

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1st DECEMBER 2024



“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to

take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Luke 21:25-28,34-36 ESV

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

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

THE NEW LECTIONARIES are to be blessed at the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening. The names of the people who are sponsoring the lectionaries and are remembered in prayer were read out:

Samuel Round, 1930 – 2016. Kevin, Patrick and Catherine McCarrick RIP.
Patricia Ileana Clarke, Terence Patrick Tingey, Thelma May Pomeroy RIP.
Lauren Owen 1990 - 2004 and members of the Ormerod and Smith Families RIP.
Jane Banks, Eileen O'Neil, Mary Lovatt and families. RIP
Edward and Mary McDaid and members of the McDaid and Monaghan Families RIP
John and Mary Marsden RIP

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.

ST LAURENCE'S CHORLEY are appealing for tinned adult food and baby hygiene items, Christmas food and treats for children. If you could help, it would be very welcome. St Laurence's is open Tues – Fri, 11am – 13.30. Please feel free to pop in and help people in our community. I am sure you will be very welcome.

YOUTH 2000 - THE PRESTON RETREAT 2024 takes place at Corpus Christi High School, Preston on Saturday 7 December. See www.youth2000.org/events/preston2024.. Please pray that it will be spiritually fruitful.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

CHRISTMAS EVE (24th) 16.00 Carols. 16.30 Mass

After the Christmas Eve Mass, everyone is invited to the Parish Centre for some free hot food.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS: 09.30

CONFESSIONS; Any Saturday 16.15 – 16.45

Deanery Service of Reconciliation St Gregory's Chorley. Sun 15th Dec. at 15.00.

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

Sat 30th

16.15-16.45

17.00

St Andrew, Apostle

Confessions

Mass – Pious List

Sun 1st Dec.

09.30

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (new book C1 page.....)

Mass – Kevin Bailey (birthday remembrance)

Mon 2nd

09.00

Mass – Canon Neil Kelley (60th Birthday)

Tues 3rd

12.00

St Francis Xavier Day of special prayer for migrants

Mass – Leo (b'day) and deceased members of the Bolton Family

Wed 4th

09.00

St John Damascene

Mass – School children, parents and staff

Thurs 5th

12.00

St John Almond

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Fri 6th St Nicholas
12.00 Mass – James and Margaret (A) Thompson

Sat 7th St Ambrose
16.15-16.45 Confessions

17.00 Mass – Catherine McCarrick (A)

Sun 8th **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (page.....)**

09.30 Mass – Helena, Zygmunt and Leszek Brescy

The Feast of the **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** will be celebrated this year on Monday 9th December,

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: Margaret Thompson, Catherine McCarrick

READERS: 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
14th Sat 17.00 Eleanor Jenner 15th Sun 09.30 Paul Lennon

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Dunstan Harrington, Parish Priest of St William of York, Thornton, Crosby. The Funeral Mass is at 11.00 on Friday 13th December at St William of York. Burial afterwards at St Mary's, Little Crosby. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Fr Joseph Robinson, who died on Thursday 21st November 2024, aged 86 years. He was in the 62nd year of the priesthood. Requiem Mass was on Saturday 30th November at St George's Church, Station Road, Maghull, Liverpool, L31 3DF, followed by burial at St John's, Burscough,

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 enter the competition, ask for the form and template in the Parish Office. Send 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.

INVITATION: The Friends of Chorley Library invite you to Christmas at the Library on Saturday December 7th. The Sing it Big Youth Choir 11am, Peter Gammon's Foot-Tappers 12pm and The Ukrainian Choir 1pm. Raffle. Refreshments. Admission Free.

CANONISATION OF BL. CARLOS ACUTIS AND BL. PIERGIORGIO FRASSATI The Pope has announced that Carlos Acutis (1991-2006) will be canonised on Sunday 27th April 2025 in St Peter's Square, Rome. Piergiorgio Frassati (1901–25) will be canonised in Rome in July 2025. Deo Gratias. These two young men are very fitting patrons of our youth of today. More information about their wonderful short lives can be found: info@carloacutis.com · www.carloacutis.com

BD PIERGIORGIO FRASSATI: Born on Holy Saturday, April 6, 1901 in Turin, he was the son of the founder and director of the Italian newspaper La Stampa. At the age of 17, he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society and dedicated much of his spare time to taking care of the poor, the homeless, and the sick, as well as demobilized servicemen returning from World War I. He became an avid mountaineer and third order Dominican known for his charitable outreach, visiting the homes of the poor to bring help," "Piergiorgio was from a wealthy, upper-middle class family, but he did not grow up 'wrapped in cotton wool,' he did not lose himself in the 'good life,' because within him there was the lifeblood of the Holy Spirit, there was love for Jesus and for his brothers," said Pope Francis. He was also involved in the Apostleship of Prayer and Catholic Action. He received daily Communion. On a photograph of what would be his last mountain climb, Frassati wrote the phrase, "Verso L'Alto," which means "to the heights," a motto for Catholics inspired by Frassati to strive for the summit of eternal life with Christ. Frassati died of polio on July 4, 1925. His doctors later speculated that the young man had caught polio while serving the sick.



Pope St John Paul II, who beatified Frassati in 1990, called him a "man of the eight beatitudes," describing him as "entirely immersed in the mystery of God and totally dedicated to the constant service of his neighbour." Frassati's canonization will take place during the Jubilee of Youth in Rome on Aug. 3, 2025.

The miracle required for canonization involved a Los Angeles seminarian (since ordained a priest in 2023) who had damaged his Achilles tendon in a basketball accident. After the MRI showed significant damage to his Achilles tendon, his doctor recommended that he see an orthopedic surgeon. Being very upset about the whole thing, he started a novena to Pier Giorgio Frassati on Nov. 1, Midway through the novena, "he was in the chapel crying during his Novena and he felt this tremendous warmth in his ankle." When he went to the orthopaedic surgeon a week later, the surgeon, after seeing the MRI and conducting physical investigations, said to him, 'You must have someone in heaven who likes you.' He was immediately able to resume playing the sports that he loved without any difficulties. it is fitting that a young man playing basketball received the healing given that Frassati was known for his love of sport and outdoor activities. <https://frassatiusa.org/frassati-biography>

THANK YOU to all the flower ladies, cleaners and gardeners who have done a great job in the recent challenging cold weather.

MPs VOTE ON 29/11/2024 You will all be aware of how the 650 votes came to Yes- 330 and No 275. A majority of 55 passed the second reading of the Assisted Suicide Bill, which they are now calling the Assisted Dying Bill. The Lord must look down on His people and weep with disbelief how ungrateful people have become. Keep praying that this Bill will not be made Law.