

PARISH CHRISTMAS LIST 2024

The Christmas Masses this year will be offered for the intentions of those on our Parish Christmas List. If you would like to offer an intention, there are some sheets at the back of church for you to complete. Mass offerings will be donated to 'Mary's Meals', a charity which provides life-changing meals to some of the world's poorest children.

SAFEGUARDING

There will be a DBS update session at St Gregory's tomorrow (Monday) between 11:00am and 2:00pm for all those who need to update their DBS certificates. If anybody is unable to attend this session, a further session will be held next Wednesday 18th December between 6:00pm and 8:00pm. If you are unable to make either of these dates, please contact Fr Graeme asap.

MIRACLE

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon has declared the case of John (Jack) Traynor a miracle. Jack was a pilgrim on the archdiocese's first official pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1923 and was cured dramatically of epilepsy, paralysis of the right arm and paraplegia during the pilgrimage. The case has been believed to be miraculous from people across the archdiocese and beyond, but, despite an attempt in 1993, there has never been an official ecclesiastical declaration until today. It is the 71st official miracle to have happened in Lourdes and the first person from England to be recognised.

JUBILEE YEAR - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

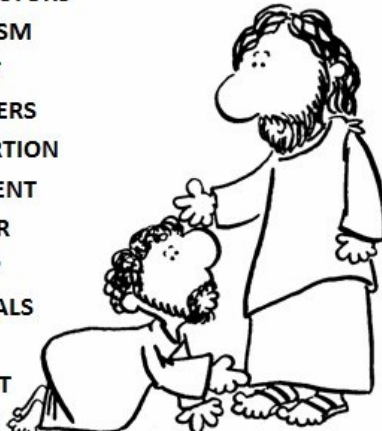
2025 will mark 60 years since the second Vatican Council, or Vatican II. Following a Year of Prayer in 2024, celebrations will now begin for the Jubilee. To find out more, please visit: <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/department/pastoral-development/jubilee>

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Please bring the Christ Child figures from your crib to Mass next Sunday to be blessed.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

T	S	T	N	E	T	N	O	C	N	COLLECTORS BAPTISM EXACT SOLDIERS EXTORTION CONTENT WATER STRAP SANDALS FIRE WHEAT CHAFF
S	R	E	I	D	L	O	S	A	O	
C	O	S	X	P	T	S	M	H	I	
E	T	E	A	A	A	A	S	F	T	
L	C	F	L	N	E	R	I	F	R	
L	E	F	D	I	H	B	T	I	O	
O	L	A	N	N	W	A	P	S	T	
C	L	H	A	R	E	T	A	W	X	
S	O	C	S	O	L	A	B	L	E	
T	C	A	X	E	N	T	N	O	C	




THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 15th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year C Page 40 (red) & Page 772 (blue)

ST GREGORY'S RC CHURCH

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 Chorley, Lancs
 PR7 3NW
 Tel: 01257 262462

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Graeme M. Dunne

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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 8th December 2024

Gift Aid: **£76.15**

Loose Plate: **£397.37**

Standing Orders: **£186.25**

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

REFLECTION

There is one pink candle on the Advent Wreath which is lit today because this is Gaudete Sunday. The word 'Gaudete' means joy or rejoice. 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'**. As we take another step closer to our Christmas celebrations, whilst we may all be very busy, we 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. The Advent wreath is getting brighter as another candle is lit and cribs are now being put up in homes and in and around our town. These signs and symbols remind us that the Lord is very near. In today's readings, Zephaniah, John the Baptist and St Paul all shared one belief: that the Lord was very near. God's nearness didn't act as a threat to them, but filled them with a great source of joy that no one could take away from them, not even the executioner! Their joy in the closeness of God, made their preaching unique as it urged others to make ready and to share in that sense of joy. The joy of God's closeness was a power that carried them through difficult times. Both John the Baptist and Paul faced an opposition determined to destroy them; both had a faith to encourage them beyond the reality of imprisonment and execution. We too need a power that carries us through difficult times, that prods us on when we face the reality of our weakness and limitations. To believe in the presence of a God who loves and cares for us, gives us a deep sense of joy in the midst of our ups and downs. God's presence challenges our love, our generosity and calls on our sense of justice. It keeps us on our toes and enables us to continue living even when we are faced with life's problems. Let us pray this Advent that we may become more loving and charitable, show more fairness and honesty and replace any form of oppression with love. In pointing us to these demands, John the Baptist is showing us the way of achieving true joy. Advent nurtures hope, one of the three virtues implanted at baptism. In darkness and dependency, in sinfulness and shame, in sadness and in woe, hope looks to the future with expectancy.

Please Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters Who are Sick

Fr Laurence Mayne - Dorothy Fairclough - Christine Zawistowicz - Paul McBeth - Elmo Allan - Sheila McGeown - Teresa Abernethy - Shirley Langstrath - Jimmy Waddington - Paul Spedding - Susan Yates - Mary Langton - Shirley Taylor - Anne Boam – Mary Hargreaves - Margaret Barton - James (Jim) Parkinson

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 Mary (Margaret) Simm 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

ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

TODAY at 3:00pm at St Gregory's Weld Bank.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2024

1st Mass of Christmas (Tuesday 24th December)

7:00pm with carols from 6:30pm (St Oswald's)

8:00pm with carols from 7:30pm (St Gregory's)

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

10:00am (St Gregory's) (please note there will be no evening Mass)

10:30am (St Oswald's)

Feast of St Stephen (Boxing Day)

11:00am (St Gregory's)

11:00am (St Oswald's)

CAFOD'S WORLD GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, give your loved ones something exceptional and life changing. Buy CAFOD's virtual World Gifts. Choose from a range of beautifully illustrated cards, each representing a gift of hope, inspired by real people and real needs.

Cards can be sent by post, as an eCard, or printed at home. Purchase World Gifts at worldgifts.cafod.org.uk or pick up a catalogue from the church porch.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Please keep all the children who have registered for First Holy Communion and their families in your prayers as they begin their preparations to receive this special sacrament.

THANKYOU

Sincere thanks to all our parishioners for your very generous support for the Christmas Joy Toy Appeal and also the Living Waters Foodbank Christmas Appeal. During these difficult times of financial hardship for so many, your support is gratefully appreciated by those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path'

Psalms 119:105

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 15 Dec	9:30am	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE	Mary Rainford (A) Catherine & Cecil DeLacy	ST GREGORY'S
	3:00pm		ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION	
	6:30pm		People of the Parish	
SUN 15 Dec	11:00am	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE	Elaine McGreevy (A)	ST OSWALD'S
Mon 16 Dec	10:00am		Fr John Smith (BR) Margaret Dearden (A)	
Tues 17 Dec	9:15am		People of the Parish	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 18 Dec	8:30 am		Wulstan Barton (LD)	EXPOSITION 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Thurs 19 Dec	9:15am		Frank Molloy (LD)	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 20 Dec	8:30am		LISCF	
Sat 21 Dec	10:00am	St Peter Canisius	Cyril Iddon (A)	
SUN 22 Dec	9:30am	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Mgr Michael McKenna George Griffiths	ST GREGORY'S BAMBINELLI SUNDAY
	6:30pm		Margaret Dickinson (A)	
SUN 22 Dec	11:00am	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Doreen Haydock	ST OSWALD'S BAMBINELLI SUNDAY