

## A YEAR OF ENCOUNTERS

With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see [cafod.org.uk/encounter](http://cafod.org.uk/encounter) for more information, including online sessions on Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May to learn more.

## CONFIRMATIONS 2024

All the young people of our parishes who are to be confirmed this year are invited to attend a special Mass on **Sunday 19th May at 6:30pm** followed by pizza and an information session about the service afterwards. Confirmations will take place at St Gregory's on **Tuesday 25th June at 7:00pm**.

## PRAY IN MAY/ETHIOPIA APPEAL

Mary's Meals, who provide school meals to over 2.4 million children every day, invite you to join their Pray in May campaign. During the month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, we invite you to join us in praying for the hungry children who rely on our life-changing school meals, and for all the children and families around the world who live in poverty. Please visit <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/churches-and-prayers/pray-in-may>

## RENEW YOUR SPIRIT: A DAY OF CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

**Saturday 10th May 10am – 4pm** at The Irenaeus Centre, Great Georges Road, L22 1RD  
Join Irenaeus for a day of renewal as we invite the Holy Spirit to work among us and enlighten us. Guest speaker: Michelle Moran.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

VINE BRANCH FRUIT PRUNES  
WORD HOME PLENTY THROWN  
FIRE BURNT GLORY DISCIPLES



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

Sunday 28th April 2024 - 5th Sunday of Easter, 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](mailto:stgregory@rcaol.org.uk)

### WEBSITE:

[www.stgregoryschorley.org.uk](http://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 21st April 2024

Gift Aid: **£51.50**

Loose Plate: **£355.08**

Standing Orders: **£369.92**

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

## REFLECTION

The Gospel this Sunday presents us with the beautiful imagery of the vine and the branches. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. Without the nourishment, moisture and support offered by the vine, the branches wither and die just as our spiritual lives wither without a deep and sustaining connection to Jesus. This imagery invites us to consider the nature of the fruit we are called to bear. It's not merely about individual accomplishments but about contributing to the flourishing of the whole community, in all aspects of life, from personal relationships to work. Bearing fruit requires us to trust and draw strength from the Lord. And, just as the best fruit comes from careful pruning, so we, too, need pruning from time to time. This means letting go of what hinders our growth and embracing a process of spiritual refinement. We may have developed habits that are harmful in our lives, unwanted growths that sap our energy, and diminish our fruitfulness. When we listen attentively to the Word of God and let it take root in us, we are pruned to become stronger, healthier, and more fruitful branches of the true vine. As we reflect on today's readings, let us appreciate just how important being part of the Church is. Scripture refers to the Church as a structure with Jesus as the cornerstone, the apostles as the foundation, and us as its members are part of that structure. Yet, it is important to realise that Church is not merely a physical building but a structure of living, human beings. Jesus is not only the cornerstone but the life-sustaining vine through which each of us (the branches) receive what we need to produce fruit. Being 'religious' is more than having a personal relationship with God. Whilst that relationship is absolutely essential - just as we bind ourselves to the Lord at the same time we have to bind ourselves to all others who are linked with him. We are called to assemble and spread the good news to the whole world, to all the families of the nations as part of a living community of faith that stretches beyond time and physical space. Today, let us draw strength from our connection to Christ, the true vine, trusting that he will guide and sustain us in our journey.

### Please Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters Who are Sick

Fr Laurence Mayne - Dorothy Fairclough - Christine Zawistowicz - Paul McBeth - Baby Elmo Allan  
Sheila McGeown - Teresa Abernethy - Rita Compton - Shirley Langstrath - Jimmy Waddington  
Catherine - Paul Spedding - Susan Yates - Mary Langton

*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 Angela Helmn 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

### NEW SUNDAY MISSALS

From Advent this year, the new translation of the lectionary (scripture) is being introduced and so all our Sunday missals/missalettes will be out of date. New Sunday missals are currently being prepared by Catholic publishers. I propose to buy copies of the three year cycle in one volume for use in both parishes. If you would like to pay for a missal for use in the parish in memory of someone, a dedication would be placed inside the front cover asking whoever is using it that Sunday to remember in prayer the name of the dedication. If you would like to participate, it would be **£20** per dedication and there are some forms at the back of church for you to complete. In theory, these missals will be used by our parishioners for many years to come. If people wish to purchase a personal copy for their own use, this can also be arranged through the parish by submitting your request in writing to Fr Graeme.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Our children are coming to the end of their preparation for their First Holy Communion and they will be receiving the sacrament for the first time over the weekends of **8th/9th** and **15th/16th June**. Please keep them in your prayers over these final weeks.

### THE LIVE SIMPLY AWARD

Many thanks to those who helped with the wild flower bed dig last Saturday( especially the man with the wheelbarrow!). We look forward to watching the flower bed flourish and grow over the coming months.

### VOCATIONS - CAN YOU HELP?

Just a reminder, there will be a meeting tomorrow evening at 7:00pm in the presbytery at St Gregory's for anybody interested in becoming part of a ministry team in either of our parishes. There are plenty of opportunities to become involved and if you aren't sure what would suit you best, please come along and listen to representatives talk about their ministry and how it enriches their faith. All are welcome.

### SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'This is what He promised us - eternal life'

1 John 2:25

## MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 28 Apr	9:30am	5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Ann & Agnes Walsh (A) Sam Smith (A)	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Thomas Livesey (A & BR)	
SUN 28 Apr	11:00am	5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Christians in the Holy Land (EOHSJ)	ST OSWALD'S
Mon 29 Apr	10:00am	St Catherine of Sienna	Special Intention	Day for Europe
Tues 30 Apr	9:15am	St Pius V	Philip Compton (BR)	Day for Survivors of Sexual Abuse DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 01 May	8:30am	St Joseph the Worker	Karen Francis (A)	EXPOSITION 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Thur 02 May	9:15am	St Athanasius	William Ingram (A)	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 03 May	8:30am	St Philip & St James	EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	ST GREGORY'S
	9:15am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	ST OSWALD'S
Sat 04 May	10:00am	The English Martyrs	Brenda McGuigan (LD)	
SUN 05 May	9:30am	6th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Matthew James Jackson (BR)	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Paul & Angela McBeth (GWA)	
SUN 05 May	11:00am	6th SUNDAY OF EASTER	The People of the Parish	ST OSWALD'S