

# *St Aidan & Oswald, Royton, Oldham*

☎ 0161-624-1322

E-mail – [staidanroyton@talktalk.net](mailto:staidanroyton@talktalk.net)

Parish Website – [www.staidanroyton.org.uk](http://www.staidanroyton.org.uk)

St Vincent de Paul Society ☎ 07398 638649

Credit Union E-mail – [SSAOCU@outlook.com](mailto:SSAOCU@outlook.com)

Parish Priest: Fr Stephen Doyle

## *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*

Weekending 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Mass Times This Week

Saturday Vigil – 5.30p.m. Sunday – 9.30a.m. & 7.30p.m.,

Monday 9.30a.m., Tuesday 8.30a.m.,

Wednesday 8.30a.m.,

Thursday 8.30a.m., Friday 8.30a.m.

### Confessions

Saturday 11.30a.m. - 12.00noon

Every Saturday – 2.00p.m. (By Appointment)

**REFERENCES FOR TODAY'S MASS**

Prayers & Readings – Page 90  
Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed – Page 11  
Preface II of Advent – Page 52  
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**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR – (Liturgical)**

Sunday           **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
Monday          **The Nativity of the Lord**  
Tuesday         **St Stephen**  
*St Stephen was the first martyr, whose ministry is recounted by St Luke in the Acts of the Apostles chapters 6 & 7*  
Wednesday     **St John the Evangelist**  
*St John wrote the fourth Gospel, three letters in the New Testament and the Book of Revelation. He is the secondary Patron Saint of Salford Diocese*  
Thursday        **The Holy Innocents**  
*The Holy Innocents were all those infants under the age of two years, who were killed on the orders of King Herod, who feared that his kingship was being threatened by the arrival of the infant Jesus*  
Friday           **St Thomas of Canterbury**  
*St Thomas of Canterbury was a 12<sup>th</sup> century archbishop of Canterbury who strenuously fought for the rights of the Church against King Henry II. As a consequence the king's supporters murdered him*  
Sunday          **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR – (Parish)**

Sunday           **10.30a.m.** Coffee Morning prepared and served by Irene Blaylock and Annette White  
**7.00p.m.** Carol Singing  
**7.30p.m.** The First Mass of Christmas  
**7.30p.m.** Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting  
Monday          **9.30a.m.** Christmas Day Mass

Tuesday            *The Rosary will be recited after the 8.30a.m. Masses this week*  
                          **7.30p.m.** *Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting*

Thursday           **7.30p.m.** *Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting*

Sunday              **10.30a.m.** *Coffee Morning prepared and served by Carole-Anne & Thaddaeus Varey*  
                          **7.30p.m.** *Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting*

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO:**

- the school children for donating food to our *Welcome Centre* as their *Advent Appeal*. The homeless and poor will appreciate their kindness very much
- those who purchased presents for the *Christmas Gift Tree*. Again, the *Welcome Centre* visitors will appreciate your kindness as well as the *DePaul UK Young People's Project* and the local *Women's Refuge*
- our *St Vincent de Paul Society* for providing hampers for families who would otherwise be struggling to have a happy Christmas this year. The work of the *Society* will be greatly appreciated by them, too

**IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET** – that due to my continuing ill-health I have tendered my resignation to Bishop John Arnold, as Parish Priest of both *Ss Aidan & Oswald's* and *St Joseph's*. Having received my latest cardiologist's report, not good reading, I asked the bishop to allow me to retire five months earlier than I would have done. He understood my situation and has allowed me to do so. It could be January 2024 before a new Parish Priest is appointed, He will be responsible for amalgamating *Ss Aidan & Oswald's* and *St Joseph's*. The bishop has asked me to stay on in my present semi-retirement capacity until then. Watch this space! (24/12)

**THE 2024 EDITION OF THE SALFORD ALMANAC** – is on sale in the *Piety Shop* this weekend priced £3.50. (10/12) (17/12) (24/12)

**VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR CHILDREN'S LITURGY** – are required, as two current volunteers will not be continuing. Volunteers must be DBS checked. If you would like to help, please contact me and we will take it from there. The *Children's Liturgy* takes place every Sunday morning during the 9.30 Mass. Thank you. (24/12)

**A VOLUNTEER FOR PARISH HEALTH & SAFETY** – is required, especially now that we are well into Winter! Wet leaves and snow are particular hazards at this time. The *Catholic Insurance Service Ltd.* insists that certain standards

be maintained. If we fall short of these standards we will not be able to make a successful claim. If a car park cannot be treated for ice then it must be closed and signed posted as such! If you would like to volunteer to be our *Health & Safety Manager* and organise a team to help you, please contact me and we will take it from there. Thank you. (24/12)

**A DIOCESAN SYNOD** – has been called by Bishop John Arnold. It will be an opportunity to meet as a diocese to discern what God is asking of his Church at this time, resulting in helping us to live out our calling as missionary disciples. A joint meeting has been arranged for both *Ss Aidan & Oswald's Parish, Royton* and *St Joseph's Parish, Shaw* for **Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2024** at 7.00p.m. in the *Community Room* at *Ss Aidan & Oswald's*. For further information please see either parish's notice boards and their websites. (10/12) (17/12) (24/12)

**DING SPEED DATING** - is an innovative and fun event designed to provide a platform for young Catholics to connect and interact in a relaxed environment. The journey of faith and relationships can often intertwine and this event aims to foster meaningful connections among young adults within parishes.

An upcoming event will take place in Nottingham on **17<sup>th</sup> February 2024**, where single young adults between the ages of 21 and 30 years old can meet each other.

For further information please see the notice in the church porch. (24/12)

*Keep safe and keep well.*

*May God bless you and St Aidan and St Oswald pray for you.*

*Fr Stephen. ©*