

CONFIRMATIONS 2024

Confirmations for the young people in both of our parishes will this year take place at St Gregory's on **Tuesday 11th June at 7:00pm**. Bishop John Rawsthorne will preside. Please keep all our young people and their families in your prayers as they prepare to receive the sacrament and take this next important step on their faith journey.

GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE?

The **Alpha Course** could change your life! It's 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 will be run in the Catholic tradition. We'll begin on **10th April 2024 at 7pm** at St. Mary's Parish Centre in Leyland and meet every Wednesday for 6 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

WORD OF LIFE

All are welcome at the 'Word of Life' scripture sharing meeting in the parish meeting room at St Gregory's on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:30am. The next meeting will be on **11th April**. Why not give it a try?

LIVE SIMPLY

There will be a meeting at **7pm on Monday 8th April** in the presbytery at St Gregory's for anybody wishing to either take a lead or play an active role in the Live Simply Campaign.

SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'This is what He promised us - eternal life'
1 John 2:25

CHILDREN'S CORNER

R	O	F	D	E	I	S	A	M	D
K	E	E	K	E	E	W	H	O	E
E	S	A	E	L	S	A	F	H	R
V	O	R	S	A	M	O	H	T	F
E	C	A	E	P	R	T	L	H	I
I	S	E	H	G	T	H	A	C	N
L	K	R	I	O	N	G	I	G	G
E	E	V	O	I	L	I	F	I	R
B	E	W	R	O	N	E	F	E	E
E	L	H	A	N	D	S	S	O	S

WEEK	DOORS	CLOSED
FEAR	PEACE	HANDS
FORGIVE	THOMAS	HOLES
FINGER	EIGHT	BELIEVE



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF
St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 7th April 2024 - 2nd Sunday of Easter (Day of Divine Mercy), Year B

ST GREGORY'S RC CHURCH

Weldbank Lane
 Chorley, Lancs
 PR7 3NW
 Tel: 01257 262462

PARISH PRIEST
 Fr Graeme M. Dunne

EMAIL:

stgregory@rcaol.org.uk

WEBSITE:

www.stgregoryschorley.org.uk

FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/St-Gregorys-Weldbank-177113458975673/>

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL
 Registered Charity No: 1199714

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
 Mon/Wed/Thurs 09:00 - 16:00

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:
 Christine Booth

SAFEGUARDING REP:
 Waiting Appointment

WEEKLY COLLECTION
 w/c 31st March 2024

Gift Aid: **£106.00**
 Loose Plate: **£644.91**
 Standing Orders: **£369.92**
Sincere thanks for your kind and generous weekly donations which go towards the upkeep of the church.

The retiring collection today will be taken by the SVP.

REFLECTION

After his resurrection, Jesus continued to appear to his friends and followers. Through appearing to the men and women who followed him, he encouraged and strengthened them and calmed their fears. On one such appearance, he said to them, 'Peace be with you'. However, one of them, Thomas was not there and so missed the experience that filled the disciples with joy. They relayed to Thomas that Jesus had appeared and had spoken to them, but not surprisingly, he was neither convinced nor did he believe them. We shouldn't condemn Thomas for his apparent lack of faith but instead we should admire him for his honesty and conviction. He wanted to meet and experience Jesus for himself - he would not believe what the others had told him unless he could actually put his fingers into the wounds of Jesus. Later, Jesus re-appeared to the disciples and Thomas was with them this time. Jesus wasted no time and spoke directly to Thomas, inviting him to put his fingers into the wounds he had suffered at his crucifixion, so that he may no longer doubt. It's the same for us too - none of us go through life without struggles and doubts. There are times when we are at our lowest and weakest for a various number of reasons. These are the times when we can repeat the words of Thomas and refuse to believe that Jesus is really with us. In fact, Thomas represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. However, just as Jesus was with Thomas, so too he is with us. He is with us when other people reach out to comfort and support us and likewise when we reach out to help and care for others. Jesus is present in us when we gather for the breaking and sharing of the bread. Jesus is with us when we are struggling to believe and when our faith is weak. It is only natural and even acceptable to have some doubts. Jesus did not condemn Thomas for his questioning doubt and neither does he condemn us. What we are called to do is not to give in but to have faith in Jesus. So let us turn to him as Thomas did, during those times when we have our struggles and doubts - the Lord is with us always.

Please Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters Who are Sick

Fr Laurence Mayne - Dorothy Fairclough - Christine Zawistowicz - Paul McBeth - Baby Elmo Allan
 Sheila McGeown - Teresa Abernethy - Rita Compton - Shirley Langstrath - Jimmy Waddington
 Catherine - Paul Spedding - Susan Yates - Brenda McGuigan - Angela Helmn - Mary Langton
Heal thy servants, O Lord, who are sick and send them comfort from thy holy place. Amen.

Please remember and keep in your prayers all those who have died recently
 and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

*Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May they rest in peace. Amen.*

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

DAY OF DIVINE MERCY



Today is known as Day of Divine Mercy which traditionally falls on the 2nd Sunday of Easter. In his writings and homilies, Pope John Paul II described The Divine Mercy as the answer to the world's problems and the message of the third millennium. The message of The Divine

Mercy is simple. It is that God loves all of us and he wants us to recognise that his mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon him with trust, receive his mercy, and let it flow through us to others. The more we open the door of our hearts and lives to Jesus with trust, the more we can receive. This message and devotion to Jesus is based on the writings of Sr. Faustina Kowalska, a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our

Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I. She had only three years of simple education, so hers were the humblest of tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or garden. However, she received extraordinary revelations or messages from our Lord, who asked Sr. Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled into notebooks. These notebooks are known today as the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the words contained within them are God's loving message of Divine Mercy. Even before her death in 1938, devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread. Sr. Faustina's Diary sparked a great movement and a significant focus on the mercy of Christ. Pope John Paul II beatified and canonised Sr. Faustina in 2000 making her the 'first saint of the new millennium'. Speaking of Sr. Faustina and the importance of the message contained in her *Diary*, the Pope called her 'the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time'. Today, we continue to rely on St. Faustina as a reminder of the message to trust in Jesus' endless mercy and to live life mercifully towards others as we strive to become true followers of Christ.

There will be a special celebration at Sacred Heart Church, Chorley this afternoon, **Sunday 7th April at 3pm** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet, Confessions & Rosary followed by Mass. There are some copies of the chaplet of the Divine Mercy at the back of church, please do take one.

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 07 Apr	9:30am	2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY	People of the Parish	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Margaret Dickinson (BR)	
SUN 07 Apr	11:00am	2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY	Iain Macdonald (BR)	ST OSWALD'S
Mon 08 Apr	10:00am	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	Bill & Barbara Tennant Joseph Barry Locke (A)	
Tues 09 Apr	9:15am		William Ingram (BR)	Adoration 1:00pm—2:00pm
Wed 10 Apr	8:30am		Canon Richard Firth (A) Karen Francis (BR)	
Thur 11 Apr	9:15am	St Stanislaus	Private intention	Adoration 1:00pm—2:00pm
Fri 12 Apr	8:30am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	ST GREGORY'S
	9:15am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	ST OSWALD'S
Sat 13 Apr	10:00am	St Martin & Blessed Miles Gerrard of Ince, Wigan	Special Intention	
SUN 14 Apr	9:30am	3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER	Maureen Ormerod (A)	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		The Sick of the Parish	
SUN 14 Apr	11:00am	3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER	People of the Parish	ST OSWALD'S