

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Another Christmas is upon us, but this is a very different one that I and many of you will celebrate, with the absence of Mgr McKenna. It is also different because we welcome Fr Peter. It is a reminder to us that God is with us in our joys and sorrows. As always Christmas is a time to celebrate our faith in Christ, and I would like to thank the many people who live that faith in the service of others and within our parish communities. Your devotion and hard work is much appreciated. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parishioners for their support and kind words over the past year. May God bless you all this Christmas with his peace and joy. Thank you & God bless

Fr Graeme

## SAFEGUARDING

Due to sickness, the planned DBS session for those who need to update their DBS certificates was cancelled. The revised date of the update session will be advised in the New Year.

## 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 71<sup>st</sup> 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>

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

G	A	B	R	H	E	S	U	O	H
A	J	O	S	T	N	O	S	T	A
B	A	R	R	E	N	N	E	M	N
R	C	E	E	R	D	B	D	A	D
I	O	C	J	A	A	I	A	Y	M
E	B	H	O	Z	S	L	V	R	A
L	N	I	I	A	E	U	I	A	I
O	S	L	C	N	G	O	S	M	D
R	E	D	E	N	A	N	G	E	L
D	A	V	I	H	P	E	S	O	J

ANGEL	GABRIEL	JOSEPH
MARY	REJOICE	SON
LORD	JESUS	CHILD
ELIZABETH	BARREN	HANDMAID



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

Sunday 22nd December - 4th Sunday of Advent, Year C Page 44 (red) & Page 776 (blue)

### 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 15th December 2024

Gift Aid: **£54.91**

Loose Plate: **£594.90**

Standing Orders: **£186.25**

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

## REFLECTION

Today, our Advent journey reaches a climax with Mary's story - through her acceptance of God's word and message for her, the long-awaited promise made to David and to each of us will be fulfilled. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognise the work of God in her own people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. In St Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We too sing these words of praise to Mary in the 'Hail Mary'. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognise the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy. Mary is God's temple - filled with the Holy Spirit and open to God's will for her, she becomes God's dwelling place. Through her faith, her courage and her acceptance, God will become flesh and live amongst us - in the faces, voices and actions of Jesus we experience God. Like Mary, we too are temples of God and like Mary, through our baptism we are filled with the same Holy Spirit. As we live out our faith through our ordinary daily lives, God becomes real in and for our world today. All God asks is that we follow Mary's example and with his help that we too can accept and say 'Yes'. Through our acceptance today in our families, our homes, in our community and with our friends we can build the Kingdom of God and make God's love real and visible. Just like Mary, God gives us the strength and courage to follow her example. Just as Mary heard and listened to God's words for her, we too are asked to open our hearts and lives to God and just as God called and chose Mary, God calls and chooses each of us today. Mary gave life to Jesus and shares him with the world. We too are called and asked to follow her faithful example. Let us keep in our prayers today all mothers and especially those who are expecting a child in the coming months..

## 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 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 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)

### PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGES TO MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEK

### CHRISTMAS POSTERS

There are some Christmas posters available at the back of church

### A MESSAGE FROM ST GREGORY'S SVP

The Parish SVP would like to thank all parishioners for their generosity throughout the year which has enabled them to provide help and support to many within our community.

### THANKYOU

Sincere thanks to all parishioners for your very generous support and donations for the Afternoon Tea in aid of the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity held at St Gregory's last weekend. The magnificent sum of **£685** was raised from the event and will be sent to the charity in your name.

### CEMETERIES

All Christmas wreaths/pots will be removed when dead or after the **2nd Feb 2025**. Any ornamental pots removed from graves will be kept in the Sexton's office for **4 weeks** after which they will be disposed of. Thank you.

### SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth'

*Matthew 5:5*

## MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 22 Dec	9:30am 6:30pm	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Mgr Michael McKenna George Griffiths Margaret Dickinson (A)	ST GREGORY'S
SUN 22 Dec	11:00am	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Doreen Haydock	ST OSWALD'S
Mon 23 Dec	10:30am	REQUIEM MASS	Mary Margaret Simm	ST OSWALD'S
Tues 24 Dec	9:15am 10:00am		William Fishwick Valerie Bretherton Wulstan Barton	START OF JUBILEE 2025
	7:00pm 8:00pm	1st MASS OF CHRISTMAS 1st MASS OF CHRISTMAS	PARISH CHRISTMAS LIST INTENTIONS PARISH CHRISTMAS LIST INTENTIONS	With carols from 6:30pm With carols from 7:30pm
Wed 25 Dec	10:00am 10:30am	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	PARISH CHRISTMAS LIST INTENTIONS PARISH CHRISTMAS LIST INTENTIONS	
	11:00am 11:00am	FEAST OF ST STEPHEN	Altar Servers Neil Haydock	
Fri 27 Dec	11:00am		Shirley Taylor	
Sat 28 Dec	11:00am	The Holy Innocents	Anthony Federici George Griffiths	
SUN 29 Dec	9:30am 6:30pm	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	Joseph & Mary Kenyon Thomas & Winifred Booth Harry & Doreen Ainscough	ST GREGORY'S
SUN 29 Dec	11:00am	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	Terence Mundy (LD)	ST OSWALD'S