

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. In urgent cases or emergency please ask the ward staff to call the duty 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.

BAPTISMS: Please see Deacon Norman or Fr Marsden after Mass to obtain the Baptism Application Form and Order of Service and discuss the baptism details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Ascension Thursday 18th May

Confirmations at St Mary's - Friday 19th May with Bishop Thomas Neylon

Pentecost 28th May, Trinity Sunday 4th June,

First Holy Communions – Sun 11th June Corpus Christi

Visitation by Bishop Neylon. Sun 24/25 June and week following.

Liverpool Cathedral Mass for Lourdes Centenary 5pm Sunday 25th June

CONFIRMATION CARDS: Could parents/carers please make sure that the information on the Confirmation Card is in capital letters, accurate and legible. Wherever your child was baptised, please write the full name, address and country of the church. We have to send notice of Confirmation to the church of baptism, for recording in the candidate's Baptismal Register entry. Please write the full name of the Sponsor, not just "Auntie Mary" or "Fred next door." Parents **cannot** be Sponsors. Thank you.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Ascension Thursday is the 40th day after The Resurrection of Our Blessed Lord, Jesus Christ. There will be a Vigil Mass – for the 'workers' on Wednesday at 19.30. This gives an opportunity for anyone who cannot come to Mass on the day itself. The Ascension of Our Lord is a Holy Day of Obligation and I would like to remind you that Holy Days of Obligation have been reinstated by the Bishops of England and Wales earlier this year. Children from our school will attend 09.00 Mass. Parents and family members are warmly invited to attend Mass.

PETER HENEGHAN has left the Liverpool Archdiocese following 38 years of service, in which he was Press Officer for 31 years and Editor of The Catholic Pictorial for 18 years. Peter spent the day with us when we hosted St Bernadette's Relics last year. We wish him every success in his new endeavours.

JOB VACANCY: School are seeking a new site supervisor - see the details here https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=61219

Parish Priest: Fr. Francis Marsden
Deacon Norman Arrowsmith
Tel: 01257 262537

E-mail: stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk

Parish website: www.stmarys-chorley.org

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

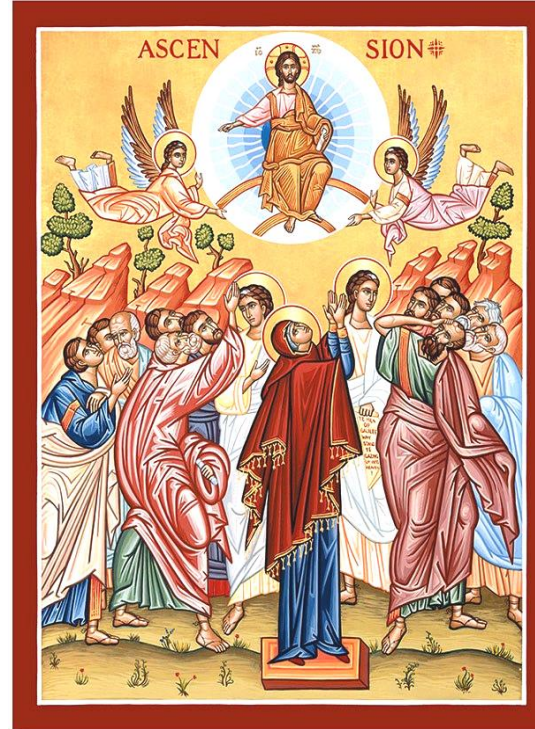
Parish Centre: 270122 or 07377 341969 (Manager – Heather Cheyne)

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL Registered Charity No. 1199714

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

14th MAY 2023



Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do.

Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was. I have made your name known to the men you took from the world to give me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now at last they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; for I have

given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me.

I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you: all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified. I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.' John 17:1-11

Sat 13th

16.15

17.00

Sun 14th

10.00

11.00

Our Lady of Fatima

Confessions

Mass – Jim Simmons RIP

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (p.268)

Mass – with Crowning of Our Lady's statue:

Pauline Fairhurst & family

Baptism – Libby Rose Bird



Mon 15th
09.00 Mass – First Holy Communicants and their families. (Yr4 attending)

Tues 16th
14.00 Requiem Mass – Kevin Bailey
16.00 Confirmation Candidates Meeting in church

Wed 17th
09.00 Mass – Sp. Int. (L+T)
19.30 Mass – Vigil for the Holy Day of Obligation – Desmond Gorman RIP

Thurs 18th
09.00 **SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD** (p 272)
12.00 Mass – Peace in Ukraine (school attending)
 Mass - Parishioners

Fri 19th
12.00 Mass – Christine Corcoran RIP
19.00 Confirmation Service with Bishop Tom Neylon

Sat 20th
16.15 Confessions
17.00 Mass – John, Laura and Pauline F. RIP.

