

## PEACE SUNDAY 2024

Peace Sunday will be held on Sunday 14 January and the theme chosen by Pope Francis is 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. Whilst this might seem a strangely technical theme, we know that we do need to think about the consequences of the advances in AI for peace and justice particularly as Governments across the world, including our own, wrestle with the ethics and consequences of significant and potentially dangerous developments in technology. Pope Francis' overriding concern is that artificial intelligence should be used in the service of humanity and the protection of our common home and not to further injustice and inequality or to fuel division and violent conflict. Whilst we make our contribution to the development of technology, we pray that all we create may contribute to justice and peace.

### ARE YOU CONSIDERING BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

If you are wishing to be received into the Church this Easter, would you please confirm with Fr Graeme as soon as possible as the preparation reflection will begin shortly.

### IRENAEUS COME AND SEE DAY - 13 JANUARY

The next Come and See Day at Irenaeus will be led by Pat Kennedy, who formerly worked with the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle in adult formation and training of the permanent diaconate and is now a member of the Emmanuel community in Hexham and Newcastle. The session will focus on 'The Power of Healing', and will be held on Saturday 13 January at the Irenaeus Centre, 32 Great Georges Road, L22 1RD. For more information, contact [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) or call 0151 949 1199.

### CEMETERIES

Please note: All Christmas wreaths/pots will be removed when dead or after the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (2nd February 2024)**. If you wish to keep any pots or wreaths, please remove them yourself. Any remaining 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.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

E	D	E	E	G	A	M	O	H	T
C	H	L	K	I	D	E	T	S	E
H	T	I	I	N	I	H	A	A	G
I	N	H	N	H	H	E	S	T	E
T	A	R	G	F	C	L	O	R	A
A	F	R	O	I	E	H	A	A	M
D	N	Y	L	A	L	T	A	S	O
E	I	M	D	R	S	E	R	R	H
S	K	E	T	A	D	B	D	Y	I
A	R	B	E	T	L	E	M	E	M

BETHLEHEM  
EAST  
INFANT  
KING  
STAR  
HOMAGE  
LEADER  
DATE  
CHILD  
DELIGHT  
GOLD  
MYRRH



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

Sunday 7th January 2024 - The Epiphany, 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 31st Dec 2023

Gift Aid: **£88.50**

Loose Plate: **£264.20**

Standing Orders: **£369.92**

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

### REFLECTION

Today we celebrate the great festival of light, the Epiphany of the Lord and the journey of the magi (the wise men) who followed from their home in the East, the star that they observed at its rising. As the Church, we remember and celebrate that Jesus who was born in the darkness of a stable is the light of and for the world. The word 'epiphany' means to make known or to reveal. The angels made known and revealed to the shepherds the joy of the birth of Jesus. In the same way, the star led these strangers from the East and revealed the same Jesus to them. The first reading from the Prophet Isaiah calls us to 'Arise, shine out Jerusalem because your light has come'. Through the birth of Jesus and today's wonderful feast, we are the people on whom a great light has shone. Traditionally, we are told that the shepherds did not remain at the stable after seeing Jesus, Mary and Joseph, but left glorifying and praising God, filled with the good news of the wondrous child. Just as the angels had proclaimed the good news to them, the shepherds in their turn shared their good news with others. In the same way, the visitors from the east, after they had given Jesus their gifts also left the stable. We are told that they did not go back to Herod but went home another way - we can only assume, that they too told everyone of what they had seen and heard in that small stable in Bethlehem. As we look upon the crib, we know we cannot stay there. Like the shepherds and the magi, we too are called to move away and take the light of Jesus with us. We are asked not only to admire the light, but to be people of light ourselves. As Jesus himself tells us, 'you are the light of the world and your light must shine.' The light of the Epiphany is given to us as a gift, that we cannot and must not keep to ourselves. Through the quality of our own daily lives and how we treat each other, we are called to make our families, homes, parishes and the wider community