

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: As you are no doubt aware, cases of COVID/Omicron have gone out of control in the nation at large and in Chorley, endangering millions of people already in poor health, who need to shield, and stretching the NHS beyond breaking point. Numerous hospitals have declared critical incidents, meaning they cannot cope. In the **seven days up to Jan 1st a total of 2770 COVID cases** were recorded in Chorley, giving a rate of **2308 per 100,000**. **Previously we thought it was bad when the rate reached 600/100,000. Now it is nearly four times worse.**

Inside church masks **must legally** be worn (unless exempt – medical certificate must be shown), hands gelled, keep 2 metres physical distancing. We want to keep everyone safe in the church. Please take care and do not mingle with other people unless they have had a very recent negative Lateral Flow Test. If you have a runny nose, sore throat, headaches, or are generally unwell, it would be wise to take a COVID Test – if you can get hold of one, that is! Baptisms are postponed until the pandemic subsides.

Do not come to church if you have a cold or are unwell. Thank you. Holy Mass will be kept short to minimize the risk of infection. Hunker down, avoid crowded places and limit physical contacts. We want to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. Protect the NHS by keeping safe and having your vaccines and booster. **But remember they are not 100% effective, they do not make you invulnerable.**

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR LEPER CLINIC IN MUTEMWA, ZIMBABWE: The John Bradburne Clinic is growing and there are more adults and children depending on care, medicines and treatments for various illnesses including the major problem of leprosy - **now known as Hansen's Disease** - The donations we raise, go towards the basic running expenses, salaries of workers, additional food and medication required by the Mutemwa Community. Brother Raymond who is lay Franciscan, is the Administrator for Mutemwa, whilst Father Linous is in charge of the spiritual well-being of the entire community at Mutemwa. This annual collection takes place on 23rd January. Please use the Gift Aid envelopes in your boxes. More information is available from the John Bradburne Memorial Society. Thank you for your generosity.

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)

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

St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9th JANUARY 2022



A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Luke 3:15-16,21-22

Sat 8th

16.15-45

17.00

Confessions (at porch of presbytery

Mass – Jean Ostick RIP (birthday remembrance)

Sun 9th

10.00

11.30

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Mass – Betty McQuillan (A)

Mass at St Joseph's Anderton

Mon 10th

12.00

Requiem Mass – Stephen Bashforth

Tues 11th

12.00

Mass – Mabel Vigar (A)

Wed 12th

St Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot

12.00 Mass – Rosemary Hough (poorly)
Thurs 13th
09.00 St Hilary of Poitiers
 Mass – Private Intention
Fri 14th
12.00 **St Kentigern** (Secondary Patron of the Archdiocese)
 Mass – Mary Melling (LD)
Sat 15th
 16.15–45 Confessions (at porch of presbytery)
17.00 Mass – Kevin McCarrick (A)
Sun 16th
10.00 **SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** Peace Day
 11.30 Mass – Sr Anne-Marie Newsham SCMM RIP
 Mass at St Joseph's Anderton

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

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*

There are several parishioners who are very poorly after contracting COVID – Omicron. Please pray for the sick and for those who care for them. Thank you.

RECENTLY DECEASED: **Stephen Bashforth** (68) who died at home on 19th December fortified by the Holy Sacraments. Requiem Mass will be on Monday 10th January at 12.00 noon followed by interment at Charnock Richard. **Kevin Mulhall** who died in Bolton Hospital on 28th December 2021. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord....

OUR CONDOLENCES to The Rector of Chorley; Rev Neil Kelley and his parishioners of St Laurence's, upon the sad news of the death of the Parish Administrator and Rector's PA, Mrs Susan Boulton. Condolences also to Sue's family and close friends. God rest her soul.

ANNIVERSARIES: **Betty McQuillan, Mabel Vigar, Michael Carus, Kevin McCarrick.**

READERS: **Sat: 8th 17.00** Gillian Sharples. **Sun: 9th 10.00** Simon Eccles. **Sat: 15th 17.00** Eileen McCarrick. **Sun: 16th 10.00** Tracy O'Neill. **Sat: 22nd 17.00** Richard Gillett. **Sun: 23rd** Dr Jane Eccles.

INTERCESSIONS: www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources

Let us pray to God, who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery: Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions: Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

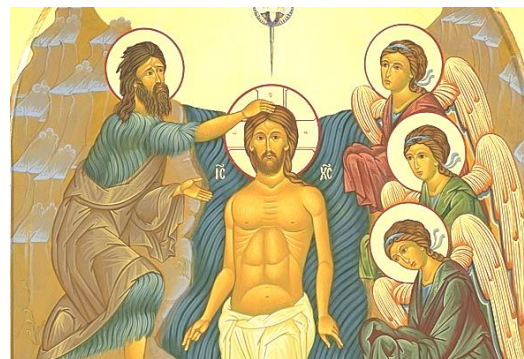
For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health: Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace: Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**



QUOTATIONS ABOUT BAPTISM FROM THE FATHERS AND SAINTS

No one can begin a new life, unless he repents of the old.

The custom of Mother Church in baptizing infants is certainly not to be scorned, nor is it to be regarded in any way as superfluous, nor is it to be believed that its tradition is anything except apostolic.

Cyprian was not issuing a new decree but was keeping to the most solid belief

of the Church in order to correct some who thought that infants ought not be baptized before the eighth day after their birth. . . . He agreed with certain of his fellow bishops that a child is able to be duly baptized as soon as he is born.

For whenever unbaptized persons die confessing Christ, this confession is of the same efficacy for the remission of sins as if they were washed in the sacred font of baptism. (Baptism of Desire) - all these above quotes are from St Augustine

Every baptized person should consider that it is in the womb of the Church where he is transformed from a child of Adam to a child of God. - St. Vincent Ferrer

The soul is regenerated in the sacred waters of baptism and thus becomes God's child. - St. Maximilian Kolbe

The Lord was baptized, not to be cleansed Himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism. -St. Ambrose of Milan

If, therefore, there is any grace in the water, it is not from the nature of water but from the Spirit's presence there. - St. Basil the Great, Doctor of the Church, c. 375 A.D

Just as a man cannot live in the flesh unless he is born in the flesh, even so a man cannot have the spiritual life of grace unless he is born again spiritually. This regeneration is effected by Baptism: "Unless a man is born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (Jn 3:5) - St. Thomas Aquinas

Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.