

CHORLEY AND PRESTON HOSPITALS: Please contact St Joseph's Chorley (262713) if any member of your family is admitted into Chorley Hospital and needs a visit. Please ask the ward staff to call the Chaplain on his bleep/phone. For the chaplaincy service at Royal Preston Hospital please ring 01772 522435. For the chaplaincy service at Wigan Infirmary T. 01942 822324.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE: We will continue to be cautious and protect the vulnerable parishioners and visitors to St Mary's. Infections are going down in Chorley. We will continue to wear masks until the end of **March**. Thank you for all your cooperation. I would like to convey my special thanks to everyone who respected my wishes and to continue in wearing their masks and cleaning hands. I am still implementing the strict H&S rules for your benefit (and mine) and thank you for supporting me. God bless. Fr Marsden.

BAPTISMS: We are ready to open the church diary for baptisms. Please send an email to the parish office and you will be asked to complete a baptism form. Please be aware that priority is given to residents within the parish. Any person who lives outside the geography of St Mary's parish must have a very good reason and their parish priest's permission to want baptism at St Mary's. It is usual to be baptized in the parish where you reside.

ASH WEDNESDAY: The children from the school; Yrs 3-6, attended Mass and received Ashes. All the classes were impeccably behaved, and they ought to be congratulated. Well done boys and girls. **THE INFANTS** received Ashes in school and asked many interesting questions about the Ashes. Well done to the little ones.

Thank you to the children who have written their prayers for Ukraine and sent them to Fr Marsden and the parishioners. You can read the prayers in front of the Altar and on the main notice board in the narthex.

HOLY HOUR at 15.00 on Sundays during Lent. It is only 60 minutes but well worth being with Our Blessed Lord and praying for peace

READERS FOR MASSES: Please could you contact the parish office by email or phone, if you would like to read at Holy Mass. New Readers very welcome. John Gunn has decided to stand down after many years of dedicated service in running the Readers' Rota. Would someone like to consider taking over? **Many thanks to John Gunn for all his hard work. You are greatly appreciated.**

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION – MARCH 2022

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Marsden
Deacon Norman Arrowsmith
Tel: 01257 262537

E-mail: stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk

Parish website: www.stmarys-chorley.org

Parish Office: Tues – Fri 10.30-13.00. 14.00–17.00

Parish Centre: 270122 or 07377 341969 (Manager – Heather Cheyne)

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

6th MARCH 2022



Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell

this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.' Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time. Luke 4:1-13

Sat 5th

16.15–16.45

17.00

Sun 6th

10.00

11.30

15.00

Confessions (at porch of presbyter)

Mass – Roland Anderton RIP

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Mass book p. 153)

Mass – Christine Corcoran RIP

Mass at St Joseph's Anderton

Holy Hour and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Mon 7th
12.00 SS Perpetua and Felicity
 14.00 **Mass** – Daphne, Jack, Keith, Nick Smith RIP
 DVD showing in the narthex. St Josephine Bakhita – part 1.

Tues 8th
12.00 St John of God
Mass – Kath Angland (A)

Wed 9th
12.00 St Frances of Rome
Mass – Tony Pennington (LD) followed by burial of Ashes.

Thurs 10th
 Private Mass

Fri 11th
11.30 CAFOD Family Fast day
Stations of the Cross (St Alphonsus' version)
12.00 **Mass** – Fr John Smith (A)
19.00 **Prayer Vigil in Astley Park for workers who died from COVID**

Sat 12th
16.15–16.45 *Confessions (at porch of presbyter)*
17.00 **Mass** – McCrory Family RIP

Sun 13th
10.00 **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT** - (Mass book p. 156)
Mass – Peace in Europe
11.30 *Mass at St Joseph's Anderton*
15.00 **Holy Hour and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Tues, Wed and Fri. 12.30 - 13.00

Please pray for the sick and the housebound: Fr John Poland, Fr Barry McAllister, Fr Laurence Mayne, Emily Atkins, Kevin Bailey, John and Margaret Brown, Brigid Cain, John Campbell, Tom Carmichael, Michael Collins, Hughie Daly, Colette Ellis, Yvonne Finlayson, Desmond Gorman, Julie Gruszka, Jacob Hughes, Rosemary Hough, Debbie MacFarlane, Teresa O'Malia, Molly Redhead, Caroline Rigby, Sr Magdalene Roskell, Denis Smith, Joan Smith, Eileen Snape, Terry Tingey, Bridget Trimm, Alan Willetts, Mike White, Ann Woodruff, Agnes Young and parishioners in *The Adelphi, The Gables, Westwood, Gillibrand Hall*

