

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.

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).

HALF-TERM We hope Mr Smyth, the staff, children and parents have a good rest during half -term. Stay safe and see you when you get back. Ashes will be distributed to the children in school on Monday 19th February.

TWO YEARS OF WAR: Saturday 24th February marks a terrible anniversary. Two years from the day that Muscovite dictator Putin sent his tanks rolling into Ukraine to capture Kyiv within three days. An unprovoked and barbarous attack upon a peaceful independent nation. Since then, Russian cruelty, destructiveness, lies and complete absence of respect for human life (including that of their own soldiers) has been plain for all the world to see. At the present, Moscow is trying to undermine western support for Ukraine through black propaganda and social media.

Holy Mass will be offered for the suffering Ukrainian people at 17.00 on Saturday 24th February. There will be a **special service of Prayers for Ukraine at 18.15 on Monday 26th February at St Lawrence's** – an opportunity for reflection and for our community to come together in solidarity to offer prayer for those who are suffering, those who are fighting, those who are offering support, and naturally it will be a time to pray for a just peace.

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)

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

11th FEBRUARY 2024



A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived.

Even so, people from all around would come to him. Mark 1:40-45

Sat. 10th

16.15 -16.45

17.00

Sun 11th

10.00

Mon 12th

09.00

Tues 13th

12.00

Wed 14th

12.00

EOMs please take ashes to your communicants.

Thurs 15th

12.00

Fri 16th

11.30

St Scholastica

Confessions

Mass – Mary (A) and George Ormerod

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (p.137)

Our Lady of Lourdes – World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Mass – Parishioners

Blessed John Nutter and George Haydock, Lancashire martyrs

Mass – Raymond Lamb (sick)

Mass – Jane Gilbertson (sick)

ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass – Ronald Anderton RIP

St Sigfrid

Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Stations of the Cross



12.00 **Mass** – Edmund, Irena, Zdzislaw, Zbigniew Magdziarek RIP
Genia Ciborowska RIP

Sat 17th St Finan of Lindisfarne
16.15 -16.45 *Confessions*

17.00 **Mass** – Pauline Fairhurst RIP

Sun 18th **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT** (p.148)

10.00 **Mass** – Joseph and Alice (Ruby Wedding)

15.00 *Holy Hour with Evening Prayer (15.40) and Benediction*

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.**

RECENTLY DECEASED: **Patricia (Pat) Ileana Clarke** (82) who died on 4th February in Chorley Hospital. Requiem Mass on Tuesday 27th February at 12.00 noon followed by committal at Charnock Richard Crematorium. Eternal rest grant to her, O Lord...

ANNIVERSARIES: **Mary McDermott, Frank Fulton, Alice Cannon, Thomas Huddy.**

READERS: **Sat: 10th 17.00** Kinga Grzeczynska. **Sun: 11th 10.00** Simon Eccles. **Sat: 17th 17.00** Richard Gillett. **Sun: 18th 10.00** Tracy O'Neill. **Readers: Please let the parish office know when you would like to read during Holy Week.**

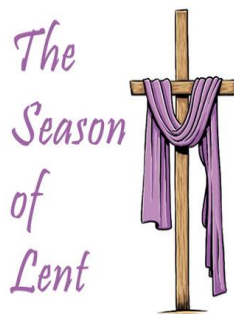
ASH WEDNESDAY: is next week 14th February. Please note that it is a day of Fast for everyone from the age of 14 to the start of your sixtieth year i.e. your 59th birthday.. Abstinence is for everyone from 14 upwards. We are not allowed to eat meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, as well as ordinary 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 **12.00** noon here, where you can receive the blessed ashes as a sign of willingness to undertake Lenten penance.

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. On Sundays we say the **Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary** during Lent.

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.

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



LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE STATISTICS 2022

In the Archdiocese of Liverpool: Baptised: 6,072. Receptions: 139. First Communion: 5,820. Confirmations: 1,191. Marriages: 342. Deaths 3,995. Mass attendees: 25,327

The good news is that there is an improvement of the Archdiocesan statistics from the previous year, which was badly affected by COVID. Going to church for a Sunday Mass is not 'old fashioned' (as one parent called it). Coming to Mass and receiving the Sacraments is the backbone of what you are and how you will live your life (hopefully). If you live your life by following the 10 Commandments and teach your children to respect and love God, then you are doing the right thing. If perhaps you have 'slipped and gone AWOL' from the church, Lent is the ideal time to start afresh and **Repent and believe in the Gospel**'.

Our statistics are improving also; Mass attendance is getting better, and Marriages and Confirmations have increased in number. Deaths remain about the same as in previous years and we have said goodbye to many people who had a lifelong commitment to St Mary's. First Holy Communion remain high in numbers, as in previous years.

The facts are clear. If you don't support your parish and priest and help or volunteer when you can, there will come a time when the pews will be empty, and the priest will be only a name or memory. Therefore, please support your church and parish as whole families and take part in the greatest gift that God has given to us – **Himself in the Eucharist**.

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.

BLESSED JOHN NUTTER AND GEORGE HAYDOCK, LANCASHIRE MARTYRS

George Haydock was born 1556, the youngest son of Evan Haydock of Cottam Hall, Lancashire, educated at the English Colleges at Douai and Rome, ordained priest at Soissons in 1581. Arrested in London soon after landing, he spent fifteen months in the strictest confinement in the Tower. This was relaxed to "free custody", so he was able to administer the Sacraments to his fellow-prisoners. He was forced to admit that he believed the Queen (Elizabeth I) was a heretic. On 5 February 1583 he was indicted with others for having "conspired against the queen at Reims", by planning to return to England as priests. He pleaded not guilty but was condemned.

John Nutter was born in Burnley. Like his older brother, Blessed Robert Nutter, he studied at St John's College in Cambridge. He entered the English College in Reims, and was ordained priest at Laon in 1582. He boarded ship for Yorkshire, but gales blew the boat onto sandbanks near Dunwich, Suffolk, beneath All Saints Church on the cliffs above. Locals looting the boat found a bundle of Catholic books. Nutter was interrogated and admitted being a priest. He was taken to the Marshalsea prison, and brought to trial a year later and condemned.

Five priests, Haydock and Nutter, plus **James Fenn, Thomas Hemerford**, and **John Munden**, were hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn, 12 February, 1584.