

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

ST BEDE'S INVITATION: You are invited to join three times of prayer and reflection - some space at this busy time of year for us to deepen our Advent preparation for the celebration of Christmas. At St Bede's Church, 598, Preston Road, Clayton Green. PR6 7EB. Thursdays at 19.00 on 4th, 11th and 18th December.

COULD YOU HELP? A lady who lives in Astley Village would very much like to come to a weekend Mass. Could someone bring and take her home please? Thank you.

CLEANING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: Please would you consider giving a couple of hours of your precious time to clean the church for Christmas? On Thursday 18th December at 09.30 can you please join our cleaners and help clean the church? 'Many hands make light work' and it will be gratefully appreciated. Thank you.

ST LUCY'S BLESSING FOR EYES: will take place after Mass on Saturday evening. Please come to the altar after Mass has finished.

SCHOOL NATIVITY CONCERT: The church doors will open at 17.45 on Monday 15th December for the school nativity concert. Parents and parishioners please note that photographs are not allowed to be taken in the church during the concert.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM DEACON NORMAN: We would like to wish all parishioners a joyful, peaceful and holy Christmas and a bright New Year. We miss you all very much. Please remember us in your prayers as we remember you all daily in ours. Thank you, Deacon Norman and Margaret.
Thank you for the cards and presents. They are very much appreciated.



CHRISTMAS EVE MASS: 16.30
with carols starting at 16.00

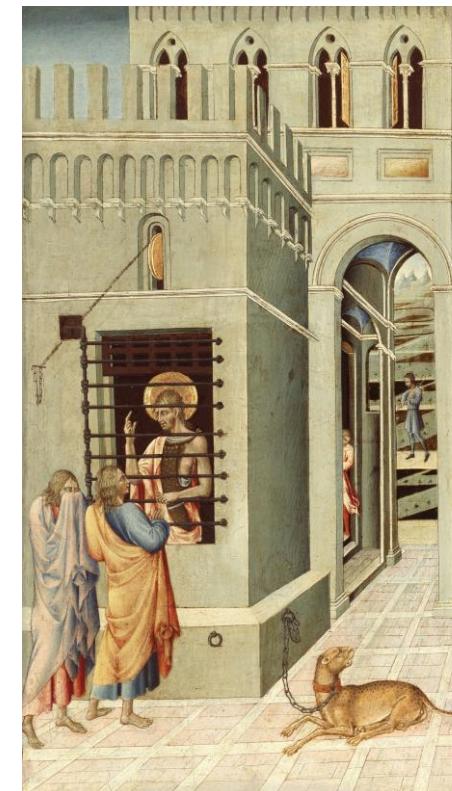
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS: 09.30

Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Marsden
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 OF ADVENT

14th DECEMBER 2025



At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is

written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Matthew 11:2-11

Sat 13th

16.15-16.45

17.00

Confessions

Mass – Fr Louis Catterall SMM (A)

Sun 14th

09.30

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass – Parishioners

15.00

Advent Holy Hour at St Mary's Chorley

15.00

Advent Service of Reconciliation at St Gregory's Weldbank, Chorley



Mon 15th
09.00
18.00

(School Advent Mass)
Mass – Sp Int. E.E. and K.G
School Nativity Concert

Tues 16th
12.00
12.30-13.00

Mass – Sp Int (2 sick friends)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 17th
09.00

Mass – Kathleen (A) and Henry Watmough

Thurs 18th
12.00

Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Fri 19th
12.00
12.30 – 13.00

Mass – Stella Vigar (Christmas Mass)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat 20th
16.15-16.45
17.00

Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers.
Confessions
Mass – Maura Brown (Christmas Mass)

Sun 21st
09.30
15.00
16.30

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Mass – Teresa and Jimmy Halpin RIP
Advent Holy Hour at St Joseph's Anderton
Christmas workshop for decorating St Mary's church

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: Margaret Arrowsmith, Kathleen Coyle, Rosemary Hough, Archbishop Emeritus Patrick Kelly, Theresa Martin, David Monks, Vasil Olijniczuk, 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**

ANNIVERSARIES: Fr Louis Catterall, Kathleen Watmough, Judy McCrory,

READERS: Sat: 13th 17.00 Kinga Grzeczynska Sun: 14th 09.30 Dr Jane Eccles
Sat: 20th 17.00 Gillian Sharples Sun: 21st 09.30 Charlotte Eccles
Christmas Eve 16.30 Chris Thorpe and Eleanor Jenner
Christmas Day 09.30 Gillian Sharples and Richard Gillett
Sat: 27th 17.00 Eileen McCarrick Sun: 28th 09.30 Paul Lennon

EUCARISTIC ADORATION HOLY HOURS

Third Sunday of Advent: 14 Dec St Mary's Chorley. 15.00 Holy Hour with Evening Prayer st 15.40

Fourth Sunday of Advent: 21 Dec St Joseph's Anderton/Adlington. 15.00 Holy Hour and Benediction.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Dr Jane Eccles would like to invite all willing hands to decorate the church and for a Christmas workshop on **Sunday 21st December at 16.30**. As usual, sherry and mince pies will be provided to bring out the artistic talents of all the volunteers, (cordial or pop for drivers).

POINSETTIA APPEAL: Please consider donating a red poinsettia in memory of a loved one or a thanksgiving for blessings received. We would be grateful if the poinsettias came into church by Friday 19th December. Thank you.

FOOD BANK IN HOUSE: If you have any spare tins of food, cornflakes, UHT milk, pasta, sauces, sugar, coffee and tea, could you please donate and leave your items at the parish office. We always are asked several times to give out food over the Christmas and New Year time. Our stocks are down and need replacing. Many thanks.

"ADVENT POEM" BY ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the road
pregnant with the Holy and say,
"I need shelter for the night. Please take me inside
your heart, my time is so close."
Then, under the roof of your soul,
you will witness the sublime intimacy,
the divine, the Christ, taking birth forever,
as she grasps your hand for help,
for each of us is the midwife of God, each of us.
Yes, there, under the dome of your being,
does creation come into existence eternally,
through your womb, dear pilgrim,
the sacred womb of your soul,
as God grasps our arms for help:
for each of us is His beloved servant never far.
If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the
street, pregnant with Light, and sing!



"There are two births of Christ, one unto the world in Bethlehem; the other in the soul, when it is spiritually reborn. Men think of the former much more than the latter, and celebrate it every year; but the spiritual Bethlehem is equally momentous. . . . It was the second birth that Saint Paul insisted on when he wrote from prison to his beloved people, the Ephesians, asking that Christ may dwell in their hearts by faith and that they be rooted and grounded in love. This is the second Bethlehem, or the personal relationship of the individual heart to the Lord Christ." – Ven. Fulton Sheen

"The liturgy of Advent...helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously." St. John Paul II

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you." – St. Teresa of Calcutta