

**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 new infections in Chorley numbered 1375 in the seven days up to Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. Thankfully this marks a 50% decline, but it is still extremely high, Omicron is still dangerous and extremely infectious. Please continue to be very careful.

**Inside church, masks must be worn** (unless exempt – medical certificate must be shown), hands gelled, keep 2 metres physical distancing. We want to keep everyone safe. Against World Health Organisation advice, the government is removing the legal obligation to wear masks in shops and on public transport etc from Thursday 26th. This puts especially the elderly and those with health problems more at risk. It looks to be a political rather than a medical or scientific decision. There are still 20,000 patients in hospital with COVID. The NHS is at full stretch and contending with the toughest winter on record.

Baptisms are postponed until the pandemic subsides. Several are delayed because family members have contracted Covid. Do not come to church if you have a cold or are unwell. Thank you. Holy Mass will be kept short to minimize infection. Avoid crowded places, limit physical contacts. Protect others besides yourself by having your vaccines and booster. Remember they are only 70-75% effective against Omicron infection. Thank you for all your cooperation.

**ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR LEPER CLINIC IN MUTEMWA, ZIMBABWE:** The John Bradburne Clinic is growing and there are more adults and children depending on care, medicines and treatments for various illnesses including the major problem of leprosy – **now known as Hansen's Disease** – The donations we raise, go towards the basic running expenses, salaries of workers, additional food and medication required by the Mutemwa Community. Brother Raymond who is lay Franciscan, is the Administrator for Mutemwa, whilst Father Linous is in charge of the spiritual well-being of the entire community at Mutemwa. This annual collection takes place today, Sunday on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Please use the Gift Aid envelopes in your boxes. More information is available from the John Bradburne Memorial Society. Thank you for your generosity.

**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](mailto:l.walmsley@holycross.lancs.sch.uk)

**Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Marsden**  
**Deacon Norman Arrowsmith**

Tel: 01257 262537

E-mail: [stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk)

Parish website: [www.stmarys-chorley.org](http://www.stmarys-chorley.org)

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

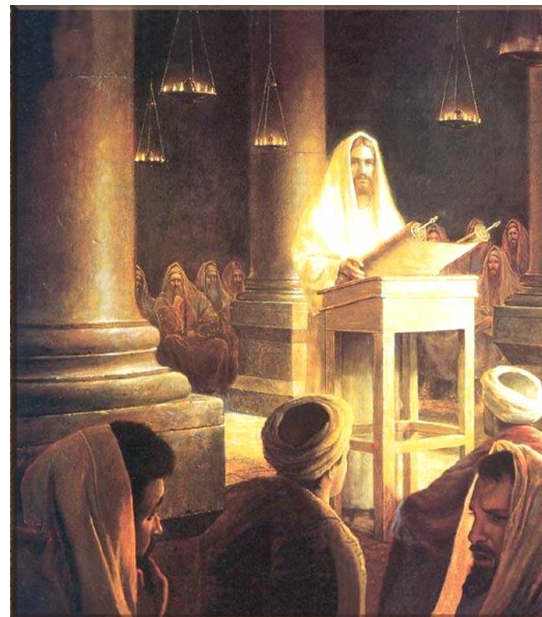
Parish Centre: 270122 or 07377 341969 (Manager – Heather Cheyne)

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

# St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2022



*Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.*

*Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.*

*He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21*

**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>**

11.00

16.15–45

**17.00**

**Sun 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**10.00**

St Vincent of Zaragoza

Holocaust Memorial Service in Astley Park

Confessions (at porch of presbytery)

**Mass** – Barbara (A), Sr Marie and Leonard Green

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Mass** – Lauren Owen (birthday remembrance)

11.30	<i>Mass at St Joseph's Anderton</i>
<b>Mon 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<u>St Francis de Sales</u>
<b>12.00</b>	<b>Mass</b> – William Lewis RIP
<b>Tues 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL</u></b>
<b>12.00</b>	<b>Mass</b> – Clarke, Tingy and Pomoroy Families
<b>Wed 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<u>Ss Timothy and Titus</u>
<b>12.00</b>	<b>Mass</b> – Rita Hammond (recovery from illness)
<b>Thurs 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<u>St Angela Merici</u>
<b>09.00</b>	<b>Mass</b> – Private Intention
<b>Fri 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<u>St Thomas Aquinas</u>
<b>12.00</b>	<b>Mass</b> – Michael and Winifred Hanley RIP
<b>Sat 29<sup>th</sup></b>	
16.15–45	<i>Confessions (at porch of presbytery)</i>
<b>17.00</b>	<b>Mass</b> – Albert Harvey (A) / Parishioners
<b>Sun 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</u></b>
<b>10.00</b>	<b>Mass</b> – Margaret Bailey (LD)
11.30	<i>Mass at St Joseph's Anderton</i>