Sun 21st
10.00 **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** (p.275)
 Mass – Maria (A) and Waldemar Baka

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: Canon Brendan Alger, Emily Atkins, Vincent Aspinall, Derek Birchall, Patrick Bolger, John and Margaret Brown, Dorothy Burgoyne, John Campbell, Michael Collins, Kathleen Coyle, Colette Ellis, Carole Foczke, Rosemary Hough, Jacob Hughes, Archbishop Emeritus Patrick Kelly, Mary Langton, Fr Laurence Mayne, Fr Barry McAllister, Debbie MacFarlane, Molly Redhead, Denis Smith, Joan Smith, Terry Tingey, Mike White, Ann Woodruff, and parishioners in The Adelphi, The Gables, Westwood, and Gillibrand Hall.

RECENTLY DECEASED: **Kevin Bailey (83)** who died on 1st May in Stocks Hall Nursing Home in Burscough. Requiem Mass on Tuesday 16th May at 14.00 followed by committal at Charnock Richard Crematorium. **Francis Loughlin (75)** who died at home on 8th May. Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday 31st May at 10.30 followed by committal at Charnock Richard Crematorium.

ANNIVERSARIES: Bishop Vincent Malone (2020) Canon Albert Shaw (2021) Maria Baka. David Hinawski, Anna Guzara.

READERS: Sat: 13th 17.00 Gillian Sharples. **Sun: 14th 10.00** Tracy O'Neill. **Sat: 17.00** Andrew Jenner. **21st 10.00** Dr Jane Eccles.

THE CROWNING OF OUR BLESSED LADY took place today. Please pray your rosaries for peace in Ukraine.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES' MEETING in church at **16.00 on Tuesday 16th May**, to run through final details about the ceremony on Fri 19th and to answer any questions which the candidates may have.

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR THE MINISTRY OF BISHOP TOM WILLIAMS:
 Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will celebrate a Holy Mass of Thanksgiving for Bishop Tom Williams' 20 years' ministry as Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool on **Wednesday 17th**

May 2023 (Vigil of the Ascension) at 19.00 in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. Everyone is invited to the Mass and the reception which follows.

THE MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA (WHITE FATHERS) The appeal raised **£382.15**. Thank you very much. **Fr Ferdinand van Campen** celebrated Mass for us and preached the Mission Appeal last Sunday. Born in Den Haag (Netherlands), he spoke about his time in Mozambique, Brazil, Ghana and Tanzania, and the work of the Society in Africa. Founded by the French Cardinal Lavignerie in Algiers in 1868, the White Fathers inculcate themselves in the countries where they do the work of Jesus: "We come as missionaries, not as colonizers." The Society has 1110 fully professed members, and 460 students in training to become either priests, deacons or brothers. Most vocations now come from Africa itself, with just a few from Europe, mostly Poland. Please pray also for **Fr Hans Joachim Lohre**, a German priest and member of the Society, kidnapped in Bamako, Mali on November 20th last. His whereabouts and fate are unknown. To donate online here is their website: www.missionariesofafrica.org.uk/donations or transfer directly to our bank account Name: Society of Missionaries of Africa Account no. 82296731 Sort code 60-21-07

NO ONE HAS EVER ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN EXCEPT THE ONE WHO DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN:

"Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are *above, not the things that are on earth*. For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.

Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: *Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?* and when he said: *I was hungry and you gave me food*. Why do we on earth not strive to find rest with him in heaven even now, through the faith, hope and love that unites us to him?

While in heaven he is also with us; and we while on earth are with him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love.

He did not leave heaven when he came down to us; nor did he withdraw from us when he went up again into heaven. The fact that he was in heaven even while he was on earth is borne out by his own statement: *No one has ever ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven*. These words are explained by our oneness with Christ, for he is our head and we are his body. No one ascended into heaven except Christ because we also are Christ: he is the Son of Man by his union with us, and we by our union with him are sons of God.

So the Apostle says: *Just as the human body, which has many members, is a unity, because all the different members make one body, so is it also with Christ*. He too has many members, but one body. Out of compassion for us he descended from heaven, and although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace. Thus, no one but Christ descended and no one but Christ ascended; not because there is no distinction between the head and the body, but because the body as a unity cannot be separated from the head." From a sermon by **Saint Augustine**, bishop (Sermo de Ascensione Domini, Mai 98, 1-7: PLS 2, 429-495)