

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: The COVID rate is rising sharply. There were about 866 new cases in Chorley during the last seven days, a huge increase on the week before. Hospital admissions are also sharply increasing locally. We all wish the pandemic was over, but clearly it is not. We need precautionary measures and physical distancing as well as the vaccinations and boosters. A **second** booster is available to the over 75s and people who are categorised as vulnerable. Your GP surgery will contact you in due course.

We will continue to act with caution, in order to protect the vulnerable parishioners and visitors to St Mary's. **We will continue to wear masks and to sanitize hands.** Thank you for all your cooperation.

PROCEDURE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION AT MASS

A one-way system is in operation. Please come up to the altar via the central aisle, or by the extreme outside aisles. Return to your pews via the inner side aisles. Please do not come up the inner side aisles, to avoid having to squeeze past each other. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

LENTEN GATHERINGS: Many people have asked about the films we did before the pandemic struck the world. DVD on Monday 28th March at 14.00. We will show the film The Life of St Rita, in the meeting room. If you would like to bring a bottled drink and some light refreshments, you are welcome.

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)

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

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - LAETARE

Mothers' Day

27th MARCH 2022



The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man,' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of

the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father

has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

“The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.” Luke 15 1-3 11.32

Sat 26th

16.15–16.45 Confessions (at porch of presbyter)

17.00 Mass – Harry Carter RIP

Sun 27th **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT** (Mass book p. 168) **Mothers’ Day**

10.00 Mass – Ian Hodgson RIP

11.30 Mass at St Joseph’s Anderton

15.00 Holy Hour and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Mon 28th

12.00 Mass – Donna Harrison (sick)

Tues 29th

12.00 Mass – Leo Walmsley (LD)

Wed 30th

12.00 Mass – Peter Higgins (A)

Thurs 31st

08.00 Mass – Private Intention

Fri 1st April

11.30 Stations of the Cross (St Alphonsus’ version)

12.00 Mass – Rosie Bolton and Leo, Janet, and Michael Bolton

Sat 2nd

14.00 Syro-Malankara Mass

16.15–16.45 Confessions (at porch of presbytery)

17.00 Mass – Mary and Tom Nightingale RIP

Sun 3rd **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT** (Mass book p. 176)

10.00 Mass – Bernard and Alice (A) Joyce

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: Rev. John Cree, 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, Kathleen Jackson, 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*

ANNIVERSARIES: Peter Higgins, Alice Joyce,

READERS: 26th 17.00 Richard Gillett. 27th 10.00 Dr Jane Eccles. 2nd 17.00 Andrew Jenner. 3rd 10.00 Dominic Simpson.

CONGRATULATIONS to Liam and Jennifer Godfrey (née Bradley) who were married here on Friday. God bless you both.

NUGENT APPEAL Today, 27th March we will be having a second collection to support Nugent, our official Archdiocesan caring services.

UKRAINE AND EUROPE: Last weekend and this week, a total of £3,200 came in for help via Bishop Hryhoriy in Drohobych, which has been sent out, along with another donation of £2625. Thank you for your great generosity. On Sunday 27th March, our Holy Hour at 15.00 will be offered for the people of Mariupol who are being starved to death or dying from dehydration or hypothermia.

The second part of the Holy Hour will be silent prayer where you can talk with God and pray for your needs and the needs of others. Please try to attend the Holy Hours and spend some time with Our Blessed Lord.

POPE FRANCIS CONSECRATES RUSSIAN AND UKRAINE TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY: In a special televised service on the Feast of the Annunciation, 25th March, at 17.00 Italian time, Pope Francis carried out this Fatima-type consecration, asking the Blessed Mother to convert hearts, bring peace, and assuage the suffering of the victims of aggression. Prayer can work miracles – in fact there have been many miracles during this war. Prayer can change the course of history.

Most important is that it should convert the hearts of those who have provoked this totally unnecessary and wicked war, even stopping them by force if there is no other means.

A Prayer for Ukraine

“We perceive today that the Archangel Michael together with the whole Heavenly Host is fighting for Ukraine. ..Today we pray: O Archangel Michael and all the Powers of Heaven, fight for Ukraine! Cast down that devil who is attacking us and killing us, bringing devastation and death!” (Archbishop Svyatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv 4.3.22).

PRAYERS FOR MOTHER’S DAY



For our Mothers who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, we pray to the Lord. **R.**

For Mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them, we pray to the Lord. **R.**

For Mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom, we pray to the Lord. **R.**