

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

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

EASTER CARDS: There is a basket in the Sacristy with many nice things for Easter, cards, rosaries, brown scapulars, a figure of Sleeping Joseph and many other items. Please have a look. Everything has come from St Rita's Convent in Devon.

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.

TACKLING DRY ROT: Please stay away from the areas where the works are going to take place. The contractors will be on site for about one week from tomorrow, Monday 4th March. Thank you for your understanding.

LENTEN QUOTATIONS: "Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one's flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble scatters the clouds of concupiscence, quenches the fire of lust, kindles the true light of chastity." St Augustine

"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One." Pope Benedict XVI

"Lenten practices of giving up pleasures are a good reminder that the purpose of life is not pleasure. The purpose of life is to attain a perfect life, all truth and undying ecstatic love—which is the definition of God. In pursuing that happiness, we find happiness." Fulton J. Sheen

"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring. St. Catherine of Siena

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

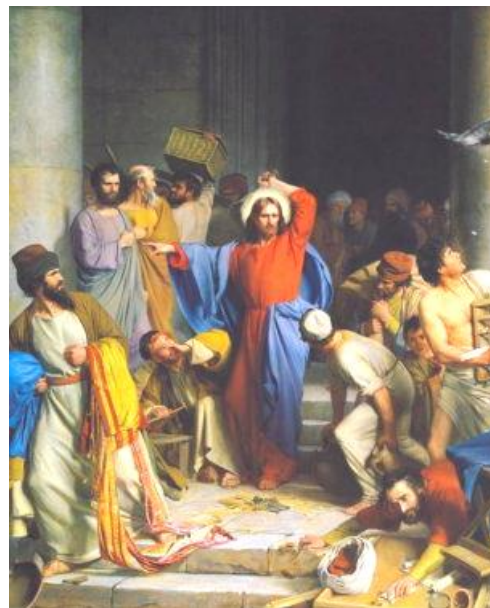
Parish Centre: 270122 or 07377 341969 (Manager – Heather Cheyne)

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL Registered Charity No. 1199714

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

3rd MARCH 2024



Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple, he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the moneychangers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary,

and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him. John 2:13-25

Sat 2nd

16.15 – 16.45

Confessions

17.00

Mass – Jerzy Sochocki and deceased family members

Sun 3rd

10.00

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (p.154)

Mass – George and Margaret Bury RIP

11.00

Baptism – Freddie Barrow

15.00

Holy Hour with Evening Prayer (15.40) and Benediction

Mon 4th

09.00 Mass – Heart operation

Tues 5th

12.00 Mass - Peter Bagan (LD)

Wed 6th

09.00 Mass – Mary Fearnhead RIP

Thurs 7th

12.00 *Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion*

Fri 8th

11.30 Stations of the Cross

12.00 Mass – Peter Doherty (A)

Sat 9th

16.15 – 16.45 Confessions

17.00 Mass – Zosia (A) and Leon Neisser

Sun 10th **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT** (p.162) *Mothers' Day*

10.00 Mass – Parishioners

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, 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, Stella Vigar, 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: Peter Doherty, Zosia Neisser, Ann Fadden, Robert Wallwork.

READERS: Sat: 2nd 17.00 Gillian Sharples. Sun: 3rd 10.00 Simon Eccles.

Sat: 9th 17.00 Andrew Jenner. Sun: 10th 10.00 John Riley.

CATHOLIC BOOKSHOP The Catholic Bookshop at Salford Cathedral has sadly closed. The trustees have decided it is not viable anymore, many people see it as a great loss. Therefore, if you are looking for a well-stocked Catholic bookshop, the nearest one is in **Liverpool, the Pauline shop** with the Sisters of the Daughters of St Paul. It is very well supplied and you can have some time with the Blessed Sacrament in a special room; **84 Church Street**, Liverpool L1 3AY (Liverpool ONE). Tel: 0151 709 1328.

liverpool@pauline-uk.org

MARCH IS THE MONTH OF ST JOSEPH: The Litany to St Joseph can be found near his statue: The national Novena starts on 10th – 18th March. O God, who in your inexpressible providence were pleased to choose Saint Joseph as spouse of the most holy Mother of your Son, grant, we pray, that we who revere him as our protector on earth, may be worthy of his heavenly intercession. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

COVID MEMORIAL DAY: Fr Marsden has been asked to lead a COVID Memorial Service in Astley Park at 18.00 on Tuesday 12th March. We will pray for workers who died from COVID, workers who have Long – Covid and all victims of the COVID virus. Everyone welcome.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Stella Vigar who is not well this week. She will be 99 on 14th April. Stella has served this church for many years as sacristan. Also please remember to pray for Fr Mayne who is doing well at Marley Court.

POSSIBLE CHANGE IN ABORTION LAWS: Support an amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. **Take action:** Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to our MP urgently in support of this amendment! Post cards may be found on the round table in the narthex. Thank you.

CARE FOR CREATION: COMMITMENTS, ACTIONS AND PARTICIPATION

10:00AM - 3:30PM March 9, 2024 St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Hardybutts Wigan WN1 3RZ Providing input on the latest environmental initiatives across the Archdiocese, and Care for Creation leadership training. Speakers on the day include Bishop John Arnold, the current Environmental Lead for the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales.

DRAWING US CLOSE TO CHRIST AND THE SAINTS: RELICS AND THEIR

MEANING FOR US TODAY St Oscar Romero Mass 19.00 March 21, 2024 - A special Mass at St Oswald and St Edmund Arrowsmith Liverpool Road Ashton-in-Makerfield WN4 9NP, with an opportunity to venerate the relics of St Oscar Romero. **20.00-21.00** Following the Romero Mass, Dr Jan Graffius will speak about relics and their significance for Catholics. Dr Graffius has been instrumental in conserving the relics of St Oscar Romero, including the relic gifted to the Archdiocese. She will share with us about the life and enduring legacy of St Oscar Romero, and how relics can continue to inspire us in our faith, and to work for justice and reconciliation in our world today. Dr Graffius is the Curator of Collections for the College Museum, Library and Archives at Stonyhurst College, and Trustee of the Romero Trust.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN: Parents and children are reminded that it is a necessity for Catholics to attend Holy Mass each weekend at any Catholic Church of your choice. Please ask the Priest or Deacon to sign the attendance card. If your child is ill or you must work and there is nobody available (relative or friend) to bring your child to Mass, then you are excused. Football, sports, parties or shopping will not be accepted as an excuse. Attendance cards will be looked at after Easter for each Yr 4 child and the children in other communities who are joining us for this special day.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Palm Sunday – 24th March

Chrism Mass - Wed 27th March at 19.30 in the Metropolitan Cathedral

Good Friday 29th – Passion of the Lord 15.00

Holy Saturday 30th – 12.00 Paschal Blessing for Polish Community

19.00 Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY 31st March. Mass – 10.00

Ascension of the Lord: 9th May – Mass 12.00

PENTECOST: 19th May – Sunday 10.00 Sat prev: Vigil Mass 17.00

Corpus Christi: 2nd June Sunday 10.00 Sat prev: Vigil Mass 17.00

First Holy Communions: 9th June Sunday Mass 10.00 am.