

**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

**CHORLEY AND DISTRICT AID FOR UKRAINE - Can you help?**

**As well as the ongoing need for: Clothing, Shoes, Toiletries, Baby Products,** Duvets, Blankets, Towels, Generators, Sanitary Items, Tinned Food (12-month life)... We are also collecting for:

**"Soldier Appeal"** Razors, Packet Soups, Wet Wipes, Socks, Soap, Heat Pads, Thermal Underwear, Sleeping Bags, Boiled Sweets, Plasters.

**"Children Appeal"** Colouring Books, Pens, Crayons, Sweets, Small Toys.

**"Medical Appeal"** Bandages, Plasters, Paracetamol, Ibuprofen, Joint Supports, Supplement Drinks, First Aid Kits, Crutches, Spectacles.

**"On Yer Bike for Ukraine"** Any Bicycle of any condition or parts, including tyre pumps.

**"Candles for Ukraine"** Candles & candle wax (including scraps) and also matches.

You can find us next to the Town Hall at: The 'Ukraine Unit', The White Hart, Mealhouse Lane, Chorley, Lancs, PR7 1DZ. **Wednesdays 14.00-16.00 & Saturdays 10.00-12.00**

You can also donate to our Bank Account "Chorley Support for Ukraine" (Natwest) Account 29841186 Sort 01-01-94.

We also raise funds to buy MedEvac Vehicles for Ukraine.

Please check our social media channels for regular updates, new appeals, useful information, fundraisers, etc... **Thank you for your continued support.**

**PLEASE TAKE YOUR DONATIONS TO THE HUB AT THE OLD WHITE HART PUB**

**CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER:** The Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King now has its own newsletter, bringing you all their events in one place - to sign up, please visit the link here: <https://liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/sign-up/>

**THE SCHOOL CHILDREN** came to Mass on Wednesday for the Mass of Creation and the start of the academic year. They were very well behaved and sang beautifully. Welcome back to school and we hope to see you at Sunday Mass.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:** The Harvest School Mass will be on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 14.15** and will be held in school. There will also be one for the parish on 11/12 October.

**YEAR 4 PARENTS' MEETING:** There will be a meeting for Year 4 parents in school at 18.00 on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** to talk about the First Holy Communion preparation for 2026.

**SACRED HEART ALTAR PAINTING:** will start this Monday morning and will last all week. We need to do this now before the winter sets in and the job becomes twice as expensive. Thank you for your co operation.

**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

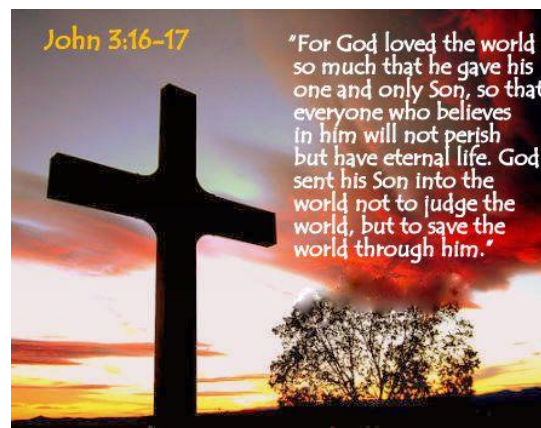
Parish Centre: 270122 or 07377 341969 (Manager – Heather Cheyne)

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL Registered Charity No. 1199714

# St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

## FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025



*At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not*

*perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'* John 3:13-17

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**17.00**

St John Chrysostom

**Mass – Fr John P. Smith (A)**

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**09.30**

**FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS**

**Mass – Christine Corcoran (A)**

**Mon 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**09.00**

Our Lady of Sorrows

**Mass – George (A) and Mary Ormerod**

**Tues 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**12.00**  
12.30-13.00

Ss Cornelius and Cyprian

**Mass – Marjorie Page (A)**

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**09.00**

St Robert Bellarmine, St Hildegard of Bingen

**Mass – Sp Int PO**

**Thurs 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**12.00**

*Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion*

St Theodore of Canterbury, St Januarius

**Mass – Mary Dorothea Thompson (A)**

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**17.00**

Ss Andrew Kim-Taegon, Paul Chong Ha-Sang and Korean Martyrs

**Mass – Maura Brown RIP**

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup>**

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (C)**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND:** Margaret Arrowsmith, Kathleen Coyle, Rosemary Hough, Archbishop Emeritus Patrick Kelly, Theresa Martin, Fr Laurence Mayne, Molly Redhead, and parishioners in The Adelphi, Westwood, and Gillibrand Hall. **Please note: We now need written permission to add a name to the above sick list. This can be done by the sick person or by the next of kin, if the sick person cannot give permission themselves. Written permission can be made via email to [stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk)**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Peter Bamber – father of Tom and Joseph, died on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Funeral will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 09.30 at Charnock Richard Crematorium. **Monica Seed** (92) who died on 8<sup>th</sup> September at St Catherine's Hospice. Requiem Mass on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 11.00 am followed by burial in St Gregory's Weld Bank church yard. Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord....

