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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: Brenda Heaton

Lately Dead: Nora Prestage, Edith Heyes, Paul Ernshaw, Ian Alveston, Margaret Ormsby

Anniversaries: George Clayton,

Masses & Liturgies 25th February – 1st March 2020

Tuesday 25th 9:30am Mass 6pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. 7pm Mass

Ash Wednesday 26th 9:45am All Parish Primary Schools. 11:30am Mass. 7:00pm Mass

Thursday 27th 9:30am Mass 7:00pm ABC Group

Friday 28th 9:30am Mass. 6:30pm Stations of the Cross in church

Saturday 29th 10am -5pm Deanery Marriage Course. 6:30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 1st 10:00am Mass.

Sanctuary Lamp This weeks intention is for a Special Intention

Last weekend's collection £ 744.61 Thank you for your kind generosity.

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT This Wednesday (26th Feb) Lent begins with the distribution of Ashes at each Mass. There will be opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings (6:30pm) as well as the parish retreat next week. Lent is a great time to reflect on our relationship with Jesus and encounter him in a renewed way.

Parish Retreat. The theme for this years parish Lenten retreat is 'Praying With Our Lady' led by Fr. Michael Doody, Vocation Director for the Diocese of Leeds. Each night will begin with Mass at 6:30pm followed by a spiritual conference by Fr. Doody. There will be opportunity for Confessions and Adoration during the week. This is a wonderful opportunity to encounter Our Lady who always brings us closer to her Son Jesus Christ. All are welcome. The dates are Tues 3rd - Fri 6th March.

Parish Finance & Building Group: Church Repairs We will soon be looking at repairs to the Church. This will be supervised through the Diocese. The Diocese tends to award work to their approved contractors, many of whom are companies based in the Manchester/Liverpool area. What we would like to do is form a list of local companies that can carry out building maintenance work (including builders, joiners, plumbers, general maintenance companies and electrical contractors). We are looking for medium sized companies who can submit to the Diocese for inclusion on their approved contractors list and local individuals/ small companies that we can call upon at short notice when minor or emergency works are required. If you are a local tradesman or work for a larger company and would like to be considered for future work please contact Berni McGuinness the Parish Secretary with your contact details, details of any trade organisations/accreditation schemes you are a member of and your insurance details. "As a community-based Parish, we would like the local community to be considered for carrying out any work."

St Mary's Community Group. Resettlement program update. Sunday March 8th 2.00pm - 4.00pm It is exactly one year since our Syrian family arrived in Oswaldtwistle from the war torn areas of the Middle East. Through your prayers and generosity our parish has been instrumental in transforming the lives and long-term life opportunities of our fellow brothers and sisters. We have helped the family resettle into a new culture, guided them in English language tuition, enabled them to become more integrated and to access a decent education for the children. To celebrate St Mary's achievements, we will be having a 'social event' at the Parish Centre.. Families and Friends of St Mary's are most welcome; music and food will be provided. The event should be an enjoyable occasion and perhaps an opportunity for us to enjoy some middle eastern fare.

Behold 2020 - Rededication of England and the Dowry of Mary. The Bishops of England & Wales have decreed that this year England will be rededicated to Our Lady, as Our Lady's Dowry. The first dedication was made by King Richard II in Westminster Abbey as he sought the protection of Our Lady in the face of great political turmoil. At this point, England received the title 'Mary's Dowry'; meaning that England was 'set aside' as a gift, a dowry, for Our Lady under her guidance and protection. On Sunday 29th March 2020, The Re-dedication will take place throughout our country. As King Richard II once gave England as a gift to Our Lady for her guidance, so we, too, seek Mary's protection and prayers, giving ourselves through this act of dedication. Every parish in the country has been asked to set aside this day for special prayer and we too will be preparing for this day over the next few weeks.

Catechists. Thank you to all those who came forward in response to the parish appeal last week for more catechists. There will be an information evening at church on Thursday 19th March at 7pm

Parish Centre Lock Street. The Parish Centre will be having an Irish Night on 13th March 2020 at 7:30pm . Tickets are on sale at the back of Church. £10.00 per adult, £5.00 per child, includes supper.