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

**Please pray for the sick and the housebound:** Fr Barry McAllister, Fr Laurence Mayne, Emily Atkins, Kevin Bailey, John Brown, John and Margaret Brown, Brigid Cain, 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*

**There are several parishioners who are very poorly after contracting COVID – Omicron. Please pray for the sick and for those who care for them. Thank you.**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** **Kevin Mulhall** (81) who died in Bolton Hospital on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The Funeral Service will be at Charnock Richard Crematorium on 28<sup>th</sup> January at 15.30. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord....

**ANNIVERSARIES:** **Peter Whittle, Albert Harvey, Tusia Lynch, Linda Ryan,**

**READERS:** **Sat: 22<sup>nd</sup> 17.00** Richard Gillett. **Sun: 23<sup>rd</sup>** Dr Jane Eccles. **Sat : 29<sup>th</sup> 17.00** Andrew Jenner. **Sun : 30<sup>th</sup> 10.00** Simon Eccles.

On September 30, 2019, on the liturgical memorial of St. Jerome, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the **SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**. This year it falls this weekend, **Sunday, January 23, 2022**. At the 09.30 Mass in St Peter's, Pope Francis will confer the ministries of Lector (Reader), Catechist and Acolyte on men and women from South Korea, Pakistan, Ghana, various parts of Italy, Łódź, Poland, Ghana, Madrid and Peru

*LEADER* : The Bible is already the blessed Word of God. It does not require a blessing. So we take this moment to pray for God's blessing upon us as we commit to read our Bibles and let God's Word guide our lives.

The Bible you hold in your hands is the inspired word of the Lord. As Catholics, we believe this is the holy book of the Church, the sacred literature of God's people. Our Church encourages us to read and reflect frequently on the pages of this book so that we may be continually formed into committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

Let us continue the ancient practice of asking the Holy Spirit, who inspired these writings, to help us as we study and pray these Scriptures. May we listen to the word of God in these texts and find our nourishment and strength in its message.

Hold your Bibles near your hearts, in the place of the Lord's Eucharistic presence, and please respond: "Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love."

*Pause for a moment of silence.*

*LEADER:* May the Holy Spirit encourage us to give greater honour to this holy Bible, enthrone it in a place of honour in our homes, and commit to frequent reflection on its pages.

*ALL:* Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love.

*LEADER:* May the Holy Spirit instill in us a deep desire to know God's word so that we will grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

*ALL:* Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love.

*LEADER:* Through the Holy Spirit, may our reading of Scripture lead us to a deeper faith, a more lively hope, and a more fervent love for the Lord and his holy church.

*ALL:* Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love.

*Instruct the people to place their hands on their Bibles during the blessing.*

*LEADER:* Please respond to this closing with an Amen. Let us pray:

Saving God, you have revealed your life and your love through the lives of our ancestors in the faith. From Abraham and Sarah, Moses and David, to Mary and Joseph, to Peter and Paul, you have spoken your word and called your people to fuller life. We honour your presence in these Scriptures, and we pray that the words of this sacred book may become for us more deeply the living word of God, forming our thoughts, desires, and actions. We ask your blessings on these Holy Bibles and in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *ALL:* Amen.

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE** was held on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** at 11.00 at The War Memorial in Astley Park, Chorley. Thank you to everyone who attended. Lest we forget.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE UNITY OF CHRISTIANS (18-25 January)**

Eternal Father, we praise you for sending your Son to be one of us and to save us. We are all consecrated to you by our common baptism Look upon your people with mercy, for we are divided in so many ways, and give us the Spirit of Jesus to make us one in love. Make us one in the fullness of faith and keep us one in the fellowship of love. We ask this gift, loving Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE**, threatened by Putin's aggression and 100,000 Muscovite troops on their borders. Pray for the avoidance of war.