

**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.

**DONATION LINK FOR ST MARY'S CHORLEY PARISH FUNDS:**

<https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/st-mary-chorley>

**APPEAL FOR GENERATORS:** We have received an urgent appeal for generators for the Ukraine. Electricity is in very short supply throughout Ukraine. Essential buildings are struggling to meet the electricity demands. If you know someone who would like to be very generous and donate a generator to a hospital, please contact the parish office.

**CATHOLIC PICTORIAL** The December edition is available through this address:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8na94z>

**HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTICE:** Please take extra care this winter. If you are unwell, have a cold or generally feel 'under the weather' please stay at home and get better soon. **PLEASE DO NOT COME TO CHURCH IF YOU ARE UNWELL.**

If you are on your own and need help from someone, please keep by your phone three emergency numbers of friends or neighbours that you can ring.

**GREAT TO BE A PUPIL AT ST MARY'S SCHOOL:** After the excitement of the recent trip to London, Parliament and the House of Lords, our Junior children after the Mass of the Immaculate Conception, went to the cinema in the lovely weather, to see Matilda. What a great day for this special feast of our school and parish!

**CATHOLIC DIARIES – WITH MASS TEXTS:** There are a few Catholic diaries (£5) available with the Christmas cards in the sacristy.

**THE PARISH CENTRE** will be open on Christmas Eve at 18.00 but closed on Christmas Day, Mon. 26<sup>th</sup> and Tues. 27<sup>th</sup>. On New Year's Eve, it will be open from 19.00. On New Year's Day open 13.00 – 21.00 but then closed on Mon. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**ST LAURENCE'S CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH** needs volunteers to help with the lunches. Would you know someone who is at college or university that could help? Also, to assist Rev Neil Kelly and his parishioners, we have sent a £100.00 contribution towards the Christmas Day Lunches for the people of Chorley who need some help. St Laurence's do a fantastic job, every year. Thank you. If you are on your own or money is very tight, you can have a lovely Christmas dinner by **booking a place** at St Laurence's. Please ring 07763226275 to book a place.

**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

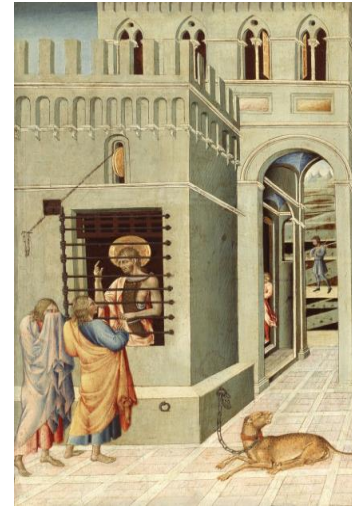
Parish Centre: 270122 or 07377 341969 (Manager – Heather Cheyne)

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

# St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE)

11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022



*John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'*

*As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and*

*much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: 'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; He will prepare your way before you. 'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'*

**Matthew 11:2-11**

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**16.15-16.45**  
**17.00**

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup>**

**10.00**

**Mon 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**09.00**

**Tues 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**12.00**

**Wed 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**09.00**

**Thurs 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**12.00**

**Confessions**

**Mass – Mary (A) and Joseph Baxendale**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** (p.88)

*Gaudete Sunday*

**Mass – Parishioners**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

**Mass – Kenneth Stephen Guy (LD)**

*St Lucy*

**Mass – Eddie McCrory (A)**

*St John of the Cross*

**Mass – Clare Cronin (A)**

*Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion*



**Fri 16<sup>th</sup>**

**12.00**

**Mass – Fr Louis Catterall (A)**

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup>**

**15.30-16.45**

**Confessions**

**17.00**

**Mass – Audrey Smith (LD)**

**Sun 18<sup>th</sup>**

**10.00**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** (p.90)

**Mass – Kathleen Watmough** (birthday remembrance)

*We regret that several Masses last week could not take place and were substituted by a Liturgy of the Word plus Holy Communion. This was because Fr Marsden was ill. The Mass Intentions which were scheduled will be offered later.*

**Please pray for the sick and the housebound:** Emily Atkins, Kevin Bailey, Derek Birchall, John and Margaret Brown, Dorothy Burgoyne, John Campbell, Michael Collins, Hughie Daly, Colette Ellis, Desmond Gorman, Rosemary Hough, Jacob Hughes, Mary Langton, Fr Laurence Mayne, Fr Barry McAllister, Debbie MacFarlane, Fr Michael O'Dowd, Teresa O'Malia, Molly Redhead, Denis Smith, Joan Smith, Eileen Snape, Terry Tingey, Mike White, Ann Woodruff, Agnes Young and parishioners in *The Adelphi, The Gables, Westwood, Gillibrand Hall*

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Fr Louis Catterall, Clare Cronin, Eddie McCrory, Mary Baxendale.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** **Paul Eastham** (77) of St Oswald's, Coppull. Funeral details to follow. Paul was a great help to Fr Mayne for many years. Eternal rest grant onto him, O Lord...

