

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

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: The school started their Christmas holidays on Friday. We wish Mr Smyth, his staff, all the children and their families a very happy and holy Christmas.

BUSY YEAR: It has been a very busy year 2024. We have battled dry rot, had major work on part of the roof, said goodbye to some wonderful and dearly loved parishioners and welcomed a new generation of parishioners. Now it is time to rejoice together as a family community in the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, our Salvation and Saviour. Please remember your neighbours and elderly people who may be lonely during Christmas. Perhaps you could visit or ring someone who is on their own?

The church will be open as normal during Christmas and New Year and you are most welcome to come in and have a few minutes of peace and quiet. Come and recharge your batteries and have a word with the Lord.

DEAR READER, HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



Fr Marsden and Deacon Norman would like to wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas. Thank you for your cards, wishes, gifts and also donations to the church, which are truly appreciated. Thank you also to the many people who weekly give their precious time freely for the benefit of the church and parish. Thank you to the gardeners and cleaners, servers and readers, flower ladies and Little Church Leaders, EOMs who take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. Thank you to Mr Smyth and his staff and all the children in school. Thank you to parents who bring their families to Mass and support the church. Thank you to the faithful parishioners who attend Mass and contribute to the Gift Aid scheme and all the collections. Happy Christmas to Heather Cheyne and all the staff at our parish centre.

To our parishioners who are sick and housebound or being cared for in Homes, all the parish sends you our very best Christmas wishes. God bless you all.

**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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22nd DECEMBER 2024



In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'
Luke 1:39-45

Sat 21st
16.15-16.45
17.00

St Peter Canisius
Confessions
Mass – Joseph and Claris (A) Southworth

Sun 22nd
09.30
16.00 – 17.00

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (p.90)
Mass – Leo, Rosie, Janet and Michael Bolton
Christmas flower workshop in church

Mon 23rd
09.00

St John of Kanty
Mass – Christine and Michael Corcoran

Tues 24th
16.00
16.30

CHRISTMAS EVE
Carols
Mass – Samuel Round (A)



Wed 25th **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

09.30 Mass – Ro Anderton

Thurs 26th **St Stephen the First Martyr**

12.00 Mass – Stella Vigar

Fri 27th **St John the Evangelist**

12.00 Mass – Anne Colette Bury

Sat 28th **The Holy Innocents**

16.15-16.45 Confessions

17.00 Mass – Parishioners, sick and housebound

Sun 29th **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

09.30 Mass – Bernard (A) and Alice Joyce

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: Samuel Round, Bernard Joyce,

READERS: 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

28th Sat 17.00 29th Sun. 09.30 Dr Jane Eccles

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Thank you very much to everyone who donated the poinsettias. Special thanks to the wonderful flower ladies who have done their 'magic' again. The church looks wonderful.

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE can be viewed on: YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/DJH35DW2DuU>

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS: Trish Wallis the organist, will lead the carols from 16.00 on Christmas Eve. You are very welcome to join us for the carols. You will find the carol sheets in the narthex. Mass will follow at 16.30. This year we are going to have a Tableau performed by members of the Little Church and special guest appearances from our Clergy.

WHEN DOES THE JUBILEE YEAR BEGIN? The Jubilee Year begins with the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, on Tuesday 24 December 2024 and concludes on 6 January at the Feast of Epiphany 2026.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will celebrate Mass for the Solemn Opening of the Year at the **Metropolitan Cathedral on Sunday 29 Dec 2024 at 11am**. (To stream live, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheMetropolitanCathedralLiverpool>). This celebration will also take place at our **Co-Cathedral, St Mary of the Isle on the Isle of Man with Mass celebrated by Bishop Tom Neylon**. (To stream live, click: <https://manxcatholic.org.uk/#livestream>).



AN INVITATION TO A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

"A Bishop's task is to preside over a local Church as a visible principle of unity within it and a bond of communion with all the Churches." (69) "This is why the Assembly desires that the People of God have a greater voice in choosing Bishops." (70)

XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops 2024 clearly says that in the appointment of bishops the voice of synodal bodies must be heard. As you know, the process is underway for the appointment of a new Archbishop of Liverpool. You are invited to contribute to this process to have your voice heard. There will be two meetings, held with the blessing of Archbishop Malcolm, on:

- **Thursday 16th January 2025 at St Mary's Leyland, PR25 1PD (19.00– 21.30)** and
- **Saturday 18th Jan 2025 at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, L17 1AA (10.30-13.00)**

COME AND SEE PROGRAMME IN WIGAN: As part of the Come and See programme in December, Fr David Potter delivered a talk on "Mary for Saints and Saints in the Making". If you missed it, you can watch it here: https://youtu.be/gykc_BrGqz8 "Come and See" is an evangelisation program in St. Edward the Confessor Parish, Wigan. It is on the first Friday of every month starting at 6:30pm with tea and coffee and then Preaching the Gospel and worship songs/ hymns, finishing at 8pm with prayer. There are different preachers every month.

On Friday, 3 January 2025 at 18.30 Fr. Francis Marsden is leading a talk on the topic – **"From Galileo to Stephen Hawking, from Darwin to Dawkins: God and Science"**. The address is: Sacred Heart Church Parish Centre, Wigan, WN6 7AR. All are very welcome.

THE GREAT "O" ANTIPHONS are used at Evening Prayer for the Magnificat, and as the Alleluia verse from 17-24 December. They form an acrostic. Take the first letter of each in Latin, reading backwards from 24th December: **Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia**. This gives us **ERO CRAS** which means **"I will be there tomorrow"**.

O Sapientia - O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai - O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

O Radix Jesse - O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

O Clavis David - O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Oriens - O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Rex gentium - O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one: Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.

O Emmanuel - O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.