

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: Inside this church, masks must be worn (unless exempt) hands gelled, keep 2 metres physical distancing. We want to continue to keep everyone safe. Serious illness in people over 80 is very evident throughout England.

The new infections in Chorley have fallen to 557 in the 7 days to February 5th. Slowly we are beating Covid. Holy Mass will be kept short to minimize infection. Please do not come to church if you have a cold or are unwell. Do not put others at risk. Some people are ignoring this. Stay at home and get better soon. Thank you for all your cooperation. Fr Marsden.

DURING LENT Could you please let me know if you would like Stations of the Cross at 11.30 am on Fridays in Lent or would you like to revert to 19.00 on Fridays? The choice is yours! Also, I would like to show a religious film on Monday afternoons, during Lent, at 14.00 in church. Each film will be advertised in this newsletter. We will start on 7th March with the Life of St Josephine Bakhita.

THERE IS A WINTER IN ALL OF OUR LIVES, a chill and darkness that makes us yearn for days that have gone or put our hope in days yet to be. O God our Father, you created seasons for a purpose. **Spring** is full of expectation, buds breaking, frosts abating, and an awakening of creation before the first days of **summer**. Now the sun gives warmth and comfort to our lives, reviving aching joints, bringing colour, new life and crops to fruiting. **Autumn** gives nature space to lean back, relax and enjoy the fruits of its labour, mellow colours in sky and landscape as the earth prepares to rest. Then **winter**, cold and bare as nature takes stock rests, unwinds, sleeps until the time is right. An endless cycle and yet a perfect model. We need a winter in our lives a time of rest, a time to stand still, a time to reacquire ourselves with the faith in which we live. It is only then that we can draw strength from the one in whom we are rooted, take time to grow and rise through the darkness into the warm glow of your springtime, to blossom and flourish, bring colour and vitality into this world, your garden. **Thank you, Father, for the seasons of our lives.**

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION – FEBRUARY 2022

We pray for **religious sisters and consecrated women**;
thanking them for their mission and their courage;
may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

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

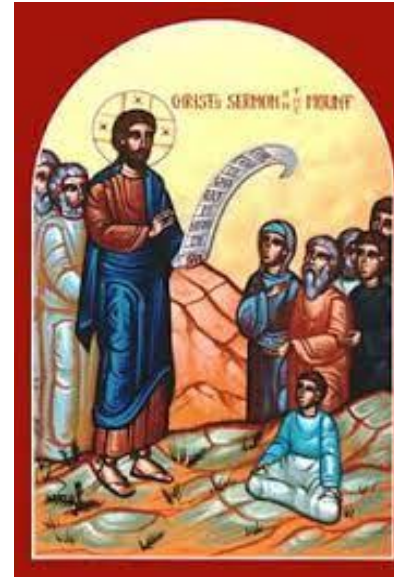
Parish Centre: 270122 or 07377 341969 (Manager – Heather Cheyne)

LIVERPOOL ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESAN TRUSTEES INC. Registered Charity No. 232709

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

13th FEBRUARY 2022



Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and

dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. 'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.' Luke 6:17,20-26

Sat 12th

16.15–45

17.00

Confessions (at porch of presbyter)

Mass – Patrick and Mary Canny RIP

Sun 13th

10.00

11.30

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Mass book p.136)

Day of Prayer for Racial Justice

Mass – Brian Pennington (LD)

Mass at St Joseph's Anderton

Mon 14th

12.00

Ss Cyril and Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs.

Mass – Bernard and Alice Joyce RIP

Tues 15th St. Sigfrid, bishop
12.00 Mass – Jane Banks RIP

Wed 16th
12.00 Mass – Mary Carter RIP

Thurs 17th St Finan of Lindisfarne _Private Mass

Fri 18th
12.00 Mass – Thomas Saurin RIP

Sat 19th
16.15–16.45 *Confessions (at porch of presbyter)*
17.00 Mass – Winifred Thornton RIP

Sun 20th **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** (Massbook p.139)
10.00 Mass – David Gough RIP
11.30 Mass at St Joseph's Anderton

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: **John Brown** (83) the butcher, who died on 3rd February in Chorley Hospital. Funeral Service on Wednesday 23rd February at 14.30 followed by interment at Charnock Richard Crematorium.

