

**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. **Please send the attendance cards with your child to school on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Thank you.**

**CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION MASS:** Welcome to the children's Mass. We can meet in the parish centre after Mass for some pop and tea.

**GIFT AID CONTRIBUTIONS:** If anyone would like to consider donations through the Gift Aid scheme, please contact the parish office or Margaret Evans. The scheme is very easy – you put your monthly donations in an envelope that we provide for you with your unique number on the envelope. The amount of money that you donate must be paid by you in your taxes per tax year. For every £1.00 you donate we can claim 0.25p from HMRC. This helps the parish finances enormously. The envelopes are per month, so you can simply gather your donations and put them in the monthly envelope and pop them in the collection basket. Thank you for helping us to maintain this beautiful Grade II Listed Building.



**GIFT AID ENVELOPES** are now ready to collect from the parish office. **PLEASE do not take anyone else's number. Thank you.**

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

**MESSAGE TO CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES:** There are 22 candidates from St Mary's parish this year. You are invited to attend Mass and a short meeting after Mass, on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Parents, please encourage your children to attend. Thank you.

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

E-mail: [stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk)  
Parish website: [www.stmarys-chorley.org](http://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 OF EASTER

21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2024



**Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. 'I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. 'The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'** John 10:11-18

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup>**  
16.15-16.45  
17.00

Blessed James Bell of Warrington & Bl. John Finch of Eccleston  
Confessions  
Mass – Peter Higgins (A)

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup>**

10.00

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** (Mass book p. 261)  
**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY - VOCATIONS SUNDAY**  
Mass (Children's Mass) – Parishioners

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
09.00

Mass – Eric Douglas Harvey Hoyle, Lord Hoyle (LD)

**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**12.00** **St George, Patron of England**  
**Mass** – Mary (A) and Tom Nightingale

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**09.00** **St Adalbert, St Fidelis of Sigmaringen**  
**Mass** – Clare Pullford (LD)

**Thurs 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**12.00** **St Mark, Evangelist**  
*Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion*

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**12.00** **Bds Robert Anderton of Euxton & William Marsden of Chipping**  
**Mass** – Patrick Bulger (sick)  
**18.00** *Workers' Memorial Day Service in Astley Park*

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**16.15-16.45** **St Maughold, Patron of Isle of Man**  
*Confessions*  
**17.00** **Mass** – Robert Harrison (A)

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**10.00** **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** (Mass book p. 264)  
**Mass** - Parishioners

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND:** Emily Atkins, Patrick and Maureen Bolger, Dorothy Burgoyne, Michael Collins, Kathleen Coyle, Colette Ellis, Rosemary Hough, Jacob Hughes, Winter Heenan, Archbishop Emeritus Patrick Kelly, Mary Langton, Theresa Martin, Fr Laurence Mayne, Debbie MacFarlane, Molly Redhead, 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:** Fr Bernard Bimson, Fr Gerard Lee, Robert Harrison, Peter Higgins, Mary Nightingale, Robert Harrison.

**READERS:** **20<sup>th</sup> Sat: 17.00** Gillian Sharples. **21<sup>st</sup> Sun: 10.00** Tracy O'Neill  
**27<sup>th</sup> Sat: 17.00** Andrew Jenner. **28<sup>th</sup> Sun: 10.00** John Riley

**LATELY DECEASED:** **Jane Mary Gilbertson** (68) who died on 14<sup>th</sup> April in St Catherine's Hospice. Requiem Mass on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 11am at St Joseph's Anderton followed by burial in the church yard. Jane was the parish secretary of St Joseph's Withnell and previously Head of Geography at St Joseph's High School in Horwich for many years. May she rest in peace.

**SPUC Pro-Life Chain: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 11.00 – 13.00**

Please join us for this annual silent act of witness to remember the millions of unborn babies lost to abortion. Meet on London Road, Preston – just north of Ribble bridge. Stay for all or part of the time; bring a chair if required. For info Tel 01772 723094.

**PRIEST TRAINING FUND:** will be open for the rest of the month. Please feel free to contribute at any time.

**APPEAL LAST WEEKEND:** Sr Mary-Priscilla IHM enjoyed her stay with us tremendously. She loved the church and the parishioners. The appeal raised **£510.00 Thank you for your great generosity.**

**MESSAGE FROM STELLA VIGAR:** 'Thank you very much for the lovely Mass and all the cards and



presents. I don't feel 99 all the time and I love coming to Mass and seeing you all. God bless'.

It was lovely to see Stella looking so well and happy. Springfield Home held an afternoon tea party for Stella which was shared with family and friends.

**VOCATIONS SUNDAY:** Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP, is the Chair of the National Office for Vocations. This Good Shepherd Sunday we have a Pastoral Letter from him. **FROM THE VOCATIONS DIRECTOR, FR RON JOHNSON**

Our synodal journey reinforced our commitment to becoming a Church that values the vocation of all the baptised, but on the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide, we are reminded of the importance of praying in a special way for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This Good Shepherd Sunday we have much to celebrate because this academic year is a significant one for vocations to the priesthood within our Archdiocese. God willing, by the end of July five men will have been ordained to the priesthood for our Archdiocese.

Fr Hugh Donleavy was ordained to the priesthood on 1 December at St Alban's Church in Warrington and plans are underway for the ordination of Deacons James Finnegan and Martin Fyles (from the Venerable English College, Rome), Peter Ross (from St Mary's College, Oscott) and Lister Tonge, (a former Anglican Minister). If all goes to plan, they will be ordained together in the Cathedral on 13 July.

There are currently three other men in formation for our Archdiocese in the Beda College, Rome and Allen Hall, London and two candidates currently involved in the process of applying to begin seminary in September. Usually, on the first Saturday of each month a group of men gather together to reflect on the priesthood and to discern whether this is God's calling for them. The road to the priesthood is long and these men need your continued prayer and the support you give to the Priest Training Fund collection that takes place today.

There is no one type of man that God is calling and our seminarians and discerners come from different backgrounds, have had a wide range of life experiences and cover a range of ages. Perhaps God is calling you!

If you think God might be calling you to serve as a priest within our Archdiocese and are ready to explore this further and perhaps meet other men who are thinking about their vocation, please contact the Vocations' Director, either by telephoning the Parish of St Charles and St Thomas More in Aigburth on 0151 727 2493 or email [vocations@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcaol.org.uk)

### *Prayer for vocations*

**Heavenly Father,** Your Divine Son taught us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into His vineyard. We ask You to bless our Diocese with selfless hearts that are willing to serve Your Church.

**Lord Jesus,** raise up from our homes those called by Your Father; courageous and humble men to the Priesthood, generous servants to the Permanent Diaconate, faithful people to Consecrated Life, and holy men and women to the Sacrament of Marriage.

**Holy Spirit** help us to live our universal vocation to holiness, by listening to the Father's voice and responding with sacrificial love. Grant, also, that each particular vocation may serve to the others as an example of Christ's love. May our lives be always centred on our Lord in the Eucharist, and may we be devoted sons and daughters of Mary, our Mother, in making You known and loved.

**Holy Mary,** Model of Vocations, teach us to hear and follow Your Son. Holy Mary, Queen of Priests, sanctify our priests and obtain for us many more. Holy Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for our families and intercede for our children. Amen.