

CHORLEY HOSPITAL CLERGY: if you or a family member/friend need a Catholic Priest while in **Chorley Hospital** please ask the ward sister to bleep the on-call priest. The duty chaplain for Chorley Hospital is Fr Peter Stanley at St Joseph's Church on Harpers Lane. 01257 262713. If you are in **Royal Preston Hospital**, please ask the ward sister to bleep the duty Catholic Chaplain who lives in St Clare's Church Fulwood.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 26th April – Vocations Sunday, 1st May – St Joseph the Worker, 10th May – First Holy Communion Day, 13th May – Our Lady of Fatima, 14th May - Ascension of The Lord **Holy Day of Obligation**, 24th May – Pentecost (Whitsun), **May 31st** – Holy Trinity, **June 7th** – Corpus Christi.

WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION about becoming a priest in the Catholic Church? The Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Liverpool is **Fr. Ron Johnson**, who is responsible for helping men discern a call to the priesthood. He is based at St Charles Borromeo in Aigburth and can be contacted via email at vocations@rcaol.org.uk or by phone at 0151 727 2493.



PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION: In May we will commence three sessions in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. The first meeting will take place on **Monday 18th May at 17.30 in the presbytery**. The sessions will be 45 mins

each. Please inform the young people in your families and of our parish who are receiving the sacrament of Confirmation this summer (we don't know the date yet) to attend this important meeting. Thank you.

POPE LEO XIV: has commenced his 11-day Papal Visit to Africa, where he will visit Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea and will address his audiences in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. Please pray for The Holy Father who carries a great weight of responsibility and care for **1.422 billion** Catholics in the world, representing 17.8% of the world population.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL: Let us pray for priests going through crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

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 EASTER

19th APRIL 2026



On the first day of the week, two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, 'What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?' And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' And he said to them, 'What things?' And

they said to him, 'Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.' And he said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

So, they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going further, but they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, for it is towards evening and the day is now far spent.' So he

went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognised him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?' And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the Eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. Luke 24:13-35

Sat 18th

16.15-16.45

Confessions

17.00

Mass – Michael Bolton and deceased members of Bolton family

Sun 19th

09.30

Mass – Parishioners

15.00

Holy Hour- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Prayers for the dignity of life. Evening Prayer at 15.40

Mon 20th

12.00

Bl. James Bell of Warrington, Bl. James Finch of Eccleston

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Tues 21st

12.00

St Anselm

Mass – Fr Freddie Matthews, Fr Bernard Bimson, Fr Stirzaker.

Wed 22nd

12.00

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thurs 23rd

12.00

St George

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Fri 24th

12.00

St Adalbert (Wojciech) Bishop, St Fedelis of Sigmaringen

Mass – Mary Page (birthday remembrance)

Sat 25th

16.15-16.45

Confessions

17.00

Mass – Robert Harrison (A)

Sun 26th

09.30

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Vocations Sunday

Mass – Parishioners

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.

ANNIVERSARIES: Canon Jim Collins, Fr Bernard Bimson, Robert Harrison,

READERS: 18th Sat: 17.00 Eileen McCarrick.

25th Sat: 17.00 Gillian Sharples

02nd Sat: 17.00 Andrew Jenner

Sun: 19th 09.30 Paul Lennon

Sun: 26th 09.30 Dr Jane Eccles

Sun: 06th 09.30 Richard Gillett

PRIESTS' TRAINING FUND COLLECTION will take place this weekend. Thank you.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: have arrived for 2026/2027 and are ready for distribution after Mass. Please remember that the Gift Aid envelopes for the Sunday collections are **MONTHLY**. You can collect your monthly offerings and put them in one envelope at any time of that month. The other collections remain as usual with dates on the envelope in the box. There is a further option – at the back of the church you will find forms for a bank payment. It does not cost you any more and is a lot easier in donation terms. Please return the form to the parish office when completed. We are very grateful for all your donations and we rely and we welcome Gift Aid donations because if you are a tax payer to HMRC we can claim 0.25p in every £1.00 you donate. It is a huge help to the church finances. Please note that you must pay tax to HMRC to claim Gift Aid and your total donations must **NOT** exceed the amount you pay tax per annual tax year, (April – April).

e.g. If you donate £10.00 per week, we can get £2.50 back from HMRC. £20.00 per week, we can claim £5.00 back from HMRC.

If you would like to be a new Gift Aid donor and would like a 2026/2027 Gift Aid box, please see Kinga Grzeczynska. We will ask you to sign a Gift Aid declaration form.

SAFETY NOTICE: The sacristy will be off limits to parishioners from **tomorrow** Monday 20th April. The decorations start that day and the painters have asked that unless authorised, nobody goes in to the sacristy. Wet paint will be everywhere. Thank you.

SVP GATHERING AT HOLY CROSS SCHOOL: Spring SVP gathering at Holy Cross High School Wednesday **29th April at 1.30pm**. An afternoon of bingo, crafts, prizes, musical performances and afternoon tea. All are welcome – sign up on the list ON THE NOTICE BOARD at the back of the church or email admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

BELL RINGING AT ST MARY'S: We are very fortunate to have several magnificent bells at St Mary's. We are looking to recruit new bell ringers who will be trained by one of our bell ringers. Anyone over 14 years old who would like more information, please contact the parish office. Thank you.

THANK YOU to the wonderful helpers during the week and all your time and effort in preparing the sacristy for the painters. There was a lot to do and it all got done! Vesting will temporarily be in the meeting room, near to St Anthony.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT.

This last week we have seen the Holy Father verbally insulted by several people who think themselves dominant, popular and powerful human beings. This kind of verbal attack is very unnecessary and very much not welcomed by Catholics and good people from different Faiths and those of none. We live in difficult times where respect and tolerance are low, where peace and solving differences are not considered a priority. We stand by the Holy Father and give him our full support with prayer and in our small way, we show our love and respect for the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. Viva Cristo Rey!