

PARISH CHRISTMAS LIST 2023

The Christmas Masses this year will be offered for the intentions of those on our Parish Christmas List. There are some sheets at the back of church for you to complete. Mass offerings this year will be donated to the Catholic Community in Bethlehem.

ADVENT RETREAT WITH FR DENIS MCBRIDE C.S.S.R

Fr Denis McBride leads a FREE online retreat, based on his book *Stations of the Infancy*. To access the retreat, please go to: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/advent-retreat>

PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS WITH FR STEPHEN WANG

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of shopping for Christmas and join us in the meeting room at St Gregory's each **Wednesday evening throughout Advent 7:00pm - 9:00pm**
 Week 3: The Bible (13th Dec); Week 4 - The Power of Prayer (20th Dec)
 For further information please contact Michael Hall on 07548 305615

WORD OF LIFE MEETING

The Word of Life group are meeting on **Thursday, 15th December, at 10:30am** in the meeting room at St Gregory's. All are invited to share in an Advent reflection and celebration.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

St. John Paul II began a tradition early on in his papacy where he invited the children of Rome to assemble in St. Peter's Square on the Third Sunday of Advent during his Angelus address. He asked them to bring their little statue of the baby Jesus that would be placed in their Nativity set at home. John Paul II blessed the figurines of those present and told them to assemble before the manger scene with their family in a spirit of prayer. Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued the tradition. It is a beautiful Advent tradition, one that sanctifies the home with the baby Jesus and makes his arrival in the manger scene an even more joyous event. Next Sunday, in keeping with this tradition, you are all invited to bring your own crib figures of the Child Jesus to Mass for a blessing.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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



- RIVER
- ISAIAH
- MESSENGER
- WILDERNESS
- BAPTISM
- REPENTANCE
- CAMELSKIN
- LOCUSTS
- HONEY
- STRAP
- SANDALS
- SPIRIT



**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF
St Gregory's Weld Bank**

Sunday 10th December 2023 - 2nd Sunday of Advent, 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 3rd Dec 2023**

Gift Aid: **£54.09**
 Loose Plate: **£278.54**
 Standing Orders: **£186.25**

Sincere thanks for your kind and generous weekly donations which go towards the upkeep of the church.

REFLECTION

During the Season of Advent, one of the virtues that the Church sets before us - both for us to reflect upon, and for us to put into action - is the virtue of humility. One of the potholes that we might fall into, however, is thinking that there's only one form of humility, that humility looks the same for each person - it doesn't! Today's Gospel Reading focuses upon John the Baptist. The message of John the Baptist is founded upon humility. Everything about John speaks about humility: from the humble desert where he dwells, to his clothing of camel's hair and a leather belt, to his diet of locusts and wild honey. But John's message is even humbler than his dwelling, clothing, and diet - his message demands that those listening make themselves humble. His message is a 'baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. St. Mark goes on to describe further how people 'were going out and were being baptised by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins'. This act of humbly acknowledging one's sins, is the first step to accepting the gift of Jesus into our hearts. Today's Gospel tells us that a voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight' - it sounds like Advent ought to be a time for road construction and repair, not a patient wait for Christmas! It may sound strange, but really preparing the way for the Lord and straightening his path means ensuring that in our lives we are prepared to welcome Jesus into our hearts. So an important aspect of our Advent journey and preparation is acknowledging that there are parts of our lives that need straightening! Examining ourselves, by thinking about our emotional, mental, social, and spiritual well-being helps us in that preparation. When we examine ourselves, we might discover there is clutter or baggage that has been weighing us down. So, as we focus our attention on so many other things during the lead up to Christmas, let us take some time out of our busy schedules to do some self-examination. Perhaps one way we could prepare a way for the Lord during these weeks of Advent is to consider celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation - to prepare a place in our hearts to welcome Jesus - then the wait will be worth it!

Please Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters Who are Sick

Sheila McGeown - Dorothy Fairclough - Paul Gallery - Christine Zawistowicz
 Paul McBeth - Baby Elmo Allan - Fr Laurence Mayne - Teresa Abernethy
 Angela Helmn - Shirley Langstrath - Margaret Dearden - Fr Jonathan Cotton - Catherine
 Paul Spedding - Susan Yates - Brenda McGuigan - Barbara Edwards - Jimmy Waddington
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 especially
 Josephine Cogley, Alan Platt, Neville Evans, James McAleenan & Paul Gallery 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

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES 2023

The Advent Service of Reconciliation will be held on **Sunday 17th December at 3.00pm**
 at St Gregory's, Weld Bank, Chorley PR7 3NW

St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 24th December - 4th Sunday of Advent - 9:30am
 Sunday 24th December - Vigil of Nativity - 8:30pm with carols from 8:00pm
 Monday 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord - 9:30am
 Tuesday 26th December - Feast of St Stephen, Patron Saint of Altar Servers - 11:00am
 Friday 29th December - EUCHARISTIC SERVICE - 8:30am
 Saturday 30th December - Holy Mass - 10:00am
 Sunday 31st December - Feast of the Holy Family - 9:30am
 Monday 1st January - Mary the Mother of God - 10:00am

St Oswald's Coppull

Sunday 24th December - 4th Sunday of Advent - 11:00am
 Sunday 24th December - Vigil of Nativity - 6:30pm with carols from 6:00pm
 Monday 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord - 11:00am
 Wednesday 27th December - Feast of St John - 10:00am
 Friday 29th December - EUCHARISTIC SERVICE - 9:15am
 Sunday 31st December - Feast of the Holy Family - 11:00am

BAPTISMS



Today we welcome in Baptism at St Gregory's
Cian John Rafferty & Isaac Peter Burgess
 Please keep them and their families in your
 prayers as they start out on their faith journey.

SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest'
Matthew 11:28

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 10 Dec	9:30am	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Joe Robinson (BR) Valerie Bretherton	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Joan & Geoff Parker Peter Evans	
SUN 10 Dec	11:00am	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Annie Eastham (A) Paul Eastham (A)	ST OSWALD'S
Mon 11 Dec	10:00am	REQUIEM MASS	Joan Flintoff	
	12:30pm	REQUIEM MASS	Josephine Cogley	
Tues 12 Dec	10:00am	REQUIEM MASS	Neville Evans	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 13 Dec	8:30am	St Lucy	Catherine & Cecil de Lacy Joan Parker (LD)	NO EXPOSITION TODAY
	11:45am	REQUIEM MASS	Alan Platt	
Thu 14 Dec	9:15am	St John of the Cross	The Hayden Family (F) Sylvester Woods (F)	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 15 Dec	8:30am		EUCHARISTIC SERVICE	
	9:15am		EUCHARISTIC SERVICE	
Sat 16 Dec	10:00am		Emily Moss (LD) Mary Rainford (A)	
SUN 17 Dec	9:30am	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Teresa Hamer (A) Fr John Smith (BR)	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Tom & Sheila Grady Margaret Dickinson (A)	
SUN 17 Dec	11:00am	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Alan Platt (LD) Elaine McGreevy (A)	ST OSWALD'S