

Liturgy and Worship Report for AGM 2026

In addition to the Masses on Sundays and Holydays, many parishioners have appreciated the opportunity to attend weekday Masses, Rosary, Adoration and Novenas.

Liturgy has been enhanced not only by Fr David's often thought-provoking sermons, but also by the contribution of the lay parishioners who have given their service in various Ministries.

A team of Welcomers has been on hand to greet parishioners and welcome visitors, making sure that they have Mass sheets and, when needed, hymn books, so that everyone has chance to participate fully in the liturgy.

Our trusty team of Altar Servers, with Niall receiving a long-service medal, has not only given stalwart Sunday service, but also some of the servers have assisted at weekday Masses during their school holidays.

Our readers and musicians have helped to bring the liturgy to life, and we are grateful for new additions to the music group, both regular and occasional.

Our Childrens' Liturgy team have brought the Word to our younger parishioners in their own special way, with attractive sessions for children and their parents in term-time and even on some Sundays in the Summer holidays.

Lay parishioners have led Rosary, Adoration and Novenas before weekday Masses and have also sometimes been able to make these liturgies available when normal Mass has not been possible.

And, of course, behind the scenes, our Sacristans, flower arrangers and cleaners make sure that everything is properly set up ready for our liturgy and worship.

Our team of Eucharistic Ministers, who help to distribute Holy Communion in church and, in some cases, take the Eucharist to house-bound parishioners has, sadly, been diminished due to several Eucharistic Ministers having to withdraw their services because of health issues. This is an important ministry, particularly as an increasing number of parishioners are becoming unable to physically attend Mass.

If you feel you could perform the ministry of Eucharistic Minister or, indeed, any other ministry, please speak to Fr David.

Ecumenical Worship

In November, some members of the parish, including Fr David, participated in the Service of Remembrance. This is always an important annual event.

In January, Rev Sally Jones and members of the Whitnash Methodist Church kindly resurrected the Christian Unity Service, in which a few of St Joseph's parishioners participated. It was a lovely service celebrating our unity in Christ. Those of us who attended enjoyed sharing time together, both in the service and over refreshments afterwards. Sadly, it was not well attended.

In March, the World Day of Prayer service, which this year was devised by the Christian women of Nigeria, was hosted by St Joseph's. Members of St Joseph's, Whitnash Methodist Church and St Margaret's, including the Mayor of Whitnash, participated in the service. Many thanks to the people who provided the delicious refreshments which were enjoyed after the service.

After the Good Friday service, members of the three churches again met up for a Walk of Witness around Whitnash, stopping in several places for worship and ending at the Plough and Harrow, where we were welcomed with Hot Cross buns.

Jackie Rabone