

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

BISHOP GREGORY KOMAR will be leaving in a few days. The time is going too quickly!! Please keep the collection of paracetamols and ibuprofen going until next weekend. Bishop Komar has rested and recovered from the traumas and the many problems that he faces back home. It will be nice to see him hopefully back later in the year. Please pray for him and his people.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR CROWTHER: Fr Crowther's birthday is on 31st January. If anyone would like to leave a card at the office, we will pass it on to him. Happy birthday Fr Crowther and thank you for all that you do for St Mary's and parishioners. God bless.

NIGERIA TOPS REPORT FOR NUMBER OF CHRISTIANS PERSECUTED 2024

According to the latest report from advocacy group Open Doors, The World Watch List, released on Jan. 15, Nigeria was the country with the most Christians killed and kidnapped in 2024: 3,100 Christians were killed and 2,830 Christians were kidnapped, far more than other countries last year. The country with the most Christians arrested in was India, at 2,176, and Rwanda experienced the most attacks (4,000) on Christian churches or buildings with 4,000. We should count our blessings here in the UK.

Persecution of Christians worsened "in absolute terms" among the hundred countries monitored in 2024. Thirteen of these were classified as showing "extreme levels" of persecution of Christians.

North Korea, Somalia, Yemen, Libya, and Sudan are the report's worst five countries for Christian persecution in 2024. Nigeria ranks No. 7 on the watch list. Eritrea, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, India, Saudi Arabia, and Myanmar make up the top 13 countries, all classified as having "extreme" levels of anti-Christian persecution.

With the release of the World Watch List 2025, Open Doors Italy Director Cristian Nani said, "380 million Christians in the world do not enjoy the basic human right to believe what they want. How many more killed, displaced, abused, and imprisoned Christians do we need to count before we put religious freedom at the centre of public debate?"

"In 32 years of research, we have recorded a steady increase in anti-Christian persecution in absolute terms," Nani added. "2024 is again a record year of intolerance: 1 in 7 Christians suffer discrimination or persecution because of their faith: It is crucial to get back to talking about religious freedom in the public debate."

**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

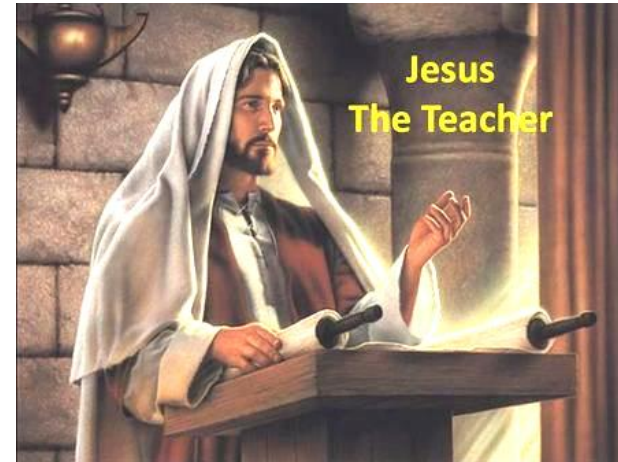
Parish Centre: 270122 or 07377 341969 (Manager – Heather Cheyne)

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL Registered Charity No. 1199714

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

26th JANUARY 2025



In as much as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an

orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.....

At that time: Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll, and found the place where it was written;

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Sat 25th

10.45

16.15-16.45

17.00

The Conversion of St Paul

Holocaust Memorial Service in Astley Park

Confessions

Mass – Clarice Blakemore (A)

Sun 26th 09.30	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) Mass – Monica Donalds
Mon 27th 09.00	St Angela Merici. Holocaust Memorial Day. Mass – Vincent Aspinall
Tues 28th 12.00	St Thomas Aquinas Mass – Joe Quinlan (LD)
Wed 29th 09.00	Mass – Bridget Trimm
Thurs 30th 12.00	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion</i>
Fri 31st 12.00	St John Bosco Mass – Fr Peter Crowther (birthday)
Sat 1st Feb <i>16.15-16.45</i>	St Bridget of Kildare, St Henry Morse <i>Confessions</i> Mass – Maura Brown
Sun 2nd 09.30	PRESENTATION OF THE LORD Mass – Parishioners

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: Emily Atkins, 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.

