

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15th DECEMBER 2024

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

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS will be at 16.30 with Carols starting at 16.00. The children will perform a Tableau from the Nativity scenes which will very interesting. After Mass, everyone is invited to the parish centre for a free hot meal.

CHRISTMAS POSTERS for your doors, windows and shops are available in the narthex. Please help yourself.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: Registration Open - 13 Jan - 17 March

The registration website will open on the 13 January and end on the 17 March. Young people in year 8 and above can register at liverpoolcalled.co.uk

ANIMATE'S ANNUAL YOUTH ALIVE ADVENT MASS - 15 December, 17.00 followed by Christmas Quiz at 18.00 and Christmas Jumper competition. End at 19.30. Venue: Lowe House, St Helens, WA10 2BE All are welcome

THANK YOU to Bernard Whittle for the donation of the Christmas Tree.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER WORKSHOP on Sunday 22nd Dec. 15.00-17.00. Sherry and mince pies will help the church decorating. Everyone welcome. It is a very enjoyable afternoon, and men and women are very welcome. Guidance will be given by the flower ladies and your talents and artistry will be very much appreciated.

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: Saturdays 16.15 – 16.45

Advent Service of Reconciliation

at St Gregory's, Sunday 15th 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



At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation and be content with

your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. Luke 3:10-18

Sat 14th

16.15-16.45

17.00

Confessions

Mass – Fr Louis Catterall SMM (A)

Sun 15th

09.30

15.00

Mon 16th

09.00

18.00

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (p.87)

Gaudete Sunday

Mass – Parishioners

Service of Reconciliation at St Gregory's, Weldbank

Mass – Jamie Gruszka (LD) School Mass

School Christmas Concert



Tues 17th

12.00

Mass – Kathleen Watmough RIP

Wed 18th

09.00

Mass – Ro Anderton RIP

Thurs 19th

12.00

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Fri 20th

12.00

Mass – Anna Doherty (A)

Sat 21st

16.15-16.45

17.00

St Peter Canisius

Confessions

Mass – Joseph and Claris (A) Southworth

Sun 22nd

09.30

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (p.90)

Mass – Leo, Rosie, Janet and Michael Bolton RIP



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: Emily Atkins, 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: Fr Louis Catterall SMM, Anna Doherty, Claris Southworth

READERS: 14th Sat 17.00 Eleanor Jenner 15th Sun 09.30 Paul Lennon
21st Sat 17.00 Eileen McCarrick 22nd Sun 09.30 Simon Eccles
Christmas Eve Mass 16.30 Gillian Sharples and Paul Lennon
Christmas Day Mass 09.30 volunteers



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: There are some very nice poinsettias in town and in the large supermarkets at the moment. If you would like to donate a red poinsettia in memory of a loved one, or a special anniversary or birthday – it may be a good idea to buy now and keep it at home until Thursday 19th or Friday 20th December. The church is too cold to put out the poinsettias too early and they need to acclimatise. We would very much appreciate the donations. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT FROM ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM McMAHON OP

In August 1993, a front-page article in the Catholic Pictorial appeared under the banner: “Is our man a miracle?” It was a reference to the cure of John (Jack) Traynor at Lourdes in 1923, and the possibility that this cure might officially be declared miraculous. The article added that, “Ever since the World War I veteran was cured instantaneously and dramatically during the first archdiocesan pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady... many have believed unquestioningly that the event was miraculous.” Archbishop Derek Worlock added that, “There’s no question that people in Liverpool believe Jack Traynor was cured miraculously, and personally I’d have no hesitation in declaring the cure a miracle if the conditions are fulfilled properly.”

Despite the popular belief in Liverpool that John Traynor’s cure, from epilepsy, paralysis of the right arm and paraplegia, was miraculous, there had never been an official ecclesiastical declaration to that effect. Sadly, the 1993 attempt to reconsider the Traynor case floundered, as previous ones had done, because it was thought that there was insufficient contemporaneous evidence to establish that the cure of John Traynor could not be attributed to medical interventions or be explained according to medical science.

At the time of our centenary pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2023, the current President of the Lourdes Office of Medical Observations (BdCM), Dr Alessandro de Franciscis, asked Dr Kieran Moriarty, an English member of the International Medical Committee of Lourdes, to conduct a review of the file of John Traynor held in the archives at Lourdes. Dr Moriarty unearthed a reference in the file to a report by Dr Vallet, the then Acting President of the BdCM, which had been published in the *Journal de la Grotte* in December 1926. Dr Vallet examined John Traynor in July 1926, together with the three doctors (Drs Azurdia, Finn and Marley) who had examined John Traynor at Lourdes in 1923, both before and after his cure.

His report concluded that, “We recognise and proclaim, along with our Confreres, that the process of this prodigious healing is absolutely outside and above the forces of nature.” Dr Vallet’s report, which was published in French, appears never to have been sent to Liverpool, and indeed no potential miraculous cures were ever referred from Lourdes to diocesan bishops between 1913 and 1946.

Dr Moriarty continued his research in our own archdiocesan archives and elsewhere, assembling an extensive dossier of evidence, and in particular contemporaneous medical evidence, relating to the cure of John Traynor. This dossier was then sent to us by Monseigneur Jean-Marc Micas, the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, over the summer. It was clear that there was now sufficient medical evidence to reconsider the possibility that the cure of John Traynor might be declared miraculous. Accordingly, I convened a canonical commission within the archdiocese to consider this case. This commission met here in Liverpool on 29th November, with both Dr Moriarty and Dr de Franciscis appearing as witnesses.



Given the weight of medical evidence, the testimony to the faith of John Traynor and his devotion to Our Blessed Lady, it is with great joy that I declare that the cure of John Traynor, from multiple serious medical conditions, is to be recognised as a miracle wrought by the power of God through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes.

I hope that in February 2025, during the Jubilee Year, we will have a fitting celebration at the Metropolitan Cathedral to mark this significant moment in the history of our archdiocese, helping us all to respond to the Jubilee call to be “Pilgrims of Hope”.

