

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.

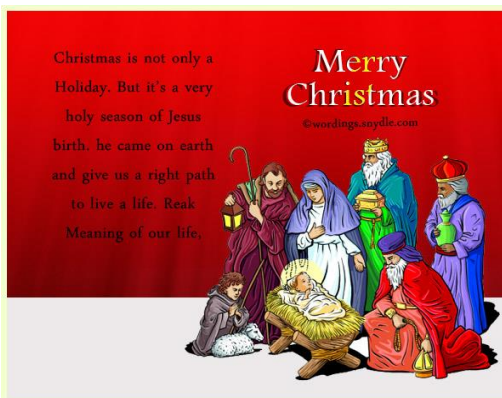
VIRUSES AND COLDS: It is the season for them! If you are not feeling well or have a cough or cold – **please stay at home and do not pass on your 'bugs' to anyone else.** It is not fair to come to church and infect others. I am sure you understand that no one wants to be ill at Christmas. Get better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

THE SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE Thank you to all the junior children who sang very beautifully at the Carol Concert. Thank you also to Mr Smyth and all the staff for all their hard work during this first half of the academic year. Happy Christmas and a Happy new Year to everyone.

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.

COULD YOU HELP? One of our parishioners is temporarily housebound. This means that the family small dog cannot get a walk. Could you help and take the dog for a walk, please? Please contact the parish office.



Fr Francis Marsden and Deacon Norman Arrowsmith would like to wish you and your loved ones and friends, a very happy and holy Christmas. Thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard in the church and the grounds. Thank you to everyone who financially donates to the parish and thank you for your great generosity. Best wishes to the parish centre staff. You are all very much appreciated. God Bless you all.

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

24th DECEMBER 2023



The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'

She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won

God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.'

'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her. Luke 1:26-38

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

18.00

Carols

18.30

Night Mass – Samuel Round (A)

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.

Tues 26th
12.00 St Stephen, the First Martyr
Mass – Kevin Bailey and Elizabeth Jane Firth RIP

Wed 27th
09.00 St John the Evangelist
Mass – Joan and Frank Scott

Thurs 28th
12.00 Holy Innocents
Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Fri 29th
12.00 St Thomas Becket
Mass – Deceased members of the Bolton Family

Sat 30th
16.15 - 16.45 Confessions

17.00 Mass – David Gough (A_

Sun 31st
10.00 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
Mass – Patrick O'Donnell and Family Sp. Int.

Mon 1st January **Mary, Mother of God**
12.00 Mass – Parishioners, families and friends of St Mary's and all volunteers who help in the parish.

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: 23rd 17.00 Kinga Grzeczynska Sun: 24th Dcn Norman
Christmas Eve: 18.30 Andrew and Eleanor Jenner
Christmas Day: 10.00 Tracy O'Neill
Sat: 6th 17.00 Gillian Sharples Sun: 7th 10.00 Simon Eccles

ANNIVERSARIES: David Gough, Samuel Round, Anne Colette Bury, Mary Rigby, Cyril Iddon.

FR LAURENCE MAYNE (94) is a bit better and looks brighter. Please remember him in your prayers. On Friday he was still in hospital but waiting to be discharged soon.

CHRISTMAS DAY COLLECTIONS – We will donate half to Mary's Meals and half to Bishop Hryhoriy Komar (Drohobych) for war refugees in Ukraine. See below.

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/>

800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRIB This year marks the 800th Anniversary of the First Nativity Crib, created by St Francis of Assisi in Greccio in Italy in 1223. To mark this special anniversary, and to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, we pray "a child's prayer" at Christmas.

"Dear Jesus; At this time of year, we picture you in the stable at Bethlehem, with Mary and Joseph, a picture of peace and family love, surrounded by the animals and adoring shepherds. We pray that the peace you brought into the world on that first Christmas night will return to our world, and the light of your guiding star will lead us all one day to be with you in Heaven. Amen."



FREE SWISS PIANO AVAILABLE TH Sprecher–Wirt. vormalis Preacher & Söhne. Zurich. A piano at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral is looking for a good home/parish for it. The piano is 8ft long and made by a very little-known Swiss maker and would have probably been made in the later 1800s or early 1900s. It has an iron underframe fitted with castors. The Cathedral are not seeking payment for the instrument, but the taker would have to underwrite and arrange removal. It has been kept in tune (an important matter as pianos which have not been tuned regularly will not subsequently stay in tune.). The piano can be viewed by arrangement with Claire Hanlon

c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk.

ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS: see liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/events

COME AND SEE Sat 13 January 10:30–16.00 Fr Jim McManus will lead Irenaeus' first Come and See day of 2024 on "**The Power of the Sacraments**". Bring a packed lunch. For more information, contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or 0151 949 1199
The Irenaeus Project, Liverpool 32 Great Georges Road Waterloo L22 1RD

Sun 14th January **PEACE SUNDAY MASS AND LECTURE "The challenges of non-violence in 2024:** being non-violent in a violent world. Join Archbishop Malcolm and Pax Christi Liverpool for solemn mass at 11.00 to mark Peace Sunday. This will be followed by the Liverpool Archdiocese Justice and Peace commission's annual memorial lecture at 1:30 PM in the Gibberd room at the Cathedral. Andrew Jackson CEO of Pax Christi England and Wales will speak on 'The challenges of non-violence in 2024: being non-violent in a violent world.' For more details contact p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk

SACROSANCTUM CONCILIIUM: CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY
Seminar 15.00 – 16.30 The third event of the Vatican II Constitutions Lecture and Seminar Series will take place on Wednesday January 17 at Liverpool Hope University.. This can also be viewed online. The speaker will be Fr Peter McGrail, who will be giving a talk on Sacrosanctum Concilium. The day starts with a seminar, then refreshments, before ending with a lecture. **17.30 – 19.00 There is a link on the website to book a place.** FML 014, Hope Park, Taggart Avenue, L16 9JD