

**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. Please ask the ward staff to call the Chaplain on his bleep/phone. For the chaplaincy service at Royal Preston Hospital please ring 01772 522435. For the chaplaincy service at Wigan Infirmary T. 01942 822324.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE:**

**Inside this church, masks must be worn** (unless exempt) hands gelled, keep 2 metres physical distancing. We want to continue to keep everyone safe. Against World Health Organisation advice, the government removed the legal obligation to wear masks in shops and on public transport etc on Thursday 27th. This puts especially the elderly and those with health problems more at risk. It looks to be a political rather than a medical or scientific decision. There are still 16,000 patients in hospital with COVID. The NHS is at full stretch and contending with the toughest winter on record.

The new infections in Chorley numbered about 1251 in the seven days up to Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, down 9.2% on the previous seven days. So, it isn't dropping so quickly. Omicron is still dangerous and extremely infectious. Please continue to be very careful.

Baptisms are postponed until the pandemic subsides. Several are delayed because family members have contracted Covid. Thank you. Holy Mass will be kept short to minimize infection. **PLEASE DO NOT COME TO CHURCH IF YOU HAVE A COLD OR ARE UNWELL. DO NOT PUT OTHERS AT RISK. SOME PEOPLE ARE IGNORING THIS. STAY AT HOME AND GET BETTER SOON.** Thank you for all your cooperation. Fr Marsden.

**POLITE REMINDER** about chatting in church. You may think you are whispering, but you can be assured that you are not, and every word can be heard by many people. Please do not chat in church, especially during Holy Mass.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Fr Peter Crowther who completes his 80<sup>th</sup> year on Monday January 31<sup>st</sup>, and Fr Francis Ball whose birthday is on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Many happy returns and thank you for all that you do. Ad multos annos. Cards may be left at the presbytery, and we will pass them on.

**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION – FEBRUARY 2022**

We pray for **religious sisters and consecrated women**;  
thanking them for their mission and their courage;  
may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

**Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Marsden**

**Deacon Norman Arrowsmith**

Tel: 01257 262537

E-mail: [stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk)

Parish website: [www.stmarys-chorley.org](http://www.stmarys-chorley.org)

Parish Office: Tues – Fri 10.30-13.00. 14.00–17.00

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

LIVERPOOL ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESAN TRUSTEES INC. Registered Charity No. 232709

# St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022



Jesus is rejected in his hometown  
by Marten de Vos

*Jesus began to speak in the synagogue: 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?'*

*But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, Physician, heal yourself' and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside."'*

*And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.*

*'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'*

*When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away. Luke 4:21-30*

**Sat 29<sup>th</sup>**

16.15–45

**17.00**

Confessions (at porch of presbytery)

**Mass** – Albert Harvey (A) / Parishioners

**Sun 30<sup>th</sup>**

**10.00**

11.30

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Mass** – Margaret Bailey (LD)

Mass at St Joseph's Anderton

**Mon 31<sup>st</sup>**

**12.00**

St John Bosco

**Mass** – Michael and Mary Carter RIP

**Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Feb** 12.00 St Brigid of Kildare  
**Mass** – Linda Moss RIP

**Wed 2<sup>nd</sup>** 12.15 **FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**  
**Mass** – Ian Hodgson (A)

**Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup>** 09.00 St Blaise, St Ansgar  
**Mass** – Private Intention. **Blessing of throats after Mass.**

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup>** 12.00 **Mass** – Bolton Family: Michael, Leo, Rosie and Janet RIP

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup>** 16.15–45 St Agatha  
*Confessions (at porch of presbyter)*

14.00 **Syro-Malankara Mass**

17.00 **Mass** – Hilda Lopacinski RIP

**Sun 6<sup>th</sup>** 10.00 **FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**  
**Mass** – Fr John Poland (sick)

11.30 *Mass at St Joseph's Anderton*

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Tues and Fri. 12.30 - 13.00

**Please note the later start of Mass on Wednesday 12.15 due to a 10.30 Deanery Meeting in Leyland.**

**Please pray for the sick and the housebound:** Fr Barry McAllister, Fr Laurence Mayne, Emily Atkins, Kevin Bailey, John Brown, John and Margaret Brown, Brigid Cain, Tom Carmichael, Michael Collins, Hughie Daly, Colette Ellis, Yvonne Finlayson, Desmond Gorman, Julie Gruszka, Jacob Hughes, Rosemary Hough, Debbie MacFarlane, Teresa O'Malia, Molly Redhead, Caroline Rigby, Sr Magdalene Roskell, Denis Smith, Joan Smith, Eileen Snape, Terry Tingey, Bridget Trimm, Alan Willetts, Mike White, Ann Woodruff, Agnes Young and parishioners in *The Adelphi, The Gables, Westwood, Gillibrand Hall*

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Ian Hodgson, Clifton Clarke, Clarice Blakemore, Catherine Lighthouse, Anthony Jordan.

