

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

NOTICES FROM LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE

Work Experience Opportunity for Young Adults

The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a **week of free residential work experience** for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from **22nd 27th June** in **London**. Candidates must have completed their first or second year at university and have a passion for social justice. Applications close on the 20th April. A poster is attached. For any queries, please contact KeziaH@svp.org.uk

Guild of St Stephen Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Guild of St Stephen's Pilgrimage to Lourdes is currently **accepting bookings**. The pilgrimage will take place **Sunday 26th October – Saturday 1st November 2025** and further information, including booking costs, is included on the attached flyer. For more information please contact **Rose Curry** on 07932 729896

Pilgrim Cross: An Easter Walking Pilgrimage – Registrations Now Open

Pilgrim Cross is an annual Easter pilgrimage to Walsingham, open to all ages and backgrounds. Walk for one, three, or seven days in community before celebrating Easter in the historic ruins of Walsingham Abbey.

With routes ranging from 5 to 20 miles a day, there's a challenge for everyone – from families with young children to those ready for the full 100-mile journey. Luggage is transported, and support is available along the way. To register and join a group, visit pilgrimcross.org.uk

"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring" (St Catherine of Siena)

"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may go to heaven" (St Rose of Lima)

"Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself." St Francis de Sales

"O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors and not to judge my brother, for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen." St Ephrem the Syrian

**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

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

2nd MARCH 2025



At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable: 'Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye", when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you

will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

'For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.' Luke 6:39-45

Sat 1st March

16.15-16.45

17.00

Sun 2nd

09.30

Mon 3rd

09.00

Tues 4th

12.00

St David, Patron of Wales

Confessions

Mass – Mark Southworth

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass – Parishioners

Mass – Bill Boardman (LD)

St Casimir

Mass – Anna McGeachin (LD)



12.30-13.00 *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

Wed 5th

ASH WEDNESDAY

Day of fasting and abstinence

09.00 Mass – School Mass Yrs 3-6

12.00 Mass – Bernard and Alice (A) Joyce

14.00 School: Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2 distribution of Ashes

Thurs 6th

Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Fri 7th Ss Perpetua and Felicity

11.30 *Stations of the Cross*

12.00 Mass – Kathleen (A) and Henry Watmough

12.30-13.00 *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

Sat 8th

St John of God

16.15-16.45 *Confessions*

17.00 Mass – Peter Doherty (A)

Sun 9th

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

09.30 Mass – Joseph Abraham RIP

15.00 Holy Hour with Benediction

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: Pope Francis, 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.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mark Southworth, Alice Joyce, Kathleen Watmough, Peter Doherty,

READERS: 01 Sat 17.00 Gillian Sharples 02 Sun 09.30 Dr Jane Eccles

08 Sat 17.00 Eileen McCarrick 09 Sun 09.30 Richard Gillett

15 Sat 17.00 Eleanor Jenner 16 Sun 09.30 Simon Eccles

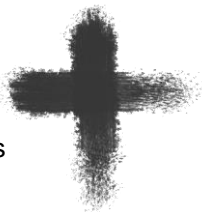
NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH: The novena to St Joseph will start on 10th March until 18th March. Novena prayers can be found at the back of the church.

PRAYERS FOR POPE FRANCIS as we know, Pope Francis has been hospitalized in the Gemelli Hospital in Rome, for two weeks. Please continue to pray for Pope Francis as he continues to suffer the chronic complicated lung diseases that he has. Ave Maria gratia plena.....

SVP PARTY AT HOLY CROSS: Please sign the list at the back of the church if you wish to attend the SVP Party at Holy Cross High School on Friday 28th March at 13.30 – 16.00. **The list at the back of the church will close on Thursday 6th March.**

PROGRAMME FOR LENT AT ST MARY'S

Ash Wednesday – Day of fasting and abstinence. Fasting applies to people aged from 18 – 59 years old. This involves eating one full meal and two smaller meals. The total food consumed in the two smaller meals should not be equal to a full meal.



Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and every Friday applies to everybody from age 14 upwards. People in poor health may be exempted from Fasting and Abstinence for medical reasons.

Ash Wednesday Mass at 09.00 and 12.00 noon with distribution of Ashes.

Fridays - 11.30am; Stations of the Cross.

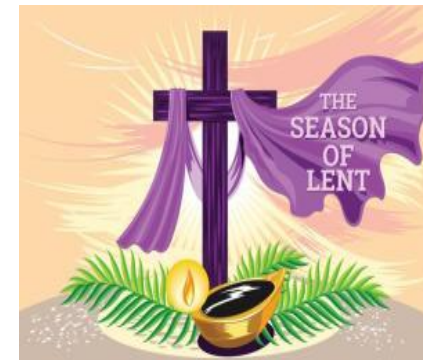
First Friday – Litany of the Sacred Heart after Mass.

Sundays 15.00 - Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction.

Confessions – Saturdays 16.15 – 16.45

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays and Fridays 12.30-13.00.

Prayers to the Five Precious Wounds of Jesus – found on the table in the narthex. Decade of the Rosary (to be said daily in your own time) for world peace.



THOUGHTS FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

“Lent reminds us, therefore, that Christian life is a never-ending combat in which the “weapons” of prayer, fasting and penance are used. Fighting against evil, against every form of selfishness and hate, and dying to oneself to live in God is the ascetic journey that every disciple of Jesus is called to make with humility and patience, with generosity and perseverance.” (Pope Benedict XVI)

“Lent and Ash Wednesday is not just about putting away the bad things. It is about creating good things and helping the poor and the needy” (Jacob Winters)

“Repent and believe in the Gospel”. This invitation, which we find at the beginning of Jesus’ preaching, introduces us into the Lenten season, a time to be dedicated in a special way to conversion and renewal, to prayer, to fasting and to works of charity. In recalling the experience of the chosen people, we too set out as it were to retrace the journey that Israel made across the desert to the Promised Land. We too will reach our goal; after these weeks of penance, we will experience the joy of Easter. Our eyes, purified by prayer and penance, will be able to behold with greater clarity the face of the living God, to whom man makes his own pilgrimage on the paths of earthly life.”

“Your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (Mt 6: 4, 6, 18). Jesus’ words are addressed to each one of us at the beginning of our Lenten journey. We begin it with the imposition of ashes, an austere penitential gesture very dear to Christian tradition. It emphasizes the awareness of sinners as they stand before the majesty and holiness of God. At the same time, it demonstrates readiness to accept and to transform into concrete choices adherence to the Gospel.” (St John Paul II)

“By inviting us through the discipline of Lent to tread the paths of love and hope marked out by Christ, the Church makes us realize that the Christian life involves detachment from superfluous goods, and the acceptance of a poverty which sets us free, and enables us to discover God’s presence and to welcome our brothers and sisters with an ever more active solidarity and in an ever wider fellowship” (St John Paul II)

“God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy” “During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference.” (Pope Francis)