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: 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, and then on 25th May and 1st June in the church.** 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

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.
Friday 8th May is the first-year anniversary of the election of Robert Cardinal Provost as His Holiness Pope Leo VIX, who will be visiting Our Lady of the Rosary in Pompeii, in thanksgiving for the graces received. Ad Multos Annos

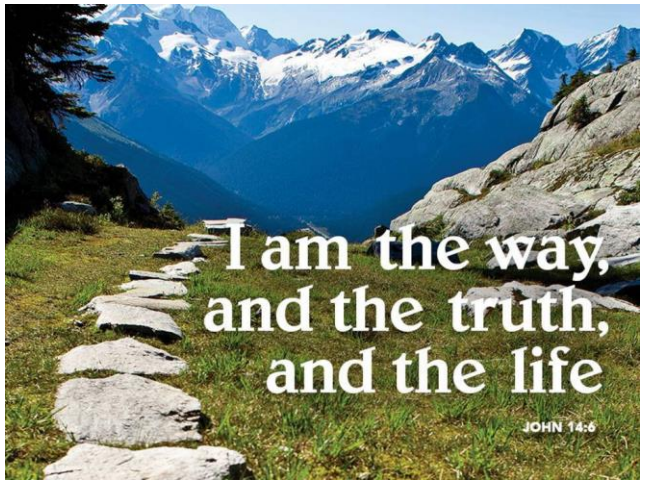
MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY: Please can someone lead the Rosary during May on Tuesdays and Fridays during Exposition. Thank you. **We will Crown Our Blessed Lady on Saturday 9th May at 17.00 Mass.**

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

3rd MAY 2026



At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.' **John 14:1-12**

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
Mon 4th	**FEAST OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS**
09.00	**Mass –** Vincent Aspinall (A)
Tues 5th	
12.00	**Mass –** Margaret Arrowsmith RIP
Wed 6th	
09.00	**Mass –** Leo Bolton (A) and deceased family members
13.05	*First Confessions in school*
Thurs 7th	
12.00	*Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion*
Fri 8th	
12.00	**Mass –** Lewis Family – Thanksgiving
Sat 9th	
16.15-16.45	*Confessions*
17.00	**Mass –** Hilda Lopacinski (A) Crowning of Our Lady's statue during Mass
Sun 10th	**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER –**
09.30	**Mass –** First Holy Communicants and their families

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Fr Gerard Cobham (80) who died on 22nd April after a short illness; former parish priest of St Mary's 2004 – 2006. Born in Mawdesley in 1945 and was ordained by Archbishop George Andrew Beck in 1970 in Liverpool. Vigil Funeral Mass on Monday 4th May at 19.00, St George's in Maghull. Requiem Mass on 5th May at St George's Maghull at 11.00 followed by burial at Ss Peter and Paul's Mawdesley at 13.00. May the Lord have mercy on his soul and may he rest in peace.
Sophia Mary Krischkiw (75) who died on 21st April at Royal Preston Hospital. Funeral Service will be on Wednesday 13th May at 12.00 followed by burial at Chorley Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARIES: Hilda Lopacinski, Vincent Aspinall, Bishop Joseph Gray

READERS:	**02nd Sat: 17.00** Andrew Jenner	**Sun: 03rd 09.30** Simon Eccles
	09th Sat: 17.00 Eileen McCarrick	**Sun: 10th 09.30** School Teachers
	16th Sat: 17.00 Kinga Grzeczynska	**Sun: 17th 09.30** Paul Lennon

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: Please collect your Gift Aid envelopes from the parish office.

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.

PRAYERS SPONSORS NEEDED: Please would you pray for the Year 4 children who will make their First Confessions on Wednesday 6th May and First Holy Communions on Sunday 10th May. These are very important days for them. We pray that their Faith may grow and that they will receive Our Blessed Lord in Holy Communion on a regular basis. **THANK YOU** to Martin Touhey and the Bell Ringers who will ring our splendid bells on this very important Sunday.

MESSAGE TO PARENTS; Dear Parents and Carers. Thank you to the parents and carers who have brought their child(ren) to Mass at the weekends and also during the week. We asked you in September last year to help us prepare your child for their First Holy Communion and we explained that we would do the preparation in school with a visit from our catechist on a regular basis throughout the year. We asked you to contribute to the preparation by bringing your child to Mass and giving your child a chance to grow in love and understanding for the Mass and the sacraments and letting your child see how important it is for the family as a unit to come to Mass and pray together. Please come to Mass on a regular basis after your child's First Holy Communion. It is very important to their Faith and their developing friendship with Our Blessed Lord. Your child needs you to make time in your weekend busy lives for the opportunity to come to church and receive the Eucharist. It is also good for the whole family. ***A family that prays together – stays together.*** Thank you.

HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITY OF TODAY'S GOSPEL?
'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life' says Our Blessed Lord. Believing these words is one of the centre points of Christianity. Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end of everything that we do – our birth, our youth, our adult development, our family and homes, our senior years and eventually our departing from this world and going to the next world. We aim to reach the next world in the House of God, in the presence of His Holy Mother and all the angels and saints, by trying to live our best lives; by being loving, caring and sharing, by giving time and patience to the ones who need it and by receiving the sacraments, which are a gift from God – free of charge. Since no one is perfect, we can slip up sometimes or go astray, or fall out with ourself and with God. It happens! God is ready to listen, to help us and to love us – we only need to ask Jesus by being reconciled to Him in the Sacrament of Confession – a sacramental gift of mercy.

When the appointed time comes and we are called to stand in front of God's pure truth and love, and look back on our lives, repent of the wrongdoing and smile at the things which by His grace we did well, then we ask Jesus to allow us into one of those rooms He speaks about in this Gospel, in His Heavenly Kingdom, where we will hopefully meet up with our families, our loved ones and friends.