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr John Smith (2014), Dorothy Mary Ridgway, Mary Dorothea Thompson, Marjorie Page, George Ornerod, Canon Kevin Mullen (2016)

**READERS:** **Sat:13: 17.00** Kinga Grzeczynska **Sun 14: 09.30** Richard Gillett  
**Sat: 20: 17.00** Eileen McCarrick **Sun 21: 09.30** Paul Lennon  
**Sat: 27th 17.00** Andrew Jenner **Sun: 28: 09.30** Simon Eccles



**FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS** this weekend, replaces the usual Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> week of Ordinary Time. Holy Cross Catholic High School is under the patronage of the Cross so this is their patronal feast. Please remember Mr Lindley (Headteacher) his staff and all the pupils in your prayers. The youth is tomorrow's future and we hope to hear very good results in the coming year from the school.

**Origins of the Feast. It celebrates three events:**

- The finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena.
- The dedication of churches built by Emperor Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary.
- The elevation of the True Cross at Hagia Sophia in Constantinople in AD 629 by the Byzantine emperor Heraclius, after it had fallen into the hands of the Persian Emperor Chosroes II in the AD 614 Sassanian conquest of Jerusalem.

Constantinople in AD 629 by the Byzantine emperor Heraclius, after it had fallen into the hands of the Persian Emperor Chosroes II in the AD 614 Sassanian conquest of Jerusalem.

About 325 AD St. Helena, already about seventy years old, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. Her son equipped her with detachments of soldiers, engineers and builders. Cooperating with Bishop Makarios of Jerusalem, St Helena gave orders to raze the Temple of Aphrodite (Venus), which had been built over the site of Jesus's tomb by the Emperor Hadrian. After the Jewish Bar Kokhba rebellion in 135 AD, Hadrian had wanted to obliterate the site and prevent Christian veneration there. Helena then built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre over the tomb. During the excavations in the cisterns beneath Calvary, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

Helena left one-third of the Cross in Jerusalem in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. One-third was brought to Rome and can be seen today in the basilica of

Santa Croce in Gerusalemme (Holy Cross in Jerusalem), The final one-third was taken to Constantinople.

The Holy Cross naturally became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem c.382 AD, the Spanish pilgrim Egeria described how the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, fifteen years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim

The Cross is our salvation and our hope and eternal life cf. John 3:14–15, "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." **If you bring Crucifixes and Crosses from your homes, Fr Marsden will bless them at the end of Mass. If someone forgets, please bring your home Crucifix/Cross to the 09.00 Mass on Monday morning.**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** We need to pray this week that the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill goes no further. It is undoubtedly the most worrying Bill in decades. Please petition Our Blessed Lady with your prayers or rosaries.

**COUNTING TIME HAS COME:** Collectors, please count the numbers attending each Mass beginning **this weekend**. There is a sheet for you to record the numbers in the sacristy. Thank you for your help.

**WELCOME TO THE PARISHIONERS OF ST LAWRENCE'S:** towards the middle of October we will welcome Canon Neil Kelley and his parishioners of St Lawrence's for their Sunday Worship. Their liturgy will be at 11.00 each Sunday, after our 09.30 Mass. St Lawrence's will be our guests until early spring 2026 due to the complicated and extensive works being carried out at St Laurence's church. This is a practical example of ecumenical cooperation and Christian charity.

#### **LOURDES TRIP 2026 FOR THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF YOUTH PILGRIMAGES**

This very special pilgrimage will take place next July 2026. The age is 15-22 yrs old and the cost is £720.00, which includes accommodation, coach travel and 3 meals per day. If anyone books before 19<sup>th</sup> October, you will get a £50.00 reduction. In view of this being a special pilgrimage, would parishioners like to donate money for one lucky person to go to Lourdes? If 10 people donated £67.00, you could change a young person's life with the Lourdes experience. Please think about it. Thank you.

**QUIET DAYS AT THE CENACLE: 10:00 – 16:00** We all need time to stop, ponder, be still, be find it hard to have the time. Why not come for a few hours, with like-minded people, and just stop and be away from the daily round of life? Bring your own lunch, tea/coffee provided, suggested offering £10 No need to book, just come along and maybe bring a friend. For further information contact Sr Winnie, Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, L15 6TW; tel 0151 722 2271 **Sisters of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Liverpool**