LATELY DECEASED: Paul Crook (61) who died on 28th February in a Preston Nursing Home. Requiem Mass at St Gregory's Chorley on Monday 14th March at 10.00 am followed by burial in the church yard. Eternal rest grant on to him, O Lord...
You may remember Paul when he was living in the Grotto during that terrible cold winter, several years ago. He firmly believed that he would survive the very cold temperatures – and he did. Paul was a kind and gentle soul and he was known by many people, having attended a local Primary School and Holy Cross High School.

ANNIVERSARIES: Kathleen Angland, Zosia Neisser, Anne Shepherd, Fr John Smith, Fr John Cunningham.

READERS: 26th 5th 17.00 Kinga Grzeczynska. 6th 10.00 Tracy O'Neill. 12th 17.00 Gillian Sharples. 13th 10.00 Dr Jane Eccles.

CAFOD COLLECTION is being held next Sunday 13th March. Envelopes are available in the narthex. Thank you.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: are on Fridays at 11.30am.

MUTEMWA LEPROSY CLINIC Thank you for your generosity in the January Leprosy

Day collection. £893 has been sent to the Ven. John Bradburne Clinic in Mutemwa, Zimbabwe. We have received a letter confirming the receipt of the collection.

LENTEN GATHERINGS: Many people have asked about the films we did before the pandemic struck the world. We will resume showing a religious DVD on Monday 7th March at 14.00. Our first one is about the sufferings and the life of the wonderful Saint Josephine Bakhita of Dafur. We will show the film in the narthex where we can control the heating better. The film will be shown in 2 parts; 7th and 14th March. If you would like to bring a bottled drink and some light refreshments, you are welcome.



UKRAINE AND EUROPE:

As the week unfolded, we heard from one of our parishioners who was staying in Kyiv, Ukraine with her husband, their little girl and the child's Grandma. They left the city for their dacha in a small village, but could hear the Russian missiles flying overhead to bomb Kyiv. They drove west for 400 miles, reached Bishop Hryhoriy in Drohobych, left their car there, and he got someone to drive them through the Carpathian mountains to the Slovak border, where they crossed safely. Over one million refugees have now crossed into Poland, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia.

THANK YOU to everyone who is contributing to the collection for the Ukrainian people. It raised £670 and remains open. We sent €1000 to Bishop Hryhoriy, and it arrived safely, so we will now send the balance of the collections. He says the Drohobych hospitals are full of wounded soldiers. They need supplies of medicines, dressings, pain relief and syringes, and also for the maternity departments. His diocese have opened all churches and available diocesan buildings to accommodate refugees. The seminary refectory is feeding 200 refugees daily. Seminary students are working with Caritas at the Polish border, loading humanitarian aid. Every donation is received with immense gratitude for your generosity. Thank you immensely for the anonymous donation of a £2,000. Please continue praying. Our prayers are being heard. Far more miracles are worked by prayer than we can ever be aware of in this world. We are not powerless. When we pray, we have God on our side. We beg Him to use His supreme power to disable the aggressors.

We pray that the ordinary Russian soldiers may realise they have been fed a load of lies by their commanders, that tanks will break down, missiles misfire, guns jam and the invasion stall. Please pray especially for the Patriarch in Kyiv Svyatoslav Shevchuk, sheltering in his cathedral crypt with 200 others.

When we watch the news and see the heart-breaking scenes from Ukraine we should think about two things. Firstly, we should pray for the suffering, dying and displaced people and bring some comfort to them through our prayers.

Secondly, we should take a good look around and really appreciate what we have. Our families, our homes, our beds, our food, our cars and most importantly our safety and freedom. The people of Ukraine are slowly having their homes, hospitals and cultural buildings bombed. We can see this happening via the media. At times like these we should appreciate what God has given us. Freedom of speech, freedom of elections, freedom of Faith and to come to church without fear.

Jesus, I Trust in Thee. Have mercy on us and on the whole world.