

**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.

**APPEAL LAUNCH:** This year we want to replaster in part and paint the sacristy. It has been a long time since the sacristy was decorated and it needs to be done. The cost will be £4,200 and we are asking for your help. If you can donate towards this appeal, please put your donation into an envelope marked Sacristy Decoration Appeal. It is a lot of money but everything is expensive and I hope you can help with the cost. We will keep the appeal open until the end of Lent. Thank you. (Fr Marsden).

**ANNUAL STATISTICS FOR ST MARY'S:** Each year we are obliged to send to the Chancellor in Liverpool our statistics for the previous year. **2025:** We have **2** people preparing to enter the Catholic Faith. Last year we had: **11** baptisms, **1** reception into the faith, **32** First Holy Communions, **22** Confirmations, **nil** marriages, **15** funerals. The average weekly Mass attendance during the 'counting weeks' in autumn was **137**. **You can see that the Mass weekend attendance (was 186 in 2024) has fallen at St Mary's. Apart from a few families, we see very few children with parents attending weekly Sunday Mass. The Little Church has stopped functioning because of this. Parents please note; if you do not attend Mass with your children, the future of this church looks uncertain.** This newsletter is circulated by email to each school family. Parents have access to Mass times and all the information that they need. Little Church Leaders will be happy to start again during Sunday Mass if you bring your children to church.

**FOUND IN SACRISTY:** One key and one fob with a blue key ring. It has a number in the key ring. Tell me the number and you can collect your key from the parish office.

**WATCH FOUND** in church. Please reclaim from parish office.

**WELCOME** to Astley Park school Yr 10 children who are visiting the church this week as part of the Christian Unity Week activities.

**NEWS FROM ROME:** Pope Leo XIV has granted a Plenary Indulgence to all Franciscan sanctuaries in the world. The decision is linked to the opening of the 8th Centenary of the Transitus of Saint Francis, inaugurated on 10 January 2026, in Assisi, in the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli. The centenary commemorates the death of Saint Francis, which occurred in 1226 at the Porziuncola in Assisi. The Decree establishes that the special Year of Saint Francis will last from 10 January 2026, to 10 January 2027.

**Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Marsden**

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: Mon by appointment, 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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

**18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026**



*At that time: John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me." I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on*

*whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'*

John 1:29-34

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup>**  
16.15-16.45  
17.00

St Anthony of Egypt  
Confessions  
Mass – Kevin McCarrick (A)

**Sun 18<sup>th</sup>**  
09.30  
15.00

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** *Peace Sunday*  
Mass – Parishioners  
Christian Unity Service – First day of the week of prayer

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup>**  
09.00

St Wulstan of Worcester  
Mass – Connie Ingham (LD)

**Tues 20<sup>th</sup>**  
12.00  
12.30-13.00

St Fabian or St Sebastian  
Mass – Deceased relatives of the Bolton Family  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup>**  
09.00

St Agnes  
Mass – Patrick and Christopher O'Riordan RIP

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
12.00

St Vincent of Zaragoza  
Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**12.00**

**Mass** – Barbara (A), Marie (A) and Leonard (A) Green

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup>**

**St Francis de Sales**    **Holocaust Memorial Weekend**

**16.15-16.45**

**Confessions**

**17.00**

**Mass** – Clarice Blakemore (A)

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup>**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**09.30**

**Mass** – Parishioners, sick and housebound.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND:** Margaret Arrowsmith, 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](mailto:stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk)***

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Margaret Arrowsmith (76) wife of Dcn Norman, died peacefully at home on 15<sup>th</sup> January. Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 12.00 followed by burial in Chorley Cemetery. I am sure all parishioners will offer their condolences to Deacon Norman for his sad loss after 57 years of married life together.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Barbara, Marie and Leonard Green, Clarice Blakemore, Peter Whittle.

**READERS:**

<b>Sat: 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>17.00</b> Gillian Sharples	<b>Sun: 18<sup>th</sup> 09.30</b> Charlotte Eccles
<b>Sat: 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>17.00</b> Eleanor Jenner	<b>Sun: 25<sup>th</sup> 09.30</b> Paul Lennon
<b>Sat: 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>17.00</b> Eileen McCarrick	<b>Sun: 01 09.30</b> Dr Jane Eccles

**BAPTISMS** will henceforth be administered on the **Second Saturday of the month at 15.00.** They are administered on the fourth Sunday of the month, usually, at St Joseph's Anderton. This new arrangement is now necessary since Deacon Norman's retirement. The advance dates therefore are 14<sup>th</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> March (after 17.00 Mass), 9<sup>th</sup> May. If you have handed in a Baptism Application form, please let Fr Marsden know which date you want. You can have the baptism done at Anderton at 12.00 on the fourth Sunday, if that is more convenient for your family.

