

**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

**CATHOLIC PICTORIAL FOR FEBRUARY** is available on this link – [Catholic Pic<news@cpmmmedia.com>](mailto:CatholicPic@cpmmmedia.com)

**ST BLAISE** Throats will be blessed after 12.00 noon Mass on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** February. We are very sorry, but because of Monday's funeral we had to move the throat blessing to the next day. We are sure that you will understand.

**PRAYER FOR THE MEETING OF THE LORD WITH SIMEON AND ANNA**

**The Ancient of Days**, who in times past gave Moses the Law on Sinai, appears this day as a babe. As Maker of the Law He fulfills the Law, and according to the Law He is brought into the temple and given over to the Elder, Simeon the righteous receives Him, and beholding the fulfillment of the divine ordinance now brought to pass, rejoicing he cries aloud: "My eyes have seen the mystery hidden from the ages, made manifest in these latter days, the Light that disperses the dark folly of the Gentiles without faith and the Glory of the newly-chosen Israel. Therefore, let your servant depart from the bonds of this flesh to the life filled with wonder that knows neither age nor end, O You who grants the world great mercy."

He whom the ministers at the liturgy on high entreat with trembling, Simeon has now received below in his earthly arms, and he proclaims the union of the Godhead with mankind. Seeing the heavenly God as mortal man, he makes ready to withdraw from earthly things, and raises his cry in joy, "Glory to You, O Lord, who has revealed to those in darkness the Light that knows no evening."

**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES – TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during 12.00 Mass, for anyone with a serious illness or seriously weakened by old age. On 18<sup>th</sup> Feb there is a special celebration Mass at 19.00 at the Metropolitan Cathedral in thanksgiving for the miraculous healing of Jack Traynor at Lourdes back in 1923. If you cannot go, there will be details on how to view on - line.

**THE CHRISTMAS CRIB** is dismantled after Mass this Sunday, following Roman custom. Thanks to all those who set out and arrange the crib figures and put them away.

**Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Marsden**  
**Deacon Norman Arrowsmith**

Tel: 01257 262537 E-mail: [stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk)

Parish website: [www.stmarys-chorley.org](http://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

## PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Candlemas)

2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2025



*When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord') and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons'.*

*Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the Temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 'Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'*

*And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed — and a sword will pierce through your own soul also — so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.'*

*And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the Temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.*

**And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him. Luke 2:22-40**

**Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Feb** 16.15-16.45 St Bridget of Kildare, St Henry Morse  
Confessions

**17.00** Mass – Maura Brown

**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup>** PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

**09.30** Mass – Parishioners

**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup>** 13.30 **Requiem** – Mary Jean Murray

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup>** 12.00 **Mass** – Sp Int (C. Family)  
12.30-13.00 *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup>** 09.00 **Mass** – Doris (A) and Gerrard Shaw

**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup>** 12.00 *Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion*

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup>** 12.00 **Mass** – Mary Carter (A)  
12/30-13.00 *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup>** 16.15-16.45 *Confessions*  
17.00 **Memorial Mass** – Paweł Krasny (LD)

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup>** 09.30 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
**Mass** – John and Florence (A) Akers

**Responsorial Psalm: The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.**

**RETIRING COLLECTIONS:** This Sunday we have the monthly **Church Restoration Fund** collection.

**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:** **Paweł Krasny** (47) died suddenly on 20<sup>th</sup> December at home. Cremation took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Holy Mass will be offered for the repose of his soul on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 17.00. His ashes will be repatriated to Poland.

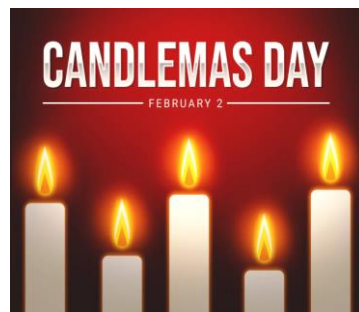
**Anne Rose McCullagh** (88) who died on 21<sup>st</sup> January in Chorley Hospital after a short illness. Funeral at St Joseph's Chorley on 12<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00 followed by cremation at Charnock Richard. **Margaret Webster** (80) who died in the Royal Preston Hospital on 28<sup>th</sup> January. Requiem Mass will be held at St Joseph's Anderton on 18<sup>th</sup> January at 10am, followed by burial in the church graveyard. Margaret is the wife of Frank Webster, the parish secretary at St Joseph's Anderton. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Albert Harvey, Mary Carter, Florence Akers, Doris Shaw, Mary Ormerod. Abp Frederick William Keating (1928), Abp Derek Worlock CH (1996)

**THANKS VERY MUCH... THE RETIRING COLLECTION** for Bishop Gregory came to £900 in total, plus extra private donations. Thank you very much for your great generosity. It will be a huge help to the displaced people who rely on food, water and medicines. Thank you for the paracetamols and Ibuprofens. Bishop Gregory was very grateful for the love and kindness given to him during his stay with us. Because Mr Trump has frozen all US foreign humanitarian aid, pending reassessment, some of the work helping injured soldiers with prosthetic limbs etc has had to cease, temporarily, we hope.

Bishop Gregory was visited by our Archbishop and Chancellor during the week for the celebration of the Holy Mass. Bishop Gregory was also invited by the Mayor and Mayoress of Chorley for a cup of tea in the Mayor's Chambers, which he very much enjoyed. Please keep him and the people that he looks after, in your prayers. He has been given an enormous task with huge challenges. All prayers and thoughts are most gratefully received by him. Thank you.

**READERS:** 1 Sat 17.00 Richard Gillett 2 Sun 09.30 Richard Gillett  
8 Sat 17.00 Eileen McCarrick 9 Sun 09.30 Paul Lennon  
15 Sat 17.00 Andrew Jenner 16 Sun 09.30 Paul Lennon



**TODAY IS CANDLEMAS DAY**, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, and the end of the Christmas season. This is the day recorded in the Gospel of Luke when, forty days after birth, the Jewish law required *that every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord*. When Joseph and Mary got to the Temple, *an upright and devout man, Simeon, prompted by the Holy Spirit*, met the Holy Family and took the baby *into his arms and blessed God* saying: **Now my eyes have seen your salvation,**

**the glory of your people Israel, a light to enlighten the pagans.**

Jesus Christ is the Glory of Israel: He has fulfilled all the hopes and promises of Old. More, He is the Light of the World. He has overcome evil, sin and the powers of darkness. That's why on this day at the start of Mass, candles are blessed and lit. Christ is our Light. Without Christ, human lives have no fundamental meaning. Without Christ, human moral value-systems become groundless. Without Christ, there is no eternal life, no heaven to look forward to, and human hearts are restless, yearning for a happiness that can never be fulfilled.

The Church uses candles not to create a magical atmosphere but because they are potent symbols. To give off light, a candle burns up its own body-mass. This symbolises Christ who in his birth, life and death, gave up Himself, even His flesh and blood, for our salvation. You and I have received His light into our hearts through baptism. He has chosen us personally to be His disciples. And He calls us to share that Light with others. This is why as we carry candles, we must recognise our call in Him to radiate that Light of Christ to others.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** Registration open until 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](http://liverpoolcalled.co.uk)