

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 Tel: 01772 522435. For the chaplaincy service at Wigan Infirmary Tel: 01942 822324

PENSION CREDIT: Up to 850,000 pensioner households may be entitled to Pension Credit, but do not claim it. Some pensioners think because they've got savings or own their home, they would not get any Pension Credit - but this is not the case. The government have asked that community leaders share this information with people. The aim is to encourage the conversation and the claim for pension credit to ensure those eligible will not also get this vital extra income, but access to the winter fuel payment too.

CAROL SERVICE will be held at St Joseph's Anderton on Tuesday 17th December at 19.00. Everyone most welcome.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS: Our Yr 6 children held a Pupil's Parliamentary Session with the Speaker of the House, Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP attended on 15th November. UK Parliamentary Week was celebrated by inviting Chorley's MP Sir Lindsay to our school, where he heard the debates and questions of Yr 6 children. It is a huge success for Mr Smyth and Mr Cahalin who organised the event which quickly got the attention of the media at ITV news and Sky News. Well done Yr 6, great achievement.

THE NEW LECTIONARY which contains the Scripture readings for Mass, will be introduced from next weekend, Sunday 1st December the First Sunday of Advent. The Scripture excerpts are the same but follow the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition rather than the Jerusalem Bible for the readings, and the Abbey Psalms and Canticles for the Responsorial Psalms. **Probably the Psalm responses are where confusion might occur, since they will not be exactly the same as in our Parish Mass Books.**

YOUTH SUNDAY There is a collection today for ANIMATE, the archdiocesan youth group led by Fr Simon Gore. Let us pray for our young people to stay strong and be faithful to God in the Holy Trinity, His blessed Mother and all the angels and saints. We are hoping that the youth will continue the Faith, men become priests, and all young people will look after our churches and teach the True Faith to the next generation.

CHRISTMAS CARDS and Advent calendars are available in a basket, in the sacristy. Our cards are from St Rita's Convent in Devon and are very beautiful and very reasonably priced.

MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER: The Parish Office will be shut all day.

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

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING

24th NOVEMBER 2024



'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.' John 18:33-37

Sat 23rd
16.15-16.45

15.30

17.00

Sun: 24th

09.30

10.45

Mon 25th

09.00

Tues 26th

12.00

Wed 27th

08.30

Thurs 28th

12.00

St Clement, Pope and Martyr. St Columbanus, Abbot
Confessions

Baptism – Ashley and Emelia Berry. Reception of James Berry

Mass – Mary (A) and Joseph Baxendale

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING (p.160)

Mass – Pious List

Baptism – Beck Vincent Miller

St Catherine of Alexandria

Mass - Pious List

Mass – Pious List

Mass – Pious List

St Catherine Labouré

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion



Fri 29th

12.00 Mass – Pious List

Sat 30th

16.15-16.45 **St Andrew, Apostle**

17.00 *Confessions*

Mass – Pious List

Sun: 1st Dec **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (new book C1)**

09.30 Mass – Kevin Bailey (birthday remembrance)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: Emily Atkins, Maureen Bolger, Dorothy Burgoyne, Michael Collins, Kathleen Coyle, baby Henry Curtis, 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 and Marjorie Taylor, Mike White, and parishioners in The Adelphi, The Gables, Westwood, and Gillibrand Hall.

ANNIVERSARIES: Eileen Thompson,

READERS: 23rd Nov Sat 17.00 Gillian Sharples 24th Sun 09.30 Dr Jane Eccles
30th Nov Sat 17.00 Kinga Grzeczynska 1st Sun 09.30 Simon Eccles
7th Dec Sat 17.00 Andrew Jenner 8th Sun 09.30 Richard Gillett

CATHOLIC PICTORIAL: The November edition of the Catholic Pic is available to download here: <https://tinyurl.com/523rbhzw>

OUR PARISH CENTRE Fr Marsden had a meeting with the club management a few days ago. We are asking our parishioners to use the parish centre as much as possible for celebrations of baptisms, weddings, special anniversaries and family and friends gathering after a funeral. As one member of the meeting said, 'if you don't use it – you will lose it'. The parish centre needs your support, especially for booking in functions. Thank you

THE LATE STELLA VIGAR: Fr Marsden will be taking Stella's ashes to St David's RC Church and Cemetery, Monastery Avenue. Panatsaph, Flintshire. CH8 8PE, on Wednesday 11th December and burial will be at 13.00. Stella will be buried with a colleague nun. Anyone wishing to go please let the parish office know asap. Thank you.