### **MORE NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE**

#### **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS**

Archbishop John Sherrington will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Sunday 8 February 2026 at 11.00. The Mass will include the renewal of marriage vows and a special blessing for those celebrating significant anniversaries. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Gibberd Room. For those couples who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please register online for a certificate which will be collected on the day. Please contact the Cathedral for more information. **Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool Mount Pleasant L3 5TQ. 0151 709 9222**

**FCJ PILGRIMAGE TO LINDISFARNE:** Beginning on Wednesday 8 April (17:00) and concluding Sunday 12 April (14:00), the FCJ's are inviting all young adults (20's and

30's) to a walking retreat to the [Holy Island of Lindisfarne](#), a tidal island off the coast of Northeast England. Walking in the footsteps of the Northern saints, the trail will include a two-day walk on [St Cuthbert's Way](#), crossing the pilgrim route to the island. One day in Lindisfarne and the final day will include Mass and a visit to St Cuthbert's Shrine at Durham Cathedral. Accommodation is a [Bunkhouse](#) on the mainland with simple facilities, bunkbeds, an open fire and some storage heating. Each day the group will drive to the start of the walk and arrange to be collected from the end. The terrain is open countryside so good walking shoes, a backpack and waterproof jacket are essential. The group will pray together every day with some opportunities for Mass.

**WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE ARCHDIOCESE?** There is some interesting information for you. Last year there were 1,137 Confirmations in the Archdiocese. We gained 2 permanent Deacons, there were 14 Priestly Jubilees, 150 RCIA candidates (people wanting to be baptised and become Catholics). There were 3,453 Adoremus Visitors, hundreds of people attended the Marriage and Life Mass 2025. 44 couples are preparing for a wedding in 2026 and 6,000 children made their First Holy Communion in the Archdiocese. The Catholic Church gained a new Pope, Leo XIV, the Archdiocese gained a new Archbishop +John Sherrington, and we saw

#### **NINE NEW SAINTS PRONOUNCED BY POPE LEO XIV.**

Blessed **Carlo Acutis** and Blessed **Pier Giorgio Frassati** were canonized as saints together on Sept. 7, 2025. Then on October 19th the following were canonised:

- Blessed **Maria Troncatti**, a Salesian nursing sister who went to Ecuador and became known as "the doctor of the jungle" among the Shuar people.
- Blessed **José Gregorio Hernández Cisneros**, a Venezuelan doctor and a Third Order Franciscan. He was known as the doctor of the poor, whom he treated for free.
- Blessed **Vincenza Maria Poloni** established the Sisters of Mercy of Verona, caring for the sick and for orphans. "The poor are our masters, let us love them and serve them as we would serve Jesus Christ himself in person."
- Blessed **Ignatius Maloyan**, Armenian Catholic bishop, murdered 1915 aged 46 during the Ottoman genocide for refusing to convert to Islam.
- Blessed **Peter To Rot**, a lay catechist from Papua New Guinea, was martyred for his faith during World War II.
- Blessed **Maria Rendiles Martínez**, a Venezuelan Catholic religious sister who founded the congregation of the Servants of Jesus of Caracas.
- Blessed **Bartolo Longo**, Italian lawyer and one-time satanist priest who converted to the Catholic Faith, renounced the devil, and became a great apostle of the Rosary, founding the shrine of the Madonna at Pompei.

#### **MEET YOUR ARCHBISHOP – Wednesday, 28 January, 17.00**

The Friends of the Metropolitan Cathedral are delighted to start the New Year with an evening with Archbishop John Sherrington. This will commence with Mass at 17.00 in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Then we will adjourn to the Gibberd Room where we will enjoy a hot pot supper and a glass of wine. There will be an opportunity to meet Archbishop John and share with him his ambitions and plans for our Archdiocese.

The cost is £30.00 per person which will include a hot pot supper, wine and a donation to the Friends. Anyone wishing to sign up should email Claire Hanlon at [c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk](mailto:c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk) in the first instance and details of how to pay will be shared.