

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 plaster 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).

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION BADGE COMPETITION 2026

The idea behind this competition is to celebrate children making their First Holy Communion across the whole archdiocese and provide them an opportunity to celebrate with one another. The winning designs will be made into a badge to be given out to all First Communicants and shared across our parish communities, website and social media. We will then be providing every child making their Holy Communion with a badge showing the winning design for free. If you are a teacher or a catechist or a parent, please [click here](#) for more details or email badges@rcaol.org.uk.

'OLD AND NEW' REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Hosted by the Irenaeus Project (Great George's Road, L22 1RD), reflections will be **Wednesday mornings (10:30-12:00) on 28 January and 4 February**. Zoom links are available from jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY, SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2026 is devoted to the promotion of racial justice in our Catholic parishes across England and Wales and society and an encouragement to be conscious of the need for justice in all its forms.

EUCARISTIC MINISTRY TRAINING DAYS: The Irenaeus Centre (Waterloo, Crosby) will be leading a Eucharistic ministry training day on 14 March 2026. If you feel called to serve in this way, please contact Fr Marsden. For more information and Zoom links, parishes are invited to book by emailing jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Marsden

Tel: 01257 262537 E-mail: stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk

Parish website: www.stmarys-chorley.org

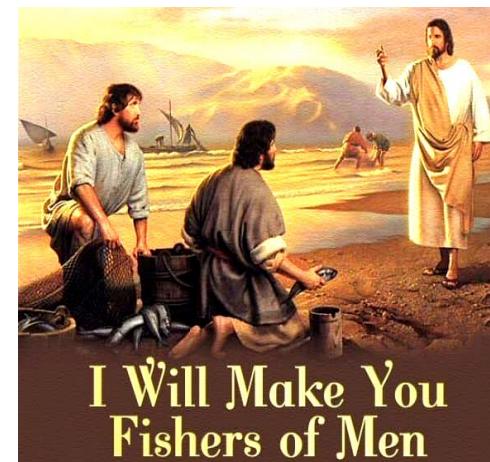
Parish Office: Mon by appointment, Tues - Fri 10.30-13.00. 14.00-17.00

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

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

25th JANUARY 2026



on them a light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. Matthew 4:12-23

Sat 24th
16.15-16.45

17.00

St Francis de Sales

Confessions

Mass – Clarice Blakemore (A)

Sun 25th

09.30

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Sunday of the Word of God

Mass – Parishioners, sick and housebound.

Mon 26th

09.00

Saints Timothy and Titus

Mass – Janet Bolton and deceased members of family

Tues 27th
12.00
12.30-13.00

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY St Angela Merici

Mass – Pauline Fairhurst RIP
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 28th
09.00

St Thomas Aquinas
Mass – Leo Bolton and deceased members of family

Thurs 29th
12.00

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Fri 30th
12.00

Mass – Vincent Aspinall – birthday remembrance

Sat 31st
16.15-16.45
17.00

St John Bosco
Confessions
Mass – Mary Carter (A)

Sun 1st Feb
09.30 **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** Racial Justice Sunday
Mass – Henry (A) and Kathleen Watmough

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: 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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Margaret Arrowsmith (76) wife of Dcn Norman, died peacefully at home on 15th January. Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 3rd 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: Mary Carter, Henry Watmough,

READERS: Sat: 24th 17.00 Eleanor Jenner Sun: 25th 09.30 Paul Lennon
Sat: 31st 17.00 Andrew Jenner Sun: 01 09.30 Dr Jane Eccles
Sat: 07 17.00 Eileen McCarrick Sun: 08 09.30 Simon Eccles

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time is the 'Sunday of the Word of God' - a day, instituted by Pope Francis on the Feast of Saint Jerome in 2019, devoted to the celebration and study of Sacred Scripture.

"Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." Pope Francis, *Aperuit illis*

The Archdiocese has produced a resource intended for those who are readers in church. If you are a regular reader at either Sunday Mass or weekday Mass, please take a copy.

MUTEMWA LEPROSY AND AIDS CLINIC IN ZIMBABWE: This weekend and next weekend we are having our annual collection for the Ven John Bradburne (1921 – 1979) Leprosy and Aids Clinic in Zimbabwe. Every pound we send contributes to the

clinical care of 34 patients suffering with leprosy and AIDS and mental health problems. Money enables the Franciscan Friars to buy food, medical care and chickens for fresh eggs and goats for milk and cheese. Thank you.

MEET YOUR ARCHBISHOP – Wednesday, 28th 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 in the first instance and details of how to pay will be shared.

ABORTION STATISTICS FOR 2023: In 2023, there were a staggering **277,970** abortions in England and Wales – the highest number since the Abortion Act was introduced in 1967, and an 11% increase on the previous year. The statistics show rising abortion rates across nearly all age groups, including teenagers and women over 35. This is tragic, a form of race suicide, leading to empty classrooms, closed schools, and a top-heavy elderly population. Hence the need for immigration. Please pray for women who are with child and pray that they remember and respect the beautiful baby that they are carrying. The national help line for LIFE is tel: **0808 802 5433**. Please do not hesitate to call them if you need help.

VOCATIONS TO THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD: Are you considering the Sacred Priesthood in the Liverpool Archdiocese? Further information is available from our Vocations Director; Fr. Ron Johnson. Please give Fr Johnson a ring and he will be happy to hear from you. r.johnson@rcaol.org.uk 0151 727 2493. St. Charles Borromeo Presbytery, 224 Aigburth Road, Liverpool, L17 9PG.

CARLO ACUTIS: FIRST CLASS RELIC AND EXHIBITION OF EUCHARISTIC

MIRACLES: Carlo Acutis (1991-2006) had a great devotion to the Eucharist. Using his knowledge of computers, he created a website documenting Eucharistic miracles, thereby bringing the truth of the mystery of Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist to the forefront of people's understanding. **Our Lady and All Saints Church, Parbold** are privileged to be able to host a First Class Relic of Saint Carlo Acutis for nine days in February. **The Relic will be sited in the Church (Lancaster Lane, WN8 7HS).**

At the same time, they will be holding an exhibition of 30 (of the 160) Eucharistic miracles he curated. Each miracle will be displayed as a poster panel and each accompanied by historical details and scientific analysis. The Exhibition will be located in the adjacent **Our Lady and All Saints school** (Brandreth Drive, Parbold WN8 7HB) – a short walk from the church. **Both events will run from Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd February** and opening times are Saturdays and Sundays: 11:30 – 15.00 Monday to Friday: 11:30 – 15.00 and 17.00 – 19.00

There is parking and accessibility at both locations and Exhibition notes, prayer cards and children's activities will be available at the exhibition. (All children must be accompanied by an adult). Contact details are 01257 463248, email: parbold@hotmail.com, or via the parish website: www.ourladysparbold.org.uk