

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. We want to continue to keep everyone safe. We are finally seeing the number of people infected by COVID **drop** in Chorley: 372 new cases (390/100,000) in the seven days up to Feb 17th. This is a huge relief and hopefully the pressure will slacken for NHS staff. Please do not come to church if you have a cold or are unwell. You could still put others at risk. Some people are ignoring this. Stay at home and get better soon. Thank you for all your cooperation. I would like to convey my special thanks to everyone who respected my wishes and kept wearing their masks and cleaning hands. I carried on with the strict H&S rules for your benefit (and mine) and thank you for supporting me. God bless. 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.

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.

LOURDES TRIP 2022 great news that the Lourdes trip is going ahead this year. 22nd – 20th July. More information available on the poster at back of church.

SPRING PLANTS any donations of Spring plants or bulbs will be gratefully received. Thank you.

HALF TERM: Mr Smyth and his staff and all the children. Have a good, safe, and happy break.

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

20th FEBRUARY 2022



Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly.

To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your

tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you.

If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.' Lk 6:27-38

Sat 19th

16.15–16.45

17.00

Confessions (at porch of presbyter)

Mass – Winifred Thornton RIP

Sun 20th **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** (Mass book p.141)

10.00 Mass – David Gough RIP
11.30 Mass at St Joseph's Anderton

Mon 21st St Peter Damian, St Robert Southwell

12.00 Mass – Margaret Carrel (sick)

Tues 22nd Feast of the See of St Peter the Apostle

12.00 Mass – Clarke, Tingy and Pomoroy Families

Wed 23rd St Polycarp, St Milburga

12.00 Mass – Private intention – RM

14.30 Funeral Service – John Brown

Thurs 24th St Ethelbert King of Kent Private Mass

Fri 25th

12.00 Mass – Francis Calderbank (+1982) (A)

Sat 26th

16.15–16.45 Confessions (at porch of presbyter)

17.00 Mass – Norah Carter (A)

Sun 27th **EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** (Mass book p.144)

10.00 Mass – Donald Vigar (birthday remembrance)

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: Fr Tony Reynolds (83) who died on 15th February. Fr Reynolds was in his 67th year of his priesthood. Vigil Mass on 28th February at St Michael's Ditton, Widnes at 19.00 and Requiem Mass on Tuesday 1st March at St Mary's Church, Woolton at 12.00 noon, followed by burial in the churchyard. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord....

ANNIVERSARIES: Francis Calderbank, Norah Carter,

READERS: 19th 17.00 Eileen McCarrick. 20th 10.00 Dr Jane Eccles. 26th 17.00 Richard Gillett. 27th 10.00 Simon Eccles.

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.

CANON JOSEPH CARTMELL was Rector and later Dean here at St Mary's during his time, 1939 – 1967. He looked after our parishioners during WWII having served himself in the Great War. There is a photo of Canon Cartmell RIP by Our Lady's Altar. It will stay there for two weeks and then be added to the gallery of past parish priests.

UKRAINE AND EUROPE: "I invite you to pray for peace in Ukraine and to do so often," the Pope said at the end of his general audience on Jan. 26. "Let us ask the Lord insistently that this land may see fraternity flourish and overcome wounds, fears, and divisions." The Pope urged people not to forget the more than five million people who died in Ukraine during World War II: "Think that more than five million were annihilated during the time of the last war. They are a suffering people; they have suffered hunger, they have suffered so much cruelty and they deserve peace."

"May the prayers and invocations that are being raised to heaven today touch the minds and hearts of those in positions of authority on earth, so that dialogue may prevail and the good of all be put before the interests of one side. Please, no more war." "I make a heartfelt appeal to all people of goodwill, that they may raise prayers to God Almighty, that every political action and initiative may serve human brotherhood, rather than partisan interests," Pope Francis said on Jan. 23.

"Those who pursue their own interests, to the detriment of others, disregard their human vocation, as we were all created as brothers and sisters."

Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki, president of the Polish bishops' conference, said earlier this week that rising tensions with Russia pose "a great danger" to the whole of Europe.

"The current situation represents a great danger for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the entire European continent, which may destroy the progress made so far by many generations in building a peaceful order and unity in Europe," the appeal, also signed by other bishops, said. The Ukrainian and Polish bishops' statement lamented the lack of progress in talks between Western countries and Russia.

"In their speeches, the leaders of many countries point to Russia's increasing pressure on Ukraine, as massive armaments and troops are gathered on its border. The occupation of Donbas and Crimea has shown that the Russian Federation — in its violation of Ukraine's national sovereignty and territorial integrity — disregards the binding rules of international law," it said.

Ukraine, which has a population of 44 million people, borders Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Belarus, and Russia.

"Today, the quest for alternatives to war in resolving international conflicts has become an urgent necessity, since the terrifying power of the means of destruction are now in the hands of even medium and small powers, and the increasingly strong ties existing between the peoples of the whole earth make it difficult, if not practically impossible, to limit the effects of any conflict," it said.

"Therefore, drawing on the experience of previous generations, we call upon those in power to refrain from hostilities. We encourage leaders to immediately withdraw from the path of ultimatums and the use of other countries as bargaining chips." "Differences in interests must be resolved not by the use of arms, but through agreements. The international community should unite in solidarity and actively support endangered society in all possible ways."

There will be prayers for Ukraine during Mass each day. Please include Ukraine in your daily prayers. Please pray for Bishop Hryhoriy Komar in Drohobych, our parishioner Elena Kovalenko and her family in Kyiv, for many other priests and their family members and parishioners whom I know in Ukraine. Thank you. FM