

PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS

Please keep our Holy Father Pope Francis in your prayers as he remains in hospital.

HOLY THURSDAY - MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

If you would like to have your feet washed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday at St Oswald's, we are now seeking volunteers (ideally 6 from each parish). Please could you let us know asap if you would like to volunteer. Thank you.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY CHAPERONES

If you have volunteered to become a Eucharistic Minister Chaperone, please can you see me asap so that we can make the necessary arrangements . Thank you. Fr Graeme

IRENAEUS: COME AND SEE

'The Wonder of Being Human', Saturday 5 April 2025, 10.30–16.00

Keynote speaker: Timothy Radcliffe. Suggested donation of £10. A packed lunch is advised. For more information email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or call: 0151 949 1199.

THROUGH THE EYES OF THOSE FIRST FOLLOWERS OF JESUS:

IRENAEUS EASTER RETREAT, Wednesday 16 – Sunday 20 April 2025

Led by Fr Chris Thomas and the Irenaeus team, following the Easter Triduum services, beginning with a Passover meal on the Wednesday. Limited residential places available.

To book and for more information contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk Tel: 0151 9491199

LIVE SIMPLY

Lent Week 4 leaflets with non-meat recipes and a prayer are available in the church porch.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS

Refreshments will be served after the 9:30am Mass at St Gregory's next Sunday. Please do come along and support our chosen charity which this year is Pancreatic Cancer Research.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

GALILEANS BLOOD SINNERS REPENT
 PERISH EIGHTEEN TOWER SILOAM
 GUILTY PARABLE FIG THREE



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

Sunday 23rd March - 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C - P. 169 (red) & P. 829 (blue)

REFLECTION

In our gospel today we are given an image to reflect upon. Christ presents himself as the gardener who patiently and humbly works in the situations of our lives to bring forth life and healing. In the parable we are told that the owner of an orchard wants a fig tree that is not bearing fruit to be cut down - yet the gardener intercedes on behalf of the tree and asks that he be allowed to cultivate the ground and fertilise it for a year to see if it will bear fruit and only then should it be decided whether to cut down the tree or not. It is interesting that the parable ends here – as listeners we never hear whether the fig tree owner said yes to this request, or what happened to the fig tree. This is intentional because by leaving it unfinished we are brought into the parable – it doesn't have a clear ending because we are given a choice and a voice to continue to write the next chapter of God's story. Jesus is telling us that in our lives, we too may experience times where everything seems dull and slow and we may not feel like our faith is bearing fruit or that God is near. But those times are never the end - God nourishes us with mercy and waits for us patiently. Just as in the story of the fig tree, our story is also not over and the next chapter can always be rewritten. The choice that God offers us is not the stark choice between repenting and perishing. God calls each of us by name, just as he called Moses, and he gives us the freedom to say yes to unique daily acts of mercy. He also calls us to find the holy grounds where God is revealed in our lives - whether that is through our devotions in church, in service to the poor or in our care for the earth. Our Lenten call to repentance is never a threat but a call to return to God's mercy. If we have been enjoying God's special treatment without giving anything in return then now is the time to respond to the gardener's patient care and begin to bear the fruit God has created us to produce. Life is wonderful but it is also precious and short and we must make the best use of every day that we are granted. We are each the fig tree in the parable. The Father owns the vineyard; the Son is the gardener giving us the ability to grow and the Spirit is the gifts that we have which will attract others. But it is up to us to choose whether to bear fruit!

ST GREGORY'S RC CHURCH

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

PRIESTS

Fr Graeme M. Dunne
 Fr Peter Murphy

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 16th March 2025

Gift Aid: **£82.60**

Loose Plate: **£289.81**

Standing Orders: **£186.25**

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

The retiring collection next Sunday will be for Nugent

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

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
Rose Anne Tighe 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

LENTEN SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

This year's service will take place on **Sunday 6th April 3:00pm** at St Gregory's, Weld Bank

EASTER TRIDUUM

Maunder Thursday: The Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30pm at St Oswald's, Coppull

Good Friday: The Passion of the Lord 3:00pm at St Gregory's, Weld Bank

Holy Saturday: The Easter Vigil 8:30pm at St Gregory's, Weld Bank

Easter Sunday: 9:30am at St Gregory's, Weld Bank (NB: No Mass at 6:30pm)
11:00am at St Oswald's, Coppull

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Stations of the Cross are celebrated in both parishes each week during Lent and are led by parishioners. Our grateful thanks to those who have volunteered to lead the prayers this year. If people wish to follow the devotions privately, resources are available in Church, but please do not remove them. The times for the communal celebrations are:

St Oswald's - Wednesdays at 6:00pm St Gregory's - Fridays at 6:30pm

LENTEN REFLECTION

All are welcome to join our Lenten Reflection each Tuesday evening during Lent at **6:00pm** in the Parish meeting room at St Gregory's, led by Fr Peter. Please do come along as we reflect and prepare ourselves for the sorrow of Holy Week and the joy of the Easter Season.

LENTEN APPEALS

During Lent we will be supporting Nugent and Lenten Alms.

30th March 2025 - Nugent or online at: <https://www.weare Nugent.org/fundraising/donate/>
Lenten Alms: via the purple box at the front of church.

Alternatively you can post your donations through the presbytery door, please mark your envelopes with the name of the respective appeal. Thank you.

The CAFOD Family Fast Appeal will remain open throughout Lent for your kind donations.

There are envelopes at the back of church or you can also donate online at:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent-Appeal>

SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'The Lord your God is with you wherever you go'

Joshua 1:9

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 23 Mar	9:30am	3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	Barbara Edwards Matthew Horbury (LD)	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		William & Mary Ratcliffe (F)	
SUN 23 Mar	11:00am	3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	The People of the Parish	ST OSWALD'S
Mon 24 Mar	10:00am	REQUIEM MASS	Frank Morris	
Tues 25 Mar	9:15am	The Annunciation of the Lord	LISCF	DEVOTIONS 1:00-2:00pm
Wed 26 Mar	8:30am	FUNERAL SERVICE	James Critchley (BR)	EXPOSITION 4:00—5:00pm
	1:30pm 6:00pm		Mary Sheila Burr STATIONS OF THE CROSS	
Thurs 27 Mar	11:30am	REQUIEM MASS	Dorothy Turner	DEVOTIONS 1:00-2:00pm
Fri 28 Mar	8:30am		Pauline Critchley (A)	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
	6:30pm			
Sat 29 Mar	10:00am		Geoff Giddins (LD)	
SUN 30 Mar	9:30am	4TH SUNDAY OF LENT	Shaun McGeown (A) Teresa Thompson & John Slater	LAETARE SUNDAY ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Shirley Taylor	YOUTH MASS
SUN 30 Mar	11:00am	4TH SUNDAY OF LENT	The People of the Parish	LAETARE SUNDAY ST OSWALD'S