

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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A CATHOLIC? An ALPHA course is starting in **September, leading into** the RCIA course which enables you to be received into the church at the Easter Vigil 2027. The Alpha **Course** is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life through the lens of the Christian faith, in a relaxed environment. **Alpha** is for anyone who is curious to find out more about faith, those who are exploring and questioning; cynics, sceptics and the open-minded. **This Alpha Course, run in the Catholic tradition,** begins on **Thursday 3rd September 2026** and then every Thursday for 10 weeks. Please pass on this information to family members and friends who you think might be interested in coming along. For further information or to register your interest please contact: **Phone: Sr. Dorothy - 07530 238222 or Julie - 07943 874257**

Email: dorothyhindle234@gmail.com or julie-st-bedes@hotmail.com

JUMBLE SALE: Summer 'good as new' jumble sale in aid of Mary's Meals and CAFOD at St Mary's Parish Centre on 20th June 2-4pm. **WANTED ITEMS:** clothing, fancy goods, bric-a-brac etc. Collection possible. Please ring Mary – 07566 264954

WALKING DAY: is on Sunday 28th June. Please see details on the notice board in the narthex or the flyers near the newsletters. Walking Day is a time when the people of Chorley assemble and parade through the town representing their parishes. Please come and support St Mary's and let's pray for good weather for everybody. **We will meet in Cunliffe Street at 11.45am. Gillian Sharples and Michael Maher are our Marshalls for the Walking Day.**

BELL RINGERS: If anyone would like to become a bell ringer, please let the parish office know. We would like to form a team and need 3 or 4 more people. Training will be given and you will be very welcome.

ROTA FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AT WEEKEND

MASSES: A list has been pinned up in the Sacristy and we would ask Eucharistic Ministers to sign on dates when they are available and would like to distribute Holy Communion at the Saturday 17.00 and Sunday 09.30 Mass, so that every EM gets a chance. However, if you sign for a specific date but then plans change and you can't attend, it is your responsibility to contact another Minister to fill your place.

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

TWELTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

21st JUNE 2026



At that time: Jesus instructed his Apostles: 'Have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father knowing. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than

many sparrows. So, everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.'

Matthew 10:26-33

Sat 20th

16.15-16.45

17.00

Confessions

Mass – Maura Brown RIP

Sun 21st

09.30

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Day for Life

Mass – Neal Long (LD)

Mon 22nd

09.00

Ss John Fisher and Thomas More

Mass – Fr Mayne and Fr Crowther RIP

Tues 23rd

12.00

12.30 -13.00

Mass – Freda McHugh RIP

Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Wed 24th

09.00

SOLEMNITY OF THE BIRTH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Mass – Joseph Abraham (A)

Thurs 25th**12.00** *Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion***Fri 26th****12.00** Mass – Donna Bamber (LD)

12.30 – 13.00 Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Sat 27th16.15-16.45 St Cyril of Alexandria*Confessions***17.00** Mass – Sp. Int (PK).**Sun 28th****09.30** SS PETER AND PAUL
Mass – Peter Doherty (birthday remembrance)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: Rosemary Hough, Archbishop Emeritus Patrick Kelly, Theresa Martin, David Monks, Vasil Oljniczuk, Molly Redhead, and parishioners in the Adelphi, Westwood, and Gillibrand Hall.

ANNIVERSARIES: Joseph Abraham, Kathleen Durkin, John Moore, Michael Bolton, Michael Cheston, Donald Vigar, Archbishop Alan del Lastic

READERS: 20th Sat: 17.00 Kinga Grzeczynska Sun: 21st 09.30 Richard Gillett
27th Sat: 17.00 Chris Thorpe Sun: 28th 09.30 Charlotte Eccles
04th Sat: 17.00 Eileen McCarrick Sun 05th 09.30 Simon Eccles

DAY FOR LIFE SECOND COLLECTION this weekend goes to help several pro-life charities under the auspices of the Bishops' Conference.

