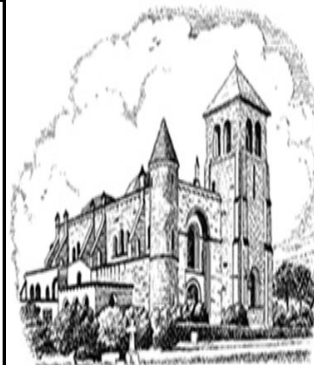
Liverpool Road, Ashton-In-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 9NP  
Liverpool R.C. Archdiocesan Trustees Reg. Charity No. 232709

**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](http://www.stoswaldandstarrowsmith.org.uk)



**Week commencing: 3rd May 2020**

**4th SUNDAY of EASTER (A)**

Parish Mass Book: Page 262 Order of Mass: Page 7

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

**4th SUNDAY of EASTER (A)**

<b>Saturday</b>	6.00pm	Denis Preston
<b>Sunday</b>	9.30am	Parishioners
	11.00am	Mary Cunningham
	6.30pm	Mary Gibbs

**Weekday Masses**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Feast of the English Martyrs</b>
	<b>10.00am</b> Nellie McLoughlin
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30am All Priests
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30am John Pimblett
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30am Mary Livesley
<b>Friday</b>	9.00am Heather Corser
<b>Saturday</b>	10.00am Wiktor Wiszowaty

**5th SUNDAY of EASTER (A)**

<b>Saturday</b>	6.00pm	Brenda Rudkin
<b>Sunday</b>	9.30am	Maureen Rigby
	11.00am	Parishioners
	6.30pm	Lawless Family

**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.

**Offertory Envelopes**

Once again, may I say that there is no need to worry about your weekly offertory donations. You may wish to put your donations aside each week and then bring them in when we are able to gather again, or you can simply write a cheque for what you would normally have given. Where possible, envelopes can be posted at St. Oswald's Presbytery.

For those who may wish to do so, forms are available to arrange a Standing Order and can also be downloaded on St. Oswald's website.

**Vocations Sunday**

This weekend is Vocations Sunday, when we are asked to pray for vocations to the Priesthood and the Consecrated Life. We pray for especially for those who are studying for the Priesthood for our own Archdiocese remembering, in particular, Peter Ross, who was with us earlier this year, and that many more will hear and answer the Lord's call in their own lives

Loving Father,  
you call us by name.

As we journey through life, help us to be confident in our own unique identity and to find opportunities to develop our own gifts and passions.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will pour on us wisdom and guidance to help us realise and follow our dreams, discerning your plan for our lives.

Bless your Church by raising up dedicated and generous people from our families and friends who will serve as Priests, Deacons, Sisters and Brothers.

May we support one another in response to God's call.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Requiescant in Pacem**

Pray, please, for the repose of the souls of:  
Elizabeth Rodican of Windsor Road, Ashton and  
Fr. Joe Weston, Parish Priest of St. Benedict's, Hindley,  
who died this week.

**Latest Developments**

Many thanks to all those who took time to view the second of our recordings made on Youtube, of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Over 700 viewings have now been made. Please search **rcchurchesashton** on Youtube if you haven't already seen it. A further recording has also been uploaded for 1st Friday devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and 1st Saturday devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and can be viewed now.

From this weekend (2nd May) the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening will be recorded and uploaded onto the same channel in time for you to view it on Sunday morning. This will continue for a number of weeks until such a time as it is possible for us to live-stream Masses.

As I mentioned last week, for us to be able to do so, we have to have a minimum of **1000** subscribers. It may be that many people think that by simply viewing the recording, you have subscribed, but this is not the case. It actually requires you to press the red 'Subscribe' box and sign in. So far, those 700 viewings have resulted in just 341 subscribers, which is no small feat in one week, but the normal Mass attendance across the 3 Ashton Churches is around 500. So, please, if you haven't already done so, don't put it off.

A recording of Sunday Mass can now be viewed, but it would be better if we could broadcast it live. If there is anyone in the parish who doesn't know about it, please tell them and get them, and anyone else you know, to subscribe.

The series of weekly Masses continues, each Thursday at 7.00pm, for the sick and their families, all front-line workers in the NHS and those who work in social care, celebrated by a different Bishop each week in his own Cathedral as follows. These Masses will be live-streamed, and can be viewed by visiting  
the

Cathedral webpage, or the Bishops' Conference Webpage ([cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk))

<b>7th May</b>	<b>Bishop Marcus Stock</b>	<b>Leeds Cathedral</b>
<b>14th May</b>	<b>Bishop Robert Byrne CO</b>	<b>Newcastle Cathedral</b>
<b>21st May</b>	<b>Bishop Mark Davies</b>	<b>Shrewsbury Cathedral</b>
<b>28th May</b>	<b>Bishop Terence Drainey</b>	<b>Middlesbrough Cathedral</b>

The Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham continues to live-stream Holy Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, the Liturgy of the Hours and Divine Mercy Chaplet each day. This can be accessed, for those with the internet, at [www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)

**The Holy Father has sent a letter to all the faithful for the month of May 2020 together with two prayers to Our Lady, as follows:**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own

situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

FRANCIS

**First Prayer**

O Mary,

You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus’ suffering,  
and persevered in your faith.

“Protectress of the Roman people”,  
you know our needs, and we know that you will provide,  
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,  
joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father  
and to do what Jesus tells us.

For he took upon himself our suffering,  
and burdened himself with our sorrows  
to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God;  
do not despise our petitions in our necessities,  
but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

## **Second Prayer**

*“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God”.*

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply.

Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and

continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.