

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.

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.



ASH WEDNESDAY: is next week 14th February. Please note that it is a day of Fast for everyone from the age of 14 to the start of your sixtieth year. Abstinence is for everyone from 14 upwards. We are not allowed to eat meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, as well as ordinary Fridays of the year. Lent is also a time for almsgiving to the poor and to those in need. The Ash Wednesday Mass will be at 9.00 and 12.00 noon here, where you can receive the blessed ashes as a sign of

willingness to undertake Lenten penance.

DURING LENT: On Sundays we say the **Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary** during Lent. Each Sunday during Lent there will be a **Holy Hour** starting at 15.00, with evening prayer at 15.45. Please come if you can.

Stations of the Cross will be at 11.30 in church each Friday until Holy Week. If you would like to come earlier before a weekend Mass and pray the Stations of the Cross on your own, the church is open at 16.15 on Saturdays and 09.30 on Sundays. **Confessions** available Saturdays 16.15-16.45.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? RCIA

Rite of Election Metropolitan Cathedral 15.00 on **Sun Feb 18**. There will be a service of the Rite of Christian Initiation and call to conversion. The deadline to submit your forms is 31 January. Please send to a.kiely@rcaol.org.uk **Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King**, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5TQ

MASS INTENTIONS FOR HOLY WEEK, EASTER AND DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

If you would like to offer a Mass Intention for your loved ones during the above times, please send in your Mass Intentions to the parish office. The two weeks (Holy Week and Easter Week) have been reserved for these Intentions. First come first served basis. (lately deceased, RIP, special birthday / remembrance, wedding anniversary, thanksgiving, sick, souls in purgatory, special intentions).

Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Marsden
Deacon Norman Arrowsmith
 Tel: 01257 262537

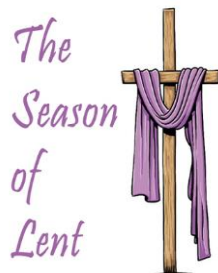
E-mail: stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4th FEBRUARY 2024



On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or

another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils. Mark 1:29-39

Sat 3rd
 16.15 -16.45
 17.00

St Werburgh of Chester, St Blaise, St Ansgar
 Confessions
Mass – Mary Carter (A)
St Blaise's blessing of throats after Mass

Sun 4th
 10.00
 11.00

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (p.135)
Mass – Kenneth Preston (A)
Baptism – Samuel Pollitt

Mon 5th
 09.00

St Agatha
Mass – Jack Greenhalgh (LD)

Tues 6th
 12.00

St Paul Miki and Companions - Japanese Martyrs
Mass – Doris (A) and Gerrard Shaw

Wed 7th

09.00 Mass – Fr Jonathan Cotton (LD)
Thurs 8th St Josephine Bakhita and St Jerome Emiliani
Day for Victims of Trafficking
12.00 *Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion*

Fri 9th
12.00 Mass – Florence Akers (A)

Sat 10th
16.15 -16.45 St Scholastica
Confessions

17.00 Mass – Mary (A) and George Ormerod

Sun 11th **SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** (p.137)

10.00 Mass – Parishioners



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: Fr Barry McAllister, Emily Atkins, Patrick and Maureen Bolger, Dorothy Burgoyne, John Campbell, Michael Collins, Kathleen Coyle, Colette Ellis, Rosemary Hough, Jacob Hughes, Winter Heenan, Fr John Johnson, Archbishop Emeritus Patrick Kelly, Mary Langton, Theresa Martin, Fr Laurence Mayne, Debbie MacFarlane, 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 you would like to have your name removed from the above sick list. Thank you.**

ANNIVERSARIES: Doris Shaw, Mary Ormerod, Florence Akers,

RESTORATION FUND collection 4th February

READERS: Sat: 3rd 17.00 Gillian Sharples. Sun: 4th 10.00 Dr Jane Eccles. Sat: 10th 17.00 Richard Gillett. Sun: 11th 10.00 John Riley. **Readers: Please let the parish office know when you would like to read during Holy Week.**

BAPTISMS OF CHILDREN: Please see either Deacon Norman or Fr Marsden after a weekend Mass in order to get an Application Form. Once that is completed and handed back in, we can try to arrange a suitable date.