THE ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL: This weekend there is a message from all the bishops of England and Wales about the dangers of the Ledbetter "Assisted Suicide Bill." Nobody wants to prolong the dying process when people are in pain, and there comes a time to let our loved ones go peacefully to God. Palliative care and good hospice care are the answers to end of life treatment in difficult cases, not encouraging the patient to kill themselves. Many of us have seen the excellent care provided by St Catherine's Hospice and elsewhere.

On the notice board, at the back of the church you will find a poster details on how to contact Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP and ask him to speak out against the introduction of the Kim Leadbeater MP Suicide Bill, which will be voted on in a Second Reading at the House of Commons 29th November 2024. You can scan a QR code from the poster. Please talk to your family, friends and colleagues about this proposed Bill.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols makes three points saying: 'Be careful what you wish for. A right to die can become a duty to die. Forgetting God belittles our humanity'.

One can see that some money-minded persons might well encourage a sick relative to opt for assisted suicide, in order to save nursing home fees and to protect the money they hope to get from an inheritance. Very sick patients are often a bit confused and weak and would be susceptible to this sort of pressure from unscrupulous relatives. As the Cardinal said above, a "right to die" can be twisted into "a duty to die."

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION BADGE COMPETITION: The First Holy Communion Badge Competition is back for its second year! Children preparing to make their First Holy Communion next Spring are invited to design a badge to commemorate the special day. The badge will be round and roughly the size of a £2 coin, and participants can only use up to 5 colours, including black and white. To get the template and enter the competition, use the form and template attached to this email and email your entry to badges@rcaol.org.uk. All entries need to be in by 27 January.

COULD YOU BE A DEACON? DIACONATE INFORMATION EVENINGS: The Archbishop will be hosting two Diaconate Information Evenings during the next few months: on **Thursday 5th December** at Bishop Eton in Liverpool and on **Thursday 23rd January** at St John's in Wigan. Each evening will begin at 19.30, with refreshments available from 19.00 and will end by 21.00. The evenings are open to anyone who would like to find out more about the diaconate, especially men who are wondering if they may be called to this ministry. Wives and supporting priests and deacons are also very welcome. For more information email Deacon Paul Rooney, p.rooney@rcaol.org.uk. Further info for priests is attached, as well as a poster.

LETTER TO POPE FRANCIS FROM A UKRAINIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Father, When, on Wednesday, you remember my country and are able to speak to the whole world on the thousandth day of this terrible war, I ask you not to speak only of our suffering but also of our faith. Although it is imperfect, that does not diminish its value, because it paints, with painful strokes, a portrait of the Resurrected Christ.

There have been too many deaths in my life recently. It is difficult to live in a city where a missile kills and wounds dozens of civilians, and you are witness to so many tears. I would have liked to flee, would have liked to go back to being a child in my mother's arms, would have liked to remain in silence and in love, but I thank God because, through this pain, I am learning greater love. Pain is not only a road to anger and despair; if based on faith, it is a good teacher of love. Father, if pain makes you suffer, it means that you love. And so, when you speak of our pain, when you remember our thousand days of suffering, speak of our thousand days of love, too, because only love, faith, and hope give a real meaning to our wounds."

20th November 2024.

ADVENT RETREAT AT CASTLERIGG MANOR (AGE 15 TO YOUNG ADULTS)

Bookings will close for the Advent Retreat at Castlerigg near Keswick on December 11th at 12 noon. The open retreats at Castlerigg give teens and young adults a great way to make friends, deepen their faith, and have some fun and they usually prove very popular. The weekend costs £65 but anyone who might struggle with this is invited to get in touch. Further details – director@castleriggmanor.co.uk. Sign up at castleriggmanor.com >> what's coming up.