**READERS:** 10<sup>th</sup> **Sat 17.00** Richard Gillett 11<sup>th</sup> **Sun 10.00** Dr Jane Eccles  
17<sup>th</sup> **Sat 17.00** Gillian Sharples. 18<sup>th</sup> **Sun 10.00** Simon Eccles. **Christmas Eve 17.00**  
Andrew Jenner and Eleanor Jenner. **Christmas Day 10.00** Tracy O'Neill

**BAPTISMS:** First Sunday of the month at 10.45, (following the 10.00 am Mass)

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** We have been lucky to get a supply of beautiful religious Christmas cards showing the Holy Family, from the Ven. John Bradburne Memorial Society. The cards are available after Mass.

**HELPING OTHERS:** This Christmas, you the parishioners, out of your financial generosity to the Poor Box, are helping eight school families with their grocery shopping. We have eight families in our school who need assistance. Therefore, each family will receive a £20.00 voucher from a local butcher and a £10.00 voucher for fruit and vegetables from a local market stall. The vouchers can be split between Christmas and the New Year.

**BAMBINELLI SUNDAY** is on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. If you would like to bring your crib Baby Jesus to Saturday 5pm Mass or Sunday 10 am Mass next week, Fr Marsden will bless the Baby figurines at the end of Mass.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES** follow the usual weekend times: Christmas Eve 17.00 and Christmas Day 10.00. St Stephen's Day 10.00 and Bank Holiday Tuesday 12.00 noon.

**PRAY WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY ON GAUDETE SUNDAY:** (from thecatholicspirit.com)

**Leader:** With the beginning of this third week of Advent, we're more than half way home to Christmas. We gather again to pray so that our hearts are truly prepared for the birth of the Child Jesus.

» Light three candles on the Advent wreath.

» Read aloud: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

*(Leader may read all, or others in the household may each proclaim a reading.)*

**Leader:** In our readings this third week of Advent, Isaiah again foretells the coming of the savior. He leaves us with a vision of how marvelous heaven will be for those who live a holy life. The letter from James is like something out of a locker room speech in which a coach urges a team to be patient, to put up with the hardships that will come their way and not to complain. Matthew retells the story of Jesus explaining the role of John the Baptist to the curious crowds. He tells the throng — and us, too — that even as great as John the Baptist is, if we live so as to have a place in the kingdom of heaven, we will be even greater.

**Closing prayer:**

» Lord our God, you know that our hearts long for the joy and gladness promised by life with you. Help us to remember that you are with us always, and that our hearts will rest only when they rest with you.

» Holy Spirit, guide the choices we make throughout this week. Help us endure hardship. Remind us to be patient. Stifle our tendency to complain. Help us realize how much we owe the creator for all we have and all we are.

» Father in heaven, we offer thanks to you for sending John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of the Saviour. Help us to heed the Baptist's message to repent and to renew our commitment to live in holiness.

» Come Lord Jesus. So often we are impatient for your coming, yet we are fearful of living our lives as one with you. Come and ease our anxiety. Come and reward our patience. Come and remove our sorrow. Our communities and our world eagerly await the day of your birth.

**QUOTES FROM ST JOHN OF THE CROSS**

"Strive to preserve your heart in peace; let no event of this world disturb it."

"The soul that is quick to turn to speaking and conversing is slow to turn to God."

"He who avoids prayer is avoiding everything that is good."

"It is best to learn to silence the faculties and to cause them to be still so that God may speak."

"Who teaches the soul if not God?"

"What we need most in order to make progress is to be silent before this great God with our appetite and with our tongue, for the language he best hears is silent love."

Faith "is like the feet wherewith the soul journeys to God, and love is the guide that directs it."

"Contemplation is nothing else but a secret, peaceful, and loving infusion of God, which if admitted, will set the soul on fire with the Spirit of love."

"Take God for your spouse and friend and walk with him continually, and you will not sin and will learn to love, and the things you must do will work out prosperously for you."

"In order to come to union with the wisdom of God, the soul has to proceed rather by unknowing than by knowing..."

"The endurance of darkness is the preparation for great light."

"In the dark night of the soul, bright flows the river of God."

"To saints, their very slumber is a prayer."

"It is great wisdom to know how to be silent and to look at neither the remarks, nor the deeds, nor the lives of others." "In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone."