

St Aidan & Oswald, Royton, Oldham

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Parish Priest: Fr Stephen Doyle

Christmas 2023

Weekending 24th/25th December 2023

Mass Times This Week

Christmas Vigil 7.30p.m., Christmas Day 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 & 5.00p.m. - 5.20p.m.

Baptisms

Saturdays 2.00p.m. (By appointment)

CAROL SINGING – (Christmas Eve)

Once in royal David's city (No.536)

O come, all ye faithful (No.501)

The holly and the ivy (No.653)

The first Nowell (No.651)

See, amid the winter's snow (No.601)

Angels we have heard on high (No. 135)

REFERENCES FOR TODAY'S MASS

Penitential Act – Page 8

Prayers & Readings – Mass During the Night - Page 98

Prayers & Readings – Mass During the Day - Page 102

Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed – Page 11

Preface I, II or III of the Nativity of the Lord – Page 52 or 53

Communion Rite – Page 43

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR – (Liturgical)

Monday **The Nativity of the Lord**

Tuesday **St Stephen**

St Stephen was the first martyr whose ministry is

recounted
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by St Luke in the Acts of the Apostles chapters 6 &

Wednesday **St John the Evangelist**

St John wrote the fourth Gospel, three letters in the New Testament and the Book of Revelation

Thursday **The Holy Innocents**

The Holy Innocents were all those infants under the age of two years of age 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 12th century archbishop of Canterbury who strenuously defended 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)

Tuesday *The Rosary will be recited after 8.30a.m. Masses this week*
Tuesday **7.30p.m.** *Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting*
Thursday **7.30p.m.** *Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting*
Sunday **10.30a.m.** *Coffee Morning prepared and served by*
Carole- **7.30p.m.** *Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting*

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO:

- everyone who has been instrumental in any way in preparing the church and its services for this holy Season of Christmas. It is a credit to all those involved and I am sure that their efforts are appreciated by all our parishioners and visitors

ON BEHALF OF MY DEAR HOUSEKEEPER – Barbara and myself, may I thank you all for the many gifts, cards and good wishes extended to us over the last few weeks. My, and what would have been Barbara's, 16th and last Christmas here at *Ss Aidan & Oswald's*, like our previous ones, will certainly be one to remember! We have both been unwell, Barbara since May and myself since September. We had no idea things would end up this way. *Ss Aidan & Oswald's* has been our longest appointment, as well as being our final one. So, this will inevitably make it the most memorable. We have been very happy here thanks to your making us feel most welcome. I wish my successor every happiness and success. He will be happy and successful ministering to such wonderful people as yourselves. Finally, you have been most kind and thoughtful to both Barbara and myself over all these years and we appreciate it very, very much. So, thank you, once again and may God richly reward you for all your kindness. (*See below*)

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 might be a while before a new Parish Priest is appointed, as he will have to 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) (25/12)

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) (25/12)

May I wish you and your families a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Keep safe and keep well.

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

Fr Stephen.