

# Malcolm



## Archbishop of Liverpool

### *Decree of Extinctive Union*

The parish of **St Mary at Wigan** was first established as a secular mission in 1817 amidst a dispute with the older Jesuit mission of St John that had existed since 1686. The dispute was so bitter that each mission erected a church simultaneously within a few hundred yards of each other. St Mary's Church opened in 1818 and the replacement church for St John's mission was completed in 1819. The matter of territorial boundaries was not resolved until several years afterwards. St John's parish was administered by Jesuit priests until 1933, when it was given over to the archdiocese. Since then, the two parishes of St Mary and St John have been administered as separate parishes under the pastoral care of diocesan priests. However, in 2000, the last incumbent parish priest at St Mary's was also the parish priest of St John's parish. In 2017, St John's parish was merged with two other parishes to form the parish of **St William, Wigan**. Since the parish of St Mary at Wigan currently has no parish priest, and in order to provide for the care of souls, it is proposed that the pastoral care of the parish be given to the clergy of the parish of **St William at Wigan**, and the two parishes merged.

Whereas it pertains to the diocesan bishop to erect, suppress or alter parishes (cf. Canon 515 §2) once he has consulted the Presbyteral Council; whereas after consultation it is proposed that the parish of **St Mary at Wigan** and the parish of **St William at Wigan**, be merged into a single parish; and whereas we have consulted our Presbyteral Council on this matter; we hereby decree, in accordance with canon 121, the merger of the parishes of **St Mary at Wigan** and **St William at Wigan**, by an act of extinctive union, so that the territories of the two parishes shall comprise in their entirety the territory of the parish of **St William, Wigan**. The dispositions of this decree shall take effect immediately upon the promulgation of this decree.

All rights, obligations and temporal goods currently enjoyed by the parish of **St Mary at Wigan**, in accordance with the Code of Canon Law, will at the same time be transferred to the parish of **St William at Wigan**, to whose pastor is also committed the full care of souls.

We further direct that this decree be published in the two parishes concerned as soon as possible.

Given at Liverpool, this **eleventh** day of **July**,  
in the year of Our Lord **two thousand and twenty-four**.

Vicar General

Chancellor



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