LATELY DECEASED: **Mary Jean Murray** (88) who died on 14th January at Chorley Hospital. Requiem Mass on Monday 3rd February at **13.30** followed by burial at St Gregory's Weldbank Church Yard. **Paweł Krasny** (47) died suddenly on 20th December at home. Cremation took place on 23rd January. Holy Mass will be offered for the repose of his soul on Saturday 8th February at 17.00. His ashes will be repatriated to Poland. **Anne Rose McCullagh** (88) who died on 21st January in Chorley Hospital after a short illness. Funeral details will be announced. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

ANNIVERSARIES: **Clarice Blakemore, Antonia Lynch, Linda Ryan, Herbert Smith.**

RETIRING COLLECTIONS TODAY 25/ 26th January – For Bishop Hryhoriy Komar's work with refugees in Drohobych, Ukraine.

READERS: **25th Sat 17.00** Gillian Sharples **26th Sun 09.30** Simon Eccles
01 Sat 17.00 Kinga Grzeczynska **02 Sun 09.30** Dr Jane Eccles
08 Sat 17.00 Richard Gillett **09 Sun 09.30** Richard Gillett

ST MARYS IS THE JUBILEE CHURCH IN THE LANCASHIRE AREA OF THE ARCHDIOCESE: Please be aware that you may see pilgrim visitors walking around the church. The Jubilee prayer cards are in the narthex. Please take one and can the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EOMs) please distribute to the sick and housebound.

CALENDAR OF JUBILEE EVENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE: On the display board in the narthex, you will see a poster with the Jubilee events throughout the year. In

November (7-13), there is a trip to Rome planned. It would be exciting if we could organise a parish representation to Rome.

DIACONATE INFORMATION EVENING FOR MEN: is being held with the Archbishop at St John's Wigan. Wives and fiancées very welcome. **Thursday 30th January at St John's in Wigan: St John's Presbytery, 13 Powell Street, Wigan, WN1 1XD** If you would like more information, please contact c.fallon@rcaol.org.uk

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: REGISTRATION OPEN 13 Jan - 17 March 2025 If you are a baptised Catholic in Year 8 or above and wish to be confirmed, please register with Liverpool Called at liverpoolcalled.co.uk We would be grateful if those attending schools other than Holy Cross would also let the parish office know.

CHORLEY AND DISTRICT SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE: www.chorleyukraineunit.org
As we approach the three-year anniversary of the start of this unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by the forces of Muscovy, and the tragic suffering of the Ukrainian people, it is good to recap on the help that has gone from Chorley:
8 Medievac vehicles for rescuing injured soldiers from the battlefield
700 pallets of aid, including clothing, bedding, blankets, toiletries, food, medical supplies
sanitary products, toys
100 more pallets exclusively of medical supplies
10 generators
490 bicycles
2.5 tons of candle wax for trench candles
250 pairs of crutches and a similar number of walking zimmers
2,500 Christmas shoe boxes.

Immense thanks are due to all who have donated help, and to Stuart Clewlow and his teams of volunteers at the old White Hart, next to the Town Hall, who sort and pack the aid vehicles for transport to Ukraine.

There will be a special service at St Laurence's in Chorley at 18.15 on Monday 24th February, marking the third anniversary of the start of this invasion, to pray for all who are suffering, and for a just peace.



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1**

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2025. The theme this year for HMD is 'For a better future'. In this Special Jubilee Year, we pray in hope, for peace and stability on God's Earth. Mankind needs peace and love, and this is what we hope for in the future. In 1945, the Soviet Army entered the darkness and despair of Auschwitz – Birkenau Concentration Camp. This weekend we commemorate 80 years since the Death Camps were liberated and the whole world was then able to hear and see the atrocities that had taken part. Over 1.1 million people were murdered in Auschwitz – Birkenau. It is also the 30th year of the genocide in Bosnia. We pray for all those who have been victims of genocide, and for those who have been traumatised by what they witnessed and heard.

The BBC will televise the Remembrance Service from Auschwitz at 19.00 on Monday 27th January. God rest their souls and may their memory be a blessing.