ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

Our Advent Service of Reconciliation will be held today, **Sunday 14th December at 3:00pm.**

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. 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. This year, the designated date for Bambinelli Sunday is Sunday 21st December and in keeping with this tradition, you are all invited to bring your own crib figures of the Child Jesus to Mass for a blessing.

NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Congratulations to Alison Fish who has been successfully appointed as the new Parish Administrator at St Gregory's & St Oswald's. Alison comes to us from a previous role in the NHS and will take up her new post on 5th January 2026. I would like to thank Christine for agreeing to stay on until the end of January to help assist in a smooth transition. I am sure you will all make Alison feel welcome.

Fr Graeme.

LIVING WATERS FOODBANK - CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Chorley Foodbank are urgently appealing for items for their Christmas food parcels which will be distributed to those families who are most in need. Items such as chocolate selection boxes, boxes of biscuits, tinned ham, tinned salmon, packets of stuffing, cranberry sauce & Christmas puddings etc. would be very welcome. Please leave your items in the box in the church porch or at the presbytery. Thank you for your support.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

PRISON
BLIND
LAME
LEPERS
CLEANSED
LIFE
HAPPY
CLOTHES
PALACES
PROPHET
SCRIPTURE
WOMEN

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF
St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 14th Dec 2025 - 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete), Year A P.9 (red) & P.13 (blue)

ST GREGORY'S RC CHURCH
Weldbank Lane
Chorley, Lancs
PR7 3NW
Tel: 01257 262462

PRIESTS
Fr Graeme M. Dunne
Fr Xavier Ho

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:
Sharon Hobin

WEEKLY COLLECTION
w/c 7th Dec 2025

Gift Aid: **£94.44**
Loose Plate: **£405.67**
Standing Orders: **£347.54**

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

REFECTION

Today we light the single pink candle on our Advent wreath as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday or Rose Sunday - 'Guadete' meaning joy or rejoice. Children often know it as 'nearly there' Sunday - a time of great anticipation and excitement. As we take another step closer to our Christmas celebrations, there are signs of this all around us. The shops and streets are filled with more people and we are all busier than ever as we decorate and prepare our homes ready for the great celebration. But we are also asked to notice and pay attention to the Advent signs and symbols around us. The wreath in our church is coming to life as another candle is lit, making it glow brighter. Some of us will have set up small cribs in our homes - all these wonderful life-giving signs and symbols point and lead us to the great event of Christmas, the real source of our happiness, joy and celebrations. The opening antiphon for today's Mass gives us the message of our liturgy; '***Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near'.*** We are called to listen and really take in the words from the Prophet Isaiah; they are as radical and relevant now as when they were first spoken; ***'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.'*** On this third Sunday of Advent, let us take these words to heart. As the remaining days before Christmas can be so busy, hectic and full of activity, perhaps we could all set a little time aside each day for a few minutes of prayer, stillness and silence – even ten minutes would be very beneficial to our health at all levels. This might help us to slow down and remember what we are actually getting ready to celebrate. The radio, television and the media have been saying to us for the last few weeks, *It's Christmas!* It's not….not yet. We still have a few more days to go. We just need to be careful that in the midst of all the activity we don't lose sight of what these Advent days are really all about! So as we prepare for the birth of Our Blessed Lord, continue to decorate your homes, put up your cribs, sing your favorite Christmas carol or hymn and as you do….remember! **Rejoice in the Lord always; indeed the Lord is near!**

Please Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters Who are Sick

Dorothy Fairclough - Christine Zawistowicz - Paul McBeth - Elmo Allan - Teresa Abernethy
Shirley Langstrath - Jimmy Waddington - Paul Spedding - Susan Yates - Eileen Baldwin

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 Leonard Shaw 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 MASSES

All our Christmas Masses will be offered for the intentions of those on our Parish Christmas List and the People of the Parish. Christmas List forms are available at the back of church. Please return your requests by **Monday 22nd December** if you wish us to include your intentions. Mass offerings will be donated to 'Mary's Meals', a charity which provides life-changing meals to some of the world's poorest children.

CHRISTMAS MASS/SERVICE TIMES 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent (St Gregory's)	**3:00pm Service of Advent Reconciliation**
Christmas Eve (St Oswald's)	7:00pm 1st Mass of Christmas (with carols from 6:30pm)
Christmas Eve (St Gregory's)	8:00pm 1st Mass of Christmas (with carols from 7:30pm)
Christmas Day (St Gregory's)	9:30am The Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Day (St Oswald's)	10:30am The Nativity of the Lord
Boxing Day (St Gregory's)	11:00am Feast of St Stephen (Altar Servers)

APPEAL FOR DONATIONS TO THE UKRAINIAN HUB

Winter is approaching fast, and we have seen a change in the weather, as we remember the long hot summer and dry autumn. The people of Ukraine are facing another bitterly cold, snowy winter. Electricity distribution centres are being targeted and destroyed purposely. Please look in your cupboards for candles, warm socks, gloves and hats (adult and children's), thermal clothing, coats and jumpers you don't need anymore, female hygiene items, plasters, bandages, paracetamols, cough mixtures (adult and children). It will all be very much appreciated and a good way to help these desperate poor people who are suffering so much. **Please take your donations to the Ukrainian Hub, which was the White Hart pub near Chorley police station. Wednesday 2-4pm and Sat 10.00-12.00 noon.**

'LIVE SIMPLY' QUOTE FOR ADVENT

'For this time of Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all at the feast, but also, each one in our own hearts'

Pope Francis

SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing'

Psalm 34:10

Mass Intentions & Feast Days

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 14 Dec	**9:30am** **3:00pm** **6:30pm**	**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	James Critchley (A) Teresa Hamer (A) **ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION** People of the Parish	**ST GREGORY'S**
SUN 14 Dec	**11:00am**	**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	Special Intention	**ST OSWALD'S**
Mon 15 Dec	10:00am		Catherine & Cecil De Lacy	
Tues 16 Dec	9:15am		Special Intention	NO DEVOTIONS TODAY
Wed 17 Dec	8:30am		Fr John Smith (BR)	HOLY HOUR 4:00pm—5:00pm
Thurs 18 Dec	9:15am		Private Intention	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 19 Dec	8:30am		In Thanksgiving	
Sat 20 Dec	10:00am		Ronnie & Marie Higham Shirley Taylor (A)	
SUN 21 Dec	**9:30am** **6:30pm**	**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	Valerie Bretherton Sam Hyland (LD)	**ST GREGORY'S** **BAMBINELLI SUNDAY**
SUN 21 Dec	**11:00am**	**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	People of the Parish	**ST OSWALD'S** **BAMBINELLI SUNDAY**