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.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Joe Bury on his 90th birthday. We wish you a very happy birthday and every blessing. Enjoy your day.

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

SACRISTY INFORMATION: the painters are doing very well and everything is going to plan – so far! St Joseph – pray for us.

POPE LEO'S INTENTIONS FOR MAY: Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food and to endure that everyone has access to quality food.

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

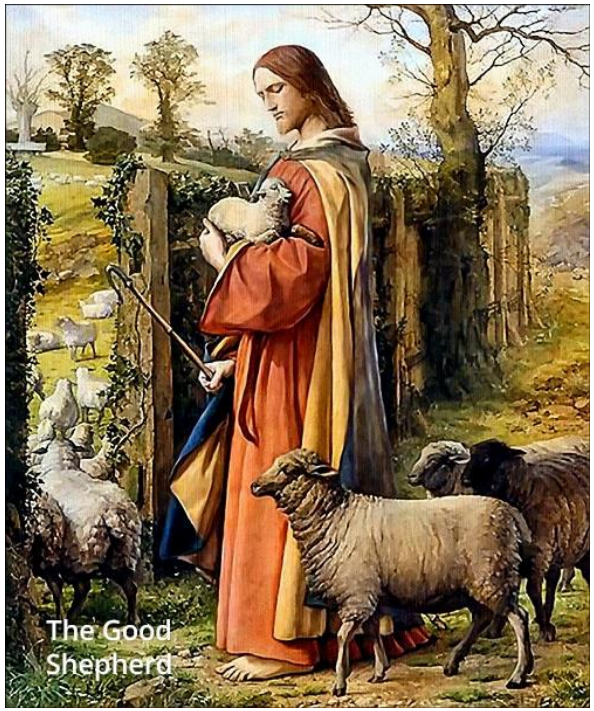
Parish Centre: 270122 or 07377 341969 (Manager – Heather Cheyne)

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL Registered Charity No. 1199714

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

26th APRIL 2026



At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So, Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.' **John 10:1-10**

Sat 25th	**St Mark**
16.15-16.45	*Confessions*
17.00	**Mass –** Robert Harrison (A)
Sun 26th	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Vocations Sunday**
09.30	**Mass –** Parishioners

Mon 27th	St Maughold
09.00	**Mass –** Canon Peter Cronin, Fr Freddie Matthews, Fr Michael Lee
Tues 28th	St Peter Chanel and St Louis Grignion de Montford
12.00	**Mass –** Maura Brown RIP
Wed 29th	**ST CATHERINE OF SIENA**
09.00	**Mass –** Fr Peter Crowther RIP
Thurs 30th	St Pius V
12.00	*Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion*
Fri 1st May	**ST JOSEPH THE WORKER**
	First Friday – Litany of the Sacred Heart
12.00	**Mass –** Kevin Bailey (A)
Sat 2nd	St Athanasius
16.15-16.45	*Confessions*
17.00	**Mass –** Joe Bury (90th birthday)
Sun 3rd	**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER –**
09.30	**Mass –** Bishop Gregory Komar – Thanksgiving. Silver Jubilee to the Sacred Priesthood

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: Kevin Bailey, Canon Peter Cronin [2015], Fr Michael Lee

READERS: **25th Sat: 17.00** Gillian Sharples **Sun: 26th 09.30** Dr Jane Eccles
02nd Sat: 17.00 Andrew Jenner **Sun: 03rd 09.30** Simon Eccles
09th Sat: 17.00 Eileen McCarrick **Sun: 10th 09.30** School Teachers

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).

MANY CONGRATULATIONS to Bishop Gregory Komar who celebrated his Silver Jubilee to the Sacred Priesthood on 22nd April. Fr Marsden was able to concelebrate Mass in Rome with Bishop Gregory. Congratulations also to Fr Marsden who has now taught (among the hundreds of men) 4 seminarians who have become bishops.
Ad multos annos.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

This weekend we pray for vocations into the Sacred Priesthood, diaconate and religious life. We also know this Sunday to be Good Shepherd Sunday, started by Pope Paul VI in 1964. We are all very aware that we need an increase in the number of priests in the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Currently we have the following: (Archdiocesan statistics **2025**). We have 160 diocesan churches, 2 cathedrals, 6 parish churches owned by other trusts, 2 religious shrines, 10 closed churches and 10 chapels and oratories in schools. There are 33 retired priests and 30 retired deacons.
We have 149 priests incardinated in the Archdiocese, 10 priests who live abroad and 4 priests resident in Great Britain. 111 parishes are in the care of diocesan priests and 20 in the care of religious priests.

We have 61 active deacons, two houses of religious brothers and 37 houses of religious sisters. There are 6 seminarians in **2026** and there will be (please God) 1 Ordination this summer. Please remember the seminarians in your prayers. They need the spiritual support and they are protected by your prayers against all the negative and evil traps.

Please pray that our young and older men in our parish may truly ask themselves if the life and service of a priest is what they would like to do? It is a challenging life but very rewarding. It is a life of dedication, commitment and sacrifice. Every day can be different but what is most important is that if the man is the only priest in a 30-50 mile radius, he is precious not only to Our Blessed Lord but also to the parishioners. The people need him for the offering of the Mass, for the sacraments, for being with the dying and hearing confessions and absolving sins and giving new hope to a person who has asked for God's Mercy.
The rules may change in the future and priests may be allowed to marry but at the moment, celibacy is required. If we had married priests, we would see the number of vocations rise and it would alleviate the crisis we are having now.

God our Father, You give us the Sacraments as signs and instruments of your love and mercy. Draw from amongst your disciples, men who are willing to generously serve your Church as priests, to minister to your people and to proclaim the Gospel to all. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.