SOLEMNITY OF SS. PETER AND PAUL: moves this year, to Sunday 28th June. If 29th June falls on a Saturday or a Monday, the feast moves to the Sunday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Bishop Gregory Komar who was 50 years old last Friday 19th. He is celebrating his birthday in Rome and will have another celebration when he visits St Mary's for his annual break. Ad Multos Annos.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR: There is an exciting opportunity for a parishioner to become a Foundation Governor at St Mary's Catholic Primary and Nursery School. Foundation Governors are parishioners of this parish who represent the Catholic principles in the governance of the school. The school has very recently received a good OFSTED report and also an outstanding report on RE Education. Further information is available from the school office. Please ask to speak to Mrs Wilson. 01257 262811.

WELCOME to Joseph Campbell, a seminarian at Allen Hall in London for our Liverpool Archdiocese, who will be with us on a parish placement for three weeks. He arrives next weekend. It is good that we as a parish are asked to play a part in the formation of future priests.01

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY: This Sunday is Father's Day. It is a time to thank our Fathers for everything that they have done for us in the past and those who do so much in the present. We pray for the Fathers who have gone to seek The Lord and we pray for the Fathers who look after their children. We also wish Fr Marsden a very nice day. He is the Father of our parish and holds the responsibility of giving the Sacraments when needed – day or night. ***St Joseph pray for our Fathers and pray for us all.***

TIME TO PAUSE AND THINK

***Our Blessed Lord said: 'So, everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.'* Matthew 10:26-33**

Today's Gospel gives all of us a strict warning: If a person denies that Jesus Christ is God and is the Son of the Father in the Holy Trinity, then at the time of the reckoning of our souls, it is quite clear that Jesus will deny knowing the soul who has denied Him. What will happen then? Will the soul go to purgatory or will the soul go to the dark place called hell, where God is not?

The Lord warns us gently but with the utmost certainty that there is a frightening consequence if we turn our hearts permanently away from Him. Padre Pio said that God respects human free will, and if a soul persistently chooses to reject Him, God honours that choice. Faith is a free choice. You either know Jesus, or you sometimes don't want to know Him, or you reject Jesus completely.

Padre Pio also said many times that God would not turn away or reject souls who have led sinful lives or how many times they had denied Christ—it is never too late for redemption, **provided** the soul turns back to God with sincere repentance. Padre Pio famously observed that even the rebellious angels or Judas Iscariot could have received forgiveness if they had repented.

Therefore, if you may have rejected Jesus or denied Him, take the opportunity of going to Confession and receiving absolution after saying sorry to God. The Lord's mercy and love is so great that we cannot sometimes understand His boundless mercy which is offering unconditional restoration and a 'fresh start'. Confession is a meeting between the sinner seeking a pardon and the great Mercy of Jesus Christ.

+ ARCHBISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON writes: This recent message and blessing from the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV was sent by Cardinal Parolin for the Day for Life this weekend. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-leo-xiv-offers-prayers-for-parents-who-have-lost-a-child-in-day-for-life-message/>

This year the message focuses on the dignity of life in the womb and the pain of loss of a child before birth or soon after birth. Cardinal Parolin writes, 'Indeed, as he [the Holy Father] recently reminded us in the Encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, from the very moment of conception every human being is endowed with an infinite dignity "simply by virtue of existing, of having been willed, created and loved by God" (No 52). This divine love fills the life of every person with meaning, and, far from ending with death, invites us to a new fullness in eternity.'

The second matter is the **reintroduction of the Terminally Ill Adults Bill to the House of Commons** on September 11th by Lauren Edwards MP. I attach my recent statement by a link to the Bishops' Conference website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/statement-on-the-re-introduction-of-the-terminally-ill-adults-end-of-life-bill/> This Bill (initially proposed by Kim Leadbeater) proposes to allow a person to end his or her life under certain conditions by medical assistance. It is assisting a person's suicide. The Church and many others of Christian faith, other faiths and none, as well as many medical professionals, have argued against this bill in principle and practice. It is deeply flawed as the recent debate in Parliament showed.