

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. In urgent cases or emergency please ask the ward staff to call the duty 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.

VIRUSES AND COLDS: It is the season for them! If you are not feeling well or have a cough or cold – **please stay at home and do not pass on your 'bugs' to anyone else.** It is not fair to come to church and infect others. I am sure you understand that no one wants to be ill. Get better soon. Thank you.

SVP BUDDIES MESSAGE: SVP Chorley Buddies are holding a **Christmas social** in the Parish Centre on **20th Dec from 12.00 until 2pm.** It includes a hot lunch, free raffle & entertainment. Transport is available. The social is free but we accept donations towards the cost of lunch. Call 01257 542367 to book. If you are feeling lonely or isolated please get in touch.

CHURCH CLEANERS WANTED: please could you spare a couple of hours on Thursday mornings (09.30 – 10.45) and help prepare and clean the church for Advent and Christmas. We need your help. Thank you.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE – Sunday 17th December 15.00, St Gregory's Weld Bank. PR7 3NW.

SCHOOL MASS: Well done to all the children who came to the Advent Mass. Beautiful singing and very good readers. Fr Marsden talked about Jack Traynor (1883–1943), who was a Royal Marine and was severely injured by shrapnel and crippled in 1917 at Gallipoli, a total and incurable invalid. Jack went on pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1923 and was miraculously and fully healed. He returned to Liverpool and set up a coal business, daily carrying hundredweight sacks of coal on his back. The Army Pensions Board never cancelled his lifelong invalidity pension, because they refused to believe in miraculous cures at Lourdes! **There will be a second school Mass on Wednesday 13th at 09.00 followed by the School Carol Service rehearsal.**



THE SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE will be on Monday 18th December at 18.00. It is a very important event in the lives of our school children and happy memories are made, which will last for many years. Everyone is invited. Thank you.

THANK YOU TO THE PARENTS who are bringing their children to Holy Mass. It is truly good to see youngsters at Mass. You are giving your child the vital opportunity to form a relationship with God and to understand why Mass is so important in the Catholic Faith. Please continue and well-done boys and girls.

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

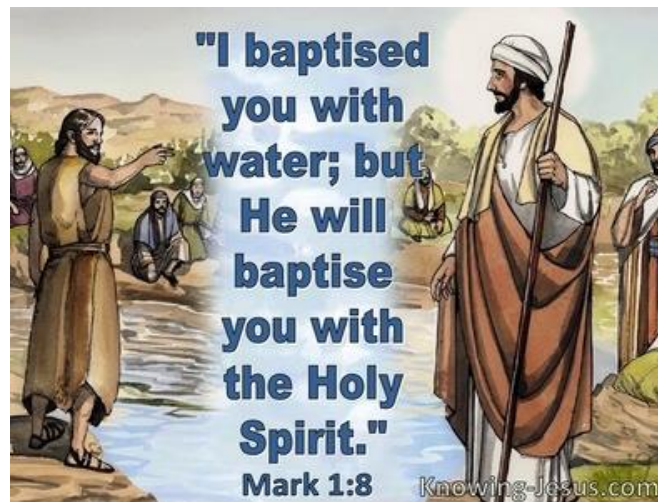
Parish Centre: 270122 or 07377 341969 (Manager – Heather Cheyne)

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL Registered Charity No. 1199714

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10th DECEMBER 2023



The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,

proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' Mark 1:1-8

Sat 9th

16.15 -16.45

17.00

Confessions

Vigil Mass – James and Margaret Thompson (A)

Sun 10th

10.00

11.00

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Mass book p.85)

Mass – Ronald West RIP

Baptism – Darcey Diane Wade-Watkins

Mon 11th

09.00

St Damasus I, Pope

Mass – Mary (A) and Joseph Baxendale

Tues 12th

12.00

14.00

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mass – Lena Abraham (A)

Funeral Service – Francis Kidder Amos

Wed 13th

09.00

St Lucy

School Mass – Teresa Martin (sick)

15.00 **Requiem Mass – Margaret Goulding**

Thurs 14th **St John of the Cross**
12.00 *Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion*

Fri 15th
12.00 **Mass – Fr Louis Catterall SMM (A)**

Sat 16th
16.15 -16.45 *Confessions*
17.00 **Vigil Mass – Stephen Murrison (very poorly)**

Sun 17th **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** (Mass book p.88)
10.00 **Mass – Parishioners**
15.00 **Advent Reconciliation Service at St Gregory's Weld Bank.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: Fr Barry McAllister, Fr Jonathan Cotton OSB, Emily Atkins, Patrick and Maureen Bolger, Dorothy Burgoyne, John Campbell, Pat Clarke, Michael Collins, Kathleen Coyle, Colette Ellis, Jimmy Henry, Rosemary Hough, Jacob Hughes, Winter Heenan, Archbishop Emeritus Patrick Kelly, Mary Langton, Teresa Martin, Fr Laurence Mayne, Debbie MacFarlane, Margaret McDaid, Molly Redhead, Denis Smith, Joan Smith, Alan Taylor, Mike White, and parishioners in The Adelphi, The Gables, Westwood, and Gillibrand Hall.
Please inform the Parish Office if the above sick list needs updating.

