

Parish of St Winefride, Lymm

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Hello everyone. Messages seem to have changed in the last week. Each person now has a tale to tell about themselves or their family having to self-isolate or worse, and the novelty of living an idle life has worn off. There is a line of prayer from one of the psalms – ‘Remember David and all his patient endurance’ – which keeps flashing through my mind for obvious reasons. We need a lot of patience and a lot of endurance. I pray that the Lord will bless us with both.

We remember that doctrine from the Apostles’ Creed this weekend: ‘The Communion of Saints’. We are part of the Mystical Body of Christ, that great crowd of believers past and present, some triumphant in heaven, some in Purgatory preparing to be with them, and we here on earth still fighting the good fight. Some great souls have lived impressive lives and we honour them with sureness. Others we know have impressed *us*, and we rejoice at their faith and pray that one day we will join them and enjoy the beatific vision for eternity. Halloween is just a pagan commercial spin-off but there is surely some leeway there for having fun.

There has been a reasonable take-up for Monday and Tuesday Mass. (9.00am). We pray for the Holy Souls on Monday, and for our parish on Tuesday the feast of our patroness St Winefride. What we are short of is help with stewarding. There were quite a few volunteers at first but it has been left to the same ones each week (for various reasons). It is a legal requirement that for safety of everyone that three people should be there to supervise each service and sanitize the church afterwards. If you can offer your help it will be gratefully accepted.

It is hoped that some of you will be able to contribute money to the fund to help St Joseph’s Family Centre to provide vouchers this year instead of goods for the needier people in Warrington. Details are available at <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org14597>

I have continued to offer Mass on my own nearly every day, and quite a lot of Mass intentions have been requested. I hope to get round to yours as soon as possible. This last week I offered Mass particularly for the repose of the souls of Frazer Carr and Beryl Spivey, for Mary Trotter’s intentions and in thanksgiving (Slattery). This weekend mass is for the Roberts family and for Ian Legge RIP; for all the faithful departed on Monday, and for Bernard Roges RIP on Tuesday.

For the first time I have had to tell people that this week there is no room for any more to take part in our three weekend Masses. Thank you for taking the trouble to phone on Wednesday, and for not leaving messages. November and February tend to be statistically the worst months for suffering from depression, and hearing the very word November carries an air of gloom, so take extra care and avoid the TV news programmes! God bless you always.

Fr Tony Elder

PS Did you know that Marcus Rashford MBE and I both come from Wythenshawe, and during the war, Lord Haw Haw famously broadcast that the Germans would not bomb us - they were saving our homes for the troops of the Fatherland after the war? Please let me know if I can be of any help, or if you think I know someone who could.

