

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.

YOUTH MASS: There will be a Youth Mass at St Gregory's, Weld Bank on Sunday 8th March at 16.00. details are on the poster in the resource area on the notice board. Before the Mass there will be a short walk starting from Holy Cross High School to St Gregory's church. The walk is in partnership with CAFOD's Lenten challenge of walking 200km in 40 days. If you wish to join the walk, please park your cars at Holy Cross High School and follow the instructions from the Team Leaders. Meeting time and start of the walk is 15.00.

COLLECTION FOR ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE: The staff at St Catherine's rely on charity funding as their main annual income with a little support from NHS. They also have to pay for all the medications they use. **It costs £7 million pounds per year to fund the hospice.** Therefore, in memory of the Late Fr Peter Crowther and his generous and devoted love of his priestly ministry and his support of St Mary's, we are collecting donations for St Catherine's Hospice. Please send donations in a marked envelope – St Catherine's Hospice. The collection will be for the next two weeks (Lent Sundays 4 and 5). Thank you.

NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH starts on 10th – 18th March. There are some St Joseph Crosses, medals and two magnets in the sacristy, reasonably priced and from St Rita's in Honiton. If you have children and grand children who need a little bit of help in what they are doing or wanting to achieve, St Joseph is a great saint to pray to, having the ears of God and Our Blessed Lady.

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH – Please note that there will not be a 12.00 Mass on this day, because of Fr Peter Crowther's Requiem Mass at Withnell. However, there will a Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion. Stations of the Cross will be as usual at 11.30.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH: *For disarmament and peace. We pray that nations move towards effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.*

CENTRING PRAYER DAY - Saturday 21st March 10.00–16.00 in St Teresa's Church, Norris Green, L11 3BW including simple lunch, led by Fr Richard Sloan, this day focuses of teaching and practice of this beautiful way of silent, simple, meditation prayer in the presence of God, lovingly active within you, No charge: places must be booked by contacting: st.teresasng@rcaol.org.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)

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL Registered Charity No. 1199714

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8th MARCH 2026



At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him,

'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in

Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am he.’ John 4:5-42

Sat 7th
16.15-16.45
17.00
Ss Perpetua and Felicity
Confessions
Mass – Mark Southworth (A)

Sun 8th
09.30
15.00
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Mass – Kathleen (A) and Henry Watmough
Holy Hour – Evening Prayer and Benediction at 15.40

Mon 9th
09.00
St Frances of Rome
Mass – Bernard and Alice (A) Joyce

Tues 10th
12.00
Mass – Anna Doherty (Mother’s Day remembrance)

Wed 11th
12.00
Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thurs 12th
12.00
St Elphege of Winchester
Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Fri 13th
11.30
12.00
12.30-13.00
Stations of the Cross
Mass – Marie Greenhalgh RIP
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat 14th
16.15-16.45
17.00
Confessions
Mass – Maura Brown

Sun 15th
09.30
15.00
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Mass – Parishioners
Holy Hour – Evening Prayer at 15.40

Please note the time change on Wednesday. Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: Audrey Holden, 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*

EASTER CARDS: There are some beautiful Easter cards in the sacristy and very reasonably priced, from St Rita’s in Honiton.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Peter Charles Crowther (84) who died peacefully, fortified by the sacraments of Holy Mother Church, on Sunday 1st March at St Catherine’s Hospice. Fr Peter was Parish Priest at St Joseph’s Withnell, Moorland Sanctuary, for 25 years (March 2001). He had also been Parish Priest at St Joseph’s Anderton in the 1990s. He was diagnosed with bowel, liver and lung cancer in July 2024 and heroically refused surgical or medical interventions. Throughout his illness he celebrated Holy Mass on many occasions at St Mary’s and had lunch here weekly, twice per week. He also maintained his full-time pastoral duties at his own parish in Withnell. As he bravely continued his priestly work, he had no pain or suffering and relied completely on God’s Mercy. He spent 4 weeks here when he became too weak and his final two weeks were spent at St Catherine’s Hospice. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord... **Funeral details:**
Reception of Fr Peter’s body into St Joseph’s Withnell on Thursday 19th March (St Joseph’s Day) at 18.30. Evening Prayer will follow and Holy Mass with Bishop Tom Williams will be at 19.00.
On Friday 20th March Requiem Mass at 12.00 noon, celebrated by His Grace Archbishop John Sherrington, will be followed by burial in Anderton St Joseph’s grave yard. Instead of flowers, donations can be made via Messrs. Livesey, to St Catherine’s Hospice.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mark Southworth, Kathleen Watmough, Dr Wladyslaw Gray – Grzeczynski, Alice Joyce,

READERS: **Sat: 07** **17.00** Chris Thorpe **Sun: 08** **09.30** Paul Lennon
 Sat: 14 **17.00** Gillian Sharples **Sun: 15** **09.30** Richard Gillett
 Sat: 21 **17.00** Eileen McCarrick **Sun: 22** **09.30** Dr Jane Eccles

Readers: If you would like to read at the Paschal Triduum or Easter Masses, please inform the parish office. Thank you.

LENT 2026

CONFESSIONS - every Saturday at 16.15 until 16.45. or upon request after weekday Mass.

PASCHAL TRIDUUM AND EASTER SERVICES:

The Chrism Mass is on Wednesday 1st April at 19.30 in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Liverpool. Everyone is welcome.

Thursday 2nd April - Mass of the Lord’s Supper – 19.30

Good Friday 3rd April - Stations of the Cross – 10.30

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ – 15.00

Holy Saturday Paschal Food Blessing (Polish & Ukrainian) – 12.00.

EASTER VIGIL – 20.00

Easter Sunday 5th April Mass at 09.30