READERS: **Sat: 9th 17.00** Kinga Grzeczynska **Sun: 10th** Dr Jane Eccles.
Sat: 16th 17.00 Eileen McCarrick **Sun: 17th** Tracy O'Neill
Sat: 23rd 17.00 Eileen McCarrick **Sun: 24th** Dcn Norman

Christmas Eve: 18.30 Andrew and Eleanor Jenner
Christmas Day: 10.00 Tracy O'Neill

RECENTLY DECEASED: **Margaret Goulding** (75) who died at home on 26th November. Requiem Mass on Wednesday 13th December at 15.00 followed by interment at Charnock Richard Crematorium. **Francis Amos** (35) who died at home in Rishton on 29th November. Funeral Service on Tuesday 12th December at 14.00 followed by burial in Chorley Cemetery. Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord....

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Louis Catterall SMM, Canon Bill Redmond, James and Margaret Thompson, Mary Baxendale, Lena Abraham.

POINSETTA APPEAL: We would be grateful if you could donate red poinsettias for the Christmas decoration of the church. Please bring the poinsettias after Mass on Wednesday 20th December or during Thursday on 21st December. Thank you.

BISHOP HRYHORIIY KOMAR is not able to join us this Christmas. The Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches have moved from the Julian Calendar, which was 13 days behind ours, to our Gregorian Calendar. So they now will celebrate Christmas like us on 25th December, instead of on 6/7th January. The calculation for Easter is a bit different, so our Easters may not always coincide. So far they have had electricity, but they fear Russian attacks again on the Ukrainian electricity grid, as Putin tries to freeze them into submission. The number of brave young men dying on the battlefield is heartbreaking. Please continue to pray for Bishop Hryhoriy and his people, also that they will receive the necessary and promised aid they need from the USA and the West. Fr Marsden sent out £6500 (7400 euros) to Bishop Hryhoriy in relief for refugees etc this week, from collections here, at Anderton and at Withnell, and other donations. Two Saturdays ago he was asked to bless two more MEDEVAC (medical evacuation)

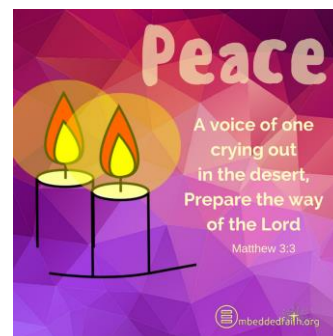
vehicles bought by **Chorley Aid to Ukraine**, to rescue wounded soldiers and get them quickly to hospital. Volunteers drove them out to Ukraine. Thank you to all who support the Ukrainian people in their struggle for independence and nationhood.

TIMES OF SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS

Advent Sunday IV
Sat 23rd December 17.00 and
Sun 24th December at 10.00

Christmas Eve (Sun 24th Dec.)
18.00 Carols followed by
Christmas Vigil Mass 18.30.
Christmas Day (Mon 25th) Mass 10.00
St Stephen's Day Mass 12.00

Everyone is most welcome. Please come along and join in with the carols.



The second week of Advent has come very quickly. The shoppers have started, the bags are being carried back to the cars, the excitement is growing and the Carols are ringing out in town. Our church is open and you are invited to come inside and spend a few minutes with the Lord in prayer or meditation. Tell Him your worries or joys, ask for blessings for your family and friends. Pray for peace in this very delicate world we live in. Pray for Bishop Gregory Komar and his people who are struggling this winter and combatting freezing temperatures. Pray for peace in the Holy Land. We are lucky to live in a nice town with nice people and we have

our freedom. We should appreciate the many good things that are available to us, and our families, homes, jobs and neighbours. Maranatha – prepare a way for the Lord.

AN ADVENT PRAYER

Lord God, we adore you because you have come to us in the past.
You have spoken to us in the Law of Israel.
You have challenged us in the words of the prophets.
You have shown us in Jesus what you are really like.

Lord God, we adore you because you still come to us now.
You come to us through other people and their love and concern for us.
You come to us through men and women who need our help.
You come to us as we worship you with your people.

Lord God, we adore you because you will come to us at the end.
You will be with us at the hour of death.
You will still reign supreme when all human institutions fail.
You will still be God when our history has run its course.

We welcome you, the God who comes.
Come to us now in the power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

