

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).

EUCHARISTIC 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

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: Ash Wednesday 18th February – mandatory fasting for 18-59 year olds. No meat to be eaten on this day for anyone 14 or over, except for medical reasons. **Why do Christians fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and not eat meat?** It is a spiritual practice of repentance and self-denial. **What if I am a vegetarian or vegan?** We ask you to consider denying yourself a particular food which you like on this day. Please plan your diary to come to Mass and receive blessed ashes on your forehead as a sign of willingness to accept the disciplines of Lent, an outward sign of turning back to God, accompanied by the words: "Remember man that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return" or "Repent and believe in the Gospel" Mass times are 12.00 and 19.00 on Ash Wednesday.

LENTEN RETREAT DAY FOR YOUNG ADULTS (aged 18 to 35) organised by the Archdiocese on Saturday 7 March 2026 at Carmelite Monastery, Allerton Road, Liverpool, L18 3NU. The Day will start at 10.00 and aim to finish at 16.00. Fr Peter McGrail will be with us and talk about baptismal priesthood. This Retreat Day is free of charge, but please bring your own packed lunch. If you're interested, please sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/e/B8jbFyeYzV?origin=lprLink>. For further information please contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

POPE LEO XIV'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

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)

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL Registered Charity No. 1199714

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

1st FEBRUARY 2026



At that time, seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'
Matthew 5:1-12a

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

Mon 2nd
09.00

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
Mass – Fr Peter Crowther (poorly)

Tues 3rd
12.00

St Blaise
Requiem – Margaret Arrowsmith

Wed 4th
09.00

Mass – John and Florence (A) Akers

Thurs 5th	<u>St Agatha</u>
12.00	<i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Fri 6th	<u>St Paul Miki and Companions, Japanese Martyrs</u>
12.00	Mass – Pat Clarke (A)
12.30-13.00	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Sat 7th	
16.15-16.45	<i>Confessions</i>
17.00	Mass – George and Mary (A) Ormerod
Sun 8th	<u>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</u>
09.30	Mass – Parishioners

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: Fr Peter Crowther, 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), deacon Norman's wife. Her funeral Mass is at 12.00 on Tuesday February 3rd at St Mary's Chorley, followed by interment in Chorley Cemetery.

Fr Michael de Felice, aged 93 years died on Saturday 17th January. He was the retired parish priest of St Joan of Arc's parish Bootle and in the 61st year of the priesthood. The funeral arrangements are as follows: Requiem Mass: Friday 13th February at 11.00, St Monica's Church, Fernhill Road, Bootle, L20 9GA. Celebrant: Archbishop John Sherrington. Burial will follow at Ford Cemetery.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mary Carter, Henry Watmough, Florence Akers, Pat Clarke, Mary Ormerod.

<u>READERS:</u>	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
	Sat: 14	17.00 Chris Thorpe	Sun: 15	09.30 Richard Gillett

RACIAL JUSTICE 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.

FR PETER CROWTHER celebrated his 84th birthday yesterday (31st January). Please pray for Fr Crowther. If you can offer a decade of the rosary for him, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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: St 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.ourladysparbol.org.uk



GOSPEL REFLECTION: Today we hear one of the most beautiful Gospel lessons from The Lord – The Beatitudes. Perhaps you could spare a little time and read the Gospel of St Matthew again, in the comfort of your home and contemplate the words. ***Blessed are those who...*** There is so much pain and suffering in the world because of wars, conflicts, famine and illness and bereavement which cause misery and tears to millions of people. You may ask **how can they be blessed?** They are blessed because we pray for them and the Good Lord in

His mercy sees their pain and our efforts in prayers. Nothing goes unnoticed by The Lord. Every kind act, every prayer and every goodness showed to someone who needs it, is remembered by The Lord. Everyone in pain, suffering or tears that fall, is not forgotten by The Lord. We can offer our prayers for those who need them. We don't need to know names and places; we just need the goodness and mercy to fill our hearts and minds and offer our prayers.

MUTEMWA LEPROSY AND AIDS CLINIC IN ZIMBABWE: This weekend we will continue 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.