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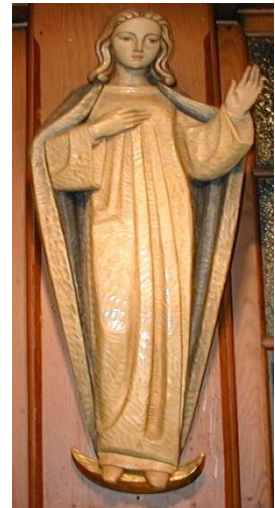
Blog: <http://saintmarysoswaldtwistle.blogspot.com>

Office Hours: 10 – 1pm Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri

St Mary's RC Church Oswaldtwistle, BB5 3EZ

Monthly Newsletter

April 2018



Message from Fr John

As announced at Masses over the weekend of 24/25 March, the Bishop has asked me to take up a new appointment at St Mary's, Horwich. It is a slightly smaller parish than here but with only one primary school and one secondary school. I will also have an Assistant Priest to cover a lot of the parish work. What is more, it is a lot closer to my office in Salford Cathedral Centre and nearer to Wardley Hall. It is only right that another priest is appointed who can give you all the care and attention that you deserve.

I will have my last Masses here over the weekend of 8th April before going on holiday from the 13 – 20 April. Fr Anthony McLaughlin will be here over the weekend 15 April. I will be clearing from the Presbytery 23 – 27 April.

I have done almost 400 Baptisms, 200 Confirmations, 70 Weddings and over 250 Funerals. So I have got to know many of you during very joyful and sad times, and it has been a privilege to walk with you.

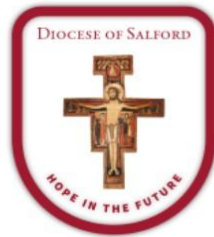
Having spent 10 years here, after my return to the diocese, I have many great memories and experiences of the people of Oswaldtwistle and Accrington who have given me tremendous support and encouragement, accepted my weaknesses and given me strength. The work that I have been able to do was founded on the work of Fr Patrick Bourke, and I am sure that you will give the same support to **Fr Sean O'Brien** who is replacing me. I would like to say that Fr Sean is a priest that has been ordained for over 7 years. He is, like Fr Gavin Landers and myself, a Stretfordian. I truly believe that he will bring different charisms to the parish and journey with you, as a good shepherd does, on your journey. He will bring a great spirituality to the parish. I wish you all well, and if I have upset anyone during my time here I humbly ask forgiveness.

I thank you for all the support you have all given me in the way you have been "Ambassadors for Christ". We have had some fantastic times together.

"Please pray for me, as I will pray for you, that we may all meet merrily in heaven" *St Thomas More*

The Community Project

We are now well on our way with raising money to be able to welcome into our community family from Syria. It is important that we keep up our commitment. For those who wish to make a small monthly donation for a fixed period by standing order, please speak with David Neville. Thank you for all who have expressed support and we will keep you informed. So far, we have raised approximately £3,000 in a relatively short period, we need to raise a total of £9000 in order to receive match funding from the Salford Dioceses and Caritas, however £4000 will enable us to formally register our application with the Home Office. This month we will be having a charity fundraiser at Franco's Restaurant on Wednesday 25th April at 7pm. We should have a maximum of 40 places and will charge £15 per head for a three-course meal. For further information or feel you can help in any capacity, please contact either Dylan, Michael Partington, Beverly Flanagan, Eve & Peter, or any members of the planning group. Keep watching this space.



HOPE IN THE FUTURE

God our loving Father,
We thank you, for blessing our parish
with all that we need,
to respond to our vocation to be a
missionary community in our locality.

We thank you for all our parish members
who, in response to your call, give of
themselves so freely to enrich our parish life
in the ways of love and service.

We ask you now,
to pour out afresh the gifts of your Spirit
upon each one of us that we may be inspired
to serve you in new and creative ways as
missionary disciples, bringing your
Light to the world.

We ask your blessing upon us as we journey
together in hope, through Christ Our Lord
Amen.

Please try to say this prayer at home, at work or in school regularly as we try to seek out what designs God has for us to be His ambassadors in this parish.

Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 27th July – 2nd August 2018

The 86th annual Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by Bishop John Arnold, will take place later this year and it is hoped that priests and people from all over the Salford Diocese will join Bishop John on this pilgrimage. This year will mark the 160th Anniversary of the Apparitions. Would you like to form part of a parish group? Travel details have yet to be finalised but information about the Pilgrimage can be accessed at 0161 8817 2209 or visit the diocesan website at www.salfordlourdes.co.uk If any sick pilgrims, lay helpers, nurses, doctors, health care assistants, children from years 8,9 or 10, or anyone who would like to be part of the choir, then please speak to Fr John. More information will appear soon.

Parish income February 2018

Total Parish Income: £5166.82

Parish Current Account

Offertory: 3rd/4th Feb £777.65, 10th/11th Feb £829.46, 17th/18th Feb £748.79, 24th/25th Feb £847.19
Standing Orders: £250.00, Ministry Income £590.00,
Votive Candles: £152.09 Other Income: Donations £105.00
Charities: APF £215.31, Refugee Project £10.00, Marys Meals £5.00, Caritas £10.00,
Cafod £526.33 Parish Centre £100.00

Parish Outgoings for February 2018

Total Parish Outgoings : £3104.42

Administration: Broadband, Telephone, Product Support, Postages, £210.05, Repair to Duplo £144.00, Office Supplies £89 40,

Presbytery Expenses: Food & Drink £179.79,

Church Expenses: Water £5.00, Electricity £253.90, Gas £897.26, Books £160.93, Caritas Christmas Cards £25.00, Caritas £392.48, Shelter £5.50, Lent Booklets £60.00, Redemptorist £63.20, Universe Media £32.04,

Wages: Secretary £585.87

Please make sure that you have collected your Offertory Envelopes. If you would like a set then please ask Sean Mullen. If you pay income tax and would like to “Gift-aid” your donation then please speak to the same. If you had “Gift-aid” but no longer pay income tax then speak to us asap.

