

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 at Christmas. Get better soon. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANERS STILL NEEDED: 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.

SCHOOL MASS: There is a school Mass on Wednesday 18th 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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER WORKSHOP: will take place on **Saturday 23rd December** at 13.00 and end approx. 16.00 in the narthex. Please come and help prepare the church for the festivities of Christmas. Mince pies and sherry for the workers will be available!

NURSERY POSTER You may have noticed the school nursery poster outside the church. Please tell your family and friends about our school nursery and if you need more information, it is available from Mrs Wilson on 01257 262811.

WINTER SOLSTICE is on Friday 22nd December. The good news is that after this shortest day, the days gradually start lengthening and the nights shorten.

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.

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)

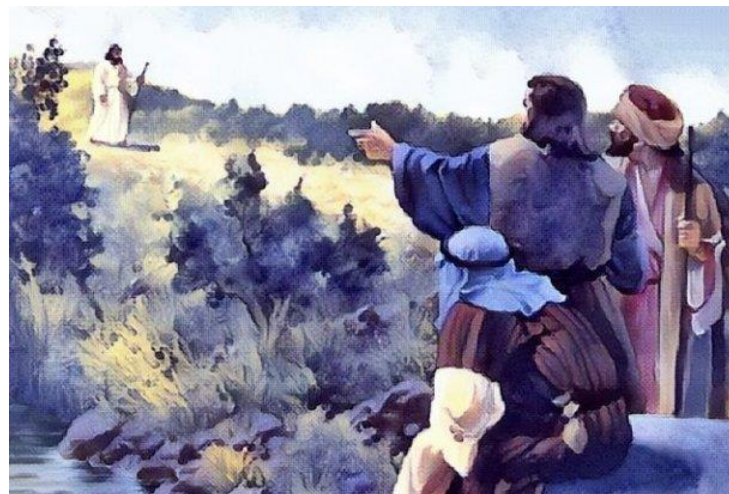
ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL Registered Charity No. 1199714

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday

17th DECEMBER 2023



A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the

Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

John 1:6-8,19-28

Sat 16th

16.15 -16.45

17.00

Confessions

Vigil Mass – Stephen Murrison (very poorly)

Sun 17th

10.00

15.00

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Mass book p.88)

Mass – Parishioners

Advent Reconciliation Service at St Gregory's Weld Bank.

Mon 18th

09.00

Mass – Monica Donalds and deceased family members

School Mass for Juniors

School Carol Service in church

18.00

Tues 19th

12.00

Mass – Tanya Ozerniuk RIP

Wed 20th

09.00

Mass – Anna Doherty (birthday remembrance)

Thurs 21st

12.00

St Peter Canisius

Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Fri 22nd

12.00

Mass – Margaret Bailey RIP

Sat 23rd

16.15 -16.45

Confessions

17.00

Vigil Mass – Anne Colette Bury (A)

Sun 24th

10.00

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Mbook p.90)

Mass – Parishioners

CHRISTMAS EVE

Carols

18.00

Night Mass –

Samuel Round (A)

18.30

Mon 25th

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

10.00

Day Mass – Fr Mayne and sick and housebound of the parish and those who care for them.



Your **CHRISTMAS CHURCH COLLECTION DONATIONS** we will divide equally between Bishop Hryhorii for relief work for the Ukrainian war refugees in Drohobych, and Mary's Meals – see below. Please be generous. Both are excellent causes, and the money goes directly for practical help, with minimum administration costs.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS – Give a gift of Hope this Christmas

This Advent alternatively you can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts or pick up a catalogue in church. World Gifts such as "winter survival kit" and "super soup kitchen" help transform the lives of people experiencing poverty.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: Fr Barry McAllister, Fr Jonathan Cotton OSB, Fr John Johnson, Emily Atkins, Patrick and Maureen Bolger, Dorothy Burgoyne, John Campbell, 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, Bernard McDermott, 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: 16th 17.00 Eileen McCarrick **Sun: 17th Tracy O'Neill**

Sat: 23rd 17.00 Kinga Grzeczynska **Sun: 24th Dcn Norman**

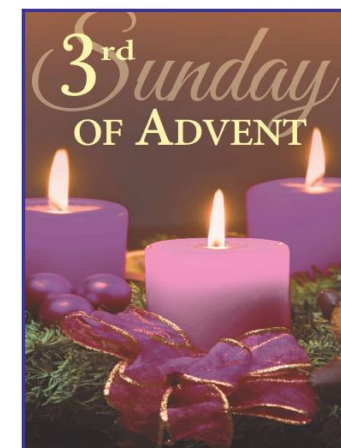
Christmas Eve: 18.30 Andrew and Eleanor Jenner

Christmas Day: 10.00 Tracy O'Neill

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Rita Smith, Maureen Cheston,

FR LAURENCE MAYNE (94) was not feeling well on Wednesday late afternoon. We called an ambulance which came quite quickly. Fr Mayne was taken to Royal Preston Hospital where he and the paramedic crew had to wait in the ambulance from about 21.00 until about 05.00 to be taken into A&E. Once in A&E he had to wait to be seen by doctors and assessed. By Thursday evening he had been moved from A&E to a bed on Ward 17. Please pray for Fr Mayne who has been 67 years a priest. The hospitals are under tremendous pressures and although the staff are doing their very best to look after patients, it is clear that the hospital is having problems coping with the numbers of patients.

ADVENT: Here we are already on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. The vestments are rose coloured and our Advent wreath candle is pink. Time is racing on and Advent is passing so quickly. Time is a precious gift and we should use it wisely. Let us focus on preparing for the celebrations of the birth of Our Blessed Lord. Apart from the shopping and filling up the fridge/freezer (if we can) and standing at the till queue for 30 minutes before being served – for the sake of the shops closing for 2 days maximum – let us think about ourselves and what we need to do individually, to prepare for Christmas. Confession – St Gregory's 3pm Reconciliation Service **TODAY or here at 4.15-4.45pm on Saturdays.** Mass – we are so lucky in Chorley that we can attend Mass at so many different times during the week and weekends. Quiet time for ourselves – in front of the Blessed Sacrament – Adoration Tuesdays and Fridays after Mass here and also in different Chorley churches (please look on the web sites for more information). At home; a decade of the rosary for peace in this world and for the children who are always the biggest victims of wars is also worth considering during Advent. Let the pink candle of joy shine in your hearts. Maranatha – come Lord Jesus, come!



MARY'S MEALS – DOUBLE THE LOVE: From 22 November 2023 to 22 January 2024, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1million. Today, we face some of our greatest challenges yet in a world devastated by conflict, food insecurity and the cost of living crisis, which we know is affecting people here in the UK as well as in the countries where we work, such as Syria, Haiti and South Sudan. With Double the Love, your donation will be matched and your kindness will go even further – meaning we can reach even more desperately hungry children with a life-changing school meal. There are many ways to get involved, find out more at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>