WINCKLEY SQUARE CONVENT SCHOOL REUNION: The annual reunion will take place on Saturday February 10th 2024 from 1.30pm - 3.30pm at Our Lady and St Edward's Parish Centre, Marlborough Drive. Fulwood. PR2 9UE. All past pupils (and Staff) are welcome to attend and bring along memorabilia and photographs to share.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES MASS - Saturday 10 February Diocesan celebration for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick 12.00 noon, Saturday 10th February Christ the King, Queen's Drive, Liverpool L15 6YQ. Bishop Tom Neylon will preside.

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS to the Sacred Priesthood. If you could offer a decade of the holy Rosary whenever you can. Thank you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS: Fr Crowther celebrated his 82nd birthday and Fr Ball his 70th during last week. Many happy returns to you both and God Bless you. Thank you for what you do for everyone.

ST MARK'S GOSPEL: The Irenaeus Centre will be hosting the first of four sessions on Mark's Gospel on Thursday 8th February from 10.30 am - 12 noon. Zoom links also available. For further details contact 0151 949 1199 or jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK 7-14 February

National Marriage Week is an opportunity to ponder on this display of God's love for the world he created. It is a chance for married couples to reflect, perhaps with their families, on how they might develop the good things that exist between and within them. It is a time to demonstrate the value of marriage, based on sincerely lived vows, to men and women and to society as a whole. This is a week of prayer for the whole Church, in gratitude to God who has given us life and taught us to love so that we can be as he made us - a visible icon of himself.

Bishop David Evans, Lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life of the Bishops' Conference, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham writes:

"Marriage is God's gift to men and women. It is an expression of the depth of human loving, of its enduring reality and of its likeness to the love of God.

"Marriage is also the fruit of a human desire for wholeness. That wholeness is not discovered simply in an individual but in the mutual exchange of love between a husband and wife. A marriage develops from initial attraction, falling in love, the exploration of personalities, a decision to embark upon and sustain a lifelong relationship.

"A Christian marriage is rooted in faith. Firstly, that means faith in God, as the giver of life and the one who promises eternal life to those who believe in him. Faith also means God's faith in his sons and daughters. In Jesus, he has shown people what human love can achieve through love of God and love that encompasses all the people in our lives. For married people, love of neighbour begins with love of each other and of all the children that may be granted to them as parents.

"Marriage is a sacrament of reconciliation. It is the sacrament that endures even though it may bring its difficulties. It is a testimony to God's forgiveness that unites what has been divided and brings unexpected discoveries of what men and women are capable of when they trust each other and stay steadfast to the vows they made to each other on their wedding day."

For resources see <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/marriage-week-2024/>

PRAYER: O God our Father, we pray in thanksgiving for the vocation to marriage and for each couple that you join together in order to make a family. We ask that every marriage brings each couple closer to you and closer to holiness. We pray for those who are struggling in their marriage at present, that they can make it through this tough time and support each other in their differences. We make this prayer through Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

WORKS IN THE CHURCH: Dry rot works will start very soon in the church. The aisle leading to Our Lady's Altar will be sectioned off. **Please avoid this area.**

FIRE SAFETY CHECKS: have been completed in the church, the bell tower and the boiler house. The presbytery fire checks are connected to the church. The next check will be in autumn.

DRIVING ON THE PREMISES: Please will drivers take note and drive slowly on the parish premises. There is a high footfall with people going into town, especially Mums with prams and toddlers. It could be your daughter or grandchild going into town! Also, do remember that CCTV is accurate here.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP OUT IN CHURCH FOR LENT? There is some garden work that needs doing in preparation for Holy Week. Would you like to help? It would be very much appreciated. Anyone got a high-water pressure washer? The pigeons have been over productive recently and the tarmac needs attention. Thank you.