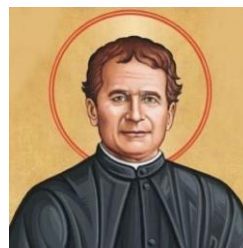
**READERS:** Sat 29th 17.00 Andrew Jenner. Sun 30th 10.00 Simon Eccles. 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 17.00 Gillian Sharples. 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 10.00 Margaret Arrowsmith.

**POPE FRANCIS** has asked for all peoples of good will to continue praying for world peace and especially peace in the Ukraine. The conflict between Ukraine and Russia can spill over into personal conflict within families, especially when family members live on opposite sides of the border and are influenced by different sides of the "information war." Pray for unity and a love for one another that supersedes the problems between the countries. Ask God to bless soldiers' wives and children with peace and safety while their husbands and fathers are gone.

**MEN, INTERESTED IN THE DIACONATE?** The Archdiocesan second Diaconate Information Evening, will be held on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022**, 7.30-9.00pm, with refreshments from 7.00pm, in the parish house at **St Gregory's, Weldbank Lane, Chorley, PR7 3NW**. Please ask your wives if they would like to come with you. Questions and answers will take place and the evening is very informative for candidates. It will be led by His Grace, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP.

**CONFIRMATIONS** It is time again to register for Confirmations if you are in Yr 8. If your child attends a non-Catholic High School, please ring Holy Cross Catholic High School

and ask to speak to Linda Walmsley who is the Lay Chaplain.  
 01257 262093 // [l.walmsley@holycross.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:l.walmsley@holycross.lancs.sch.uk)



**ST JOHN BOSCO**, founder of the Salesians, was born 1815 near Genoa. He was two when his father died, leaving his mother Margherita to raise him and his two older brothers. He helped his family grow food and raise sheep. Despite their poverty, his mother still helped the homeless who came to the door seeking food, shelter or clothing. John attended church devoutly. Aged nine, he had a vivid dream in which he encountered a multitude of boys who cursed as they played. Among these boys, appeared a great, majestic Man and

Woman. The Man told him that in meekness and charity, he would "conquer these your friends." Then the Lady said, "Be strong, humble and robust. When the time comes, you will understand everything." This dream influenced John for the rest of his life.

He became enthralled by the magic tricks and acrobatics of circus performers. He studied their tricks and learned how to perform some himself for his friends. He would stage such shows, and end by reciting the Sunday homily he had heard, and with prayers. However, he was uneducated. He found a priest willing to teach him and provide a few books. John's older brother angrily whipped him saying "he's a farmer like us!" Undeterred, and as soon as he could, John left home, aged 12, to look for work as a hired farm labourer. Working at a vineyard, he met Fr Joseph Cafasso, a priest who was willing to help him.

Aged 20, John entered the seminary and was ordained priest six years later in 1841. He was assigned to a parish in Torino (Turin), then in the throes of industrialization, with slums and widespread poverty. Fr. Bosco went to work with the children of the poor. He discovered that the prisons held many 12-18 year old boys in awful conditions, and desired to help other boys from ending up there. He went into the streets to meet the young where they worked and played. First, he performed his magic tricks to attract their attention, then shared with them his message for the day. He sought work for boys who needed it, and lodgings for others. By the 1860s, Fr. Bosco and his mother were responsible for lodging 800 boys.

Fr. Bosco also negotiated new rights for his apprentices, to prevent their being beaten or exploited for unrelated menial work. He urged likely candidates to consider the vocation to the priesthood and supported them. Saints however often meet opposition. Some parish priests accused Don Bosco of stealing boys from their parishes. The city Police Chief opposed his catechizing of boys in the streets, which he claimed was political subversion.

In 1859, Fr. Bosco established the Society of St. Francis de Sales. He organized 15 seminarians and one teenage boy into the group. Their purpose was to carry on his charitable work, helping boys with their faith formation and to stay out of trouble. The organization still exists today and continues worldwide to help especially children.

John Bosco died on January 31, 1888, and was canonized on Easter Sunday, 1934. He was given the title, "Father and Teacher of Youth." He is the patron saint of apprentices, editors and publishers, schoolchildren, magicians, and juvenile delinquents. Those of you who have connections with Thornleigh College in Bolton, or Salesians elsewhere will know the great work the Order does in education and for young people. In 2020 there were 9,847 Salesian priests and 4920 brothers running 1,855 parishes and countless schools.