Please keep this prayer list in view where you can pray for each intention daily.

FEAST DAYS & PRAYER LIST FOR MARCH (THIS MONTH WE PRAY ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE ON THE SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME WHOSE NAMES ARE IN ITALICS)

1st April Easter Sunday – For all newly Baptised; For all in the Royal Air Force

2 Easter Monday – For Peace in the World

3 Easter Tuesday – Anniversary of Fr Peter Kitchen RiP

4 Easter Wednesday – For all Carers and Helpers

5 Easter Thursday – For all HCPT in Lourdes

6 Easter Friday - For all with Special Needs

7 Easter Saturday – For Pope Francis

8 2nd Sunday of Easter (*Divine Mercy Sunday*) - for all the sick of the Parish

9 Feast of The Annunciation - *Findlay Marsden*

10 Easter Weekday - For the Bishops of England & Wales

11 St Stanislaus – For the Polish Community in the Parish

12 Easter Weekday - *Zach Moss*

13 Easter Weekday - *Liam O'Rourke*

14 Easter Weekday - *Oliver O'Rourke*

15 3rd Sunday of Easter – For Fr McLaughlin

16 Easter Weekday - *Gabrielle Radigan*

17 Easter Weekday - *Oscar Romaniszyn*

18 Easter Weekday – *Oliver Rowley*

19 Easter Weekday - *Jacob Sadowski*

20 Easter Weekday - *Alicja Wilk*

21 Easter Weekday - *Theo Wright*

22 4th Sunday of Easter - For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

23 Feast of St George - For all English People

24 Easter Weekday – *Kimberly Wusiewicz*

25 Feast of St Mark the Evangelist – For all writers and secretaries

26 Easter Weekday – *Eryk Zajac*

27 Easter Weekday - For all on the Sacramental Program and their families

28 Easter Weekday – For Fr John

29 5th Sunday of Easter – For Europe; For Fr Sean O'Brien

30 Easter Weekday - For all those training for the Priesthood

“Stay with us Lord on our journey” Prayer of Bishop John

Parish Mass Times and Reconciliation

Sat 6:30pm Sunday Vigil Sunday 10am
Reconciliation Sat 5:45 – 6:15pm; and
9.15 -9.40am Sunday Morning.
Weekday Masses as announced each week.

Sacramental Programme The meetings for children and parents on the Sacramental Programme are as follows:

Tuesday 17th April, Tuesday 8th May. All meetings will take place in church and will start at 6.30pm prompt.

Tuesday 5th June will be a practice for First Communion.

Parents are also reminded of the importance of the children coming to Mass each week. Dates will be arranged for Reconciliation again before First Communion.

First Communions will be held on the weekends of 9th/10th and 16th/17th June

St Mary's Ossy Mills Group. The next meeting Will take place on **Monday 16th April at 11:30am** Onwards at Ossy Mills Coffee Shop. Anyone is more than welcome. Note the change of date due to holidays etc.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If you have a friend or relative in a Hospital, Nursing Home or Care Home tell the staff to let the local priest know. Institutions are no longer allowed to inform the priest if there is a Catholic resident without permission. Leave it too late and they may not get the support of the Church.

109th Loyola Scouts 100 Club

The draw results are:

6th Mar 1st 14; 2nd 28; 3rd 5

13th Mar 1st 62; 2nd 39; 3rd 56

20th Mar 1st 18; 2nd 67; 3rd 72

Thanks to all who support Loyola Scouts through partaking in the draw. If you would like tickets please speak to Michael Partington or Steph Kelly.

Ministries for April 2018 can be collected from

the sacristy. Please advise us if you are not going to be around for any particular weekends either this month or in April. Please could people let us know of their availability over the Lenten period? **We are always looking for new readers! Please see Fr John.**

The Next Monthly Newsletter for May and will be printed the weekend of 28/29 April

If you wish anything to be included, please submit by the evening of Tuesday 24th April.

Parish Centre News

Opening Times are as follows:

Sun 12noon – 8pm

Fri & Sat 7.30pm – 11.30pm.

The Parish Centre will be closed on Good Friday

Should no one be in the bar after 9.30pm then the bar may close early if no one turns up then it will not open at all!

The Bar or upper room can be hired or opened on any other night for a booked function or by pre-arrangement.

Baptism receptions can be catered for and any other private function. The Parish Centre is available for private bookings, Christening and birthday parties as well as any other event such as post funeral gatherings. Rooms can be booked by calling in at the Centre. Remember it is run by volunteer staff who give of their free time for the good of everyone.

Membership Subscriptions

St Mary's Parish Centre is a Private Members Club and therefore all who use it must be members or signed in by a member. Private functions can be booked by non-members at the Committee's discretion.

Subscriptions for Membership are £5 and can be taken out at the Parish Centre Bar. This Parish Centre is there for the use of all parishioners, so please support it by becoming a member.

If you would like to volunteer your services behind the bar, please speak to Clive Yates, Paul Millen or Eric Parr. Training can be given. Good for anyone wanting to know more about bar work!