ANNIVERSARIES: Laurence Kedward,

READERS: 12th 17.00 Andrew Jenner. 13th 10.00 Tracy O'Neill. 19th 17.00 Eileen McCarrick. 20th 10.00 Dr Jane Eccles.

MEN, INTERESTED IN THE DIACONATE? The Archdiocesan second Diaconate Information Evening, will be held on **Tuesday 22nd February 2022**, 7.30-9.00pm, with refreshments from 7.00pm, in the parish house at **St Gregory's, Weldbank Lane, Chorley, PR7 3NW**. Please ask your wives if they would like to come with you. Questions and answers will take place and the evening is very informative for candidates. It will be led by His Grace, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP.

CONFIRMATIONS It is time again to register for Confirmations if you are in Yr 8. If your child attends a non-Catholic High School, please ring Holy Cross Catholic High School and ask to speak to Linda Walmsley who is the Lay Chaplain.
01257 262093 // l.walmsley@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

RETRouvaille will be meeting again between 3-6th March. The programme concentrates on assisting married couples in times of stress or marital problems. Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or website www.retrouvaille.org.uk

NEW ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE: The Archdiocese of Liverpool now has official accounts on Facebook and Instagram. Facebook/ Liverpool archdiocese.

NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH with the Mill Hill Missionaries is taking place on 10th – 18th March. Masses from St Joseph's Church Maidenhead will be available by ZOOM via the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena

WHAT IS THE MESSAGE OF THE BEATITUDES?

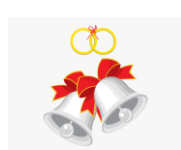
Jesus offers a very different message in comparison with Kings or Leaders. Jesus called his first disciples, as he calls you now. His call has always demanded a choice between the two voices competing for your hearts, the choice between good and evil, between life and death. Which voice will the young people of 2022 choose to follow? To put your faith in Jesus means choosing to believe what he says, no matter how strange it may seem, and choosing to reject the claims of evil, no matter how sensible or attractive they may seem.

In the end, Jesus does not merely speak the Beatitudes. He lives the Beatitudes. He is the Beatitudes. Looking at him you will see what it means to be poor in spirit, gentle and merciful, to mourn, to care for what is right, to be pure in heart, to make peace, to be persecuted. This is why he has the right to say, "Come, follow me!" He does not say simply, "Do what I say". He says, "Come, follow me!"

You hear his voice in the Gospel, on a hill, and you believe what he says. But like the first disciples at the Sea of Galilee, you must leave your boats and nets behind, and that is never easy – especially when you face an uncertain future and are tempted to lose faith in your Christian heritage. To be good Christians may seem beyond your strength in today's world. But Jesus does not stand by and leave you alone to face the challenge. He is always with you to transform your weakness into strength. Trust him when he says: "My grace is enough for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9)!

As we continue to pray for peace between Russia and Europe and the world, we must trust that Our Blessed Lord and His Blessed Mother will stop any war or bloodshed. No one wants to see fields of blood and bodies lying unclaimed. No one wants to hear tents with wounded soldiers and civilians crying out in pain and suffering. Please continue to offer your prayers and pray for peace.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT DURING LENT In a few weeks' time power and energy bills will rise steeply, and this will bring a lot of hardship and suffering to many families. During Lent, would you like to consider making a food bag for a family? I am sure that the Chorley Food Bank will be delighted to receive family food bags for Easter. Thank you.



WEDDINGS AT ST MARY'S Would you like to have a traditional Nuptial Mass or Wedding Service at St Mary's? With Valentine's Day around the corner, there may be a few proposals in the parish. You will be welcome to discuss a traditional church wedding with Fr Marsden or Deacon Norman Arrowsmith.