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Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church

DIOCESE OF  SALFORD

Catlow Hall Street, Oswaldtwistle,
BB5 3EZ
01254 232433

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. S D O'Brien

Parish Secretary: Berni McGuinness – e-mail Berni.mcguinness@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Parish office hours this week Tues-Fri 9am-1pm

Sick: Tracy Banks, Brenda Heaton, Matthew Sutcliffe, Harold & Hilda Owen, Margaret Hornsby, Tom McIntyre

Lately Dead: Jim Duffy, Raymond Byrom, Tony O'Neill, Mandy Lakin, Les Jarrett.

Anniversaries: Josephine Pilkington, Patsy Keenan, Tom Meredith, Fred Partington.

Masses & Liturgies 14th January – 19th January 2020

Tuesday 14th 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions. 7pm Mass.

Wednesday 15th 9:45am St Marys School Mass in Church.

Thursday 16th 10:00am Funeral Service for James Duffy RIP. 7pm ABC Group.

Friday 17th 9:30am Mass.

Saturday 18th 9:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions. 10:30am Mass
6:30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 19th 10:00am Mass.

Sanctuary Lamp. This week's intention is for Tommy West

Last weekend's collection £767.87 Thank you for your kind generosity.

Thank You to all of you who came and helped take down the Christmas Decorations.

Hope in the Future. The Bishop writes: INTRODUCTORY RITES: Sprinkling with Holy Water. At Sunday Mass there is the option of a Sprinkling with Holy Water replacing the Penitential Rite – though it has to be said that this happens very rarely! Perhaps this Sunday (The Baptism of the Lord) and Easter are the only times it is frequently used. This is a shame, because it can give a variety and interest to the Introductory Rites which can sustain our understanding and devotion week by week. Perhaps consider using it more often – especially in the Easter Season, or at celebrations where a large number of children are present, or even just once a month! John the Baptist preached “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins”, and this is the meaning of this action at this moment of the Mass. There are many symbolisms at work in the waters of baptism, but when that water is sprinkled it is a sign of cleansing and purification – the washing away of sin and guilt and all that hinders us from the joys of life in God's Kingdom. In some ways this action is an extension of something we have already done – dipping our fingers in the holy water stoup on the way into church: that was a reminder of baptism, which washed sin away and welcomed us as children of God and sisters and brothers of Jesus. So to, in these “Introductory Rites” whose purpose is to draw us together and prepare us for worship, the Sprinkling with Holy Water can be a powerful moment of repentance and reconciliation. A priest tells a story of a parishioner who collared him after Easter Sunday Mass, where this rite had been used, complaining that “the water never touched me!” As a “sacramental” Church we make ample use of physical symbols and should be generous in their use: without asking people to bring raincoats, if the Sprinkling with Holy Water is used, everyone should get wet! The chant or hymn that accompanies it should be both penitential and joyful, because Jesus, the author of baptism, has made holy these waters in which we celebrate our reconciliation.

Crib Figures. Time has taken its toll on our crib figures with St. Joseph missing his toes, Baby Jesus missing fingers and the paint beginning to flake from Our Lady and the face of the donkey. These figures have now been sent off to Lewis & Lewis to be restored ready for next Christmas. In 2021 we'll send off the 3 kings to be restored and the following year the shepherds just to spread the cost out. Any donations would be gratefully received.

Hope in the Future. Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. On Saturday 18th January there will be an official diocesan training day for all extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion at St Vincent de Paul RC Church, Rochdale, OL12 6BU from 9:15am – 4pm. You must register through the diocesan website: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/eucharistic-ministers-training-day-with-the-irenaeus-project/

Parish Coffee Morning will be held on Monday 13th Jan at 9:30am at the back of church. Please come and join us.

Parish Centre Lock Street. The Parish Centre will be having an Irish Night on 13th March 2020. Tickets will be on sale soon. See the poster at the back of church. Book it in your diary.

Baptism Course. Session I of the baptism course will take place on Sunday 2nd February after the 10am Mass. Session II will be on Sunday 8th March. In line with diocesan policy and Canon Law at least one parent must be a baptised Roman Catholic who can produce their baptism certificate to prove this. The family must live within the parish boundary and attend Mass. Only a faithful baptized Roman Catholic can be a godparent. ‘A baptised person who belongs to a non-catholic ecclesial community may be admitted only in company with a catholic sponsor, and then simply as a witness to the baptism’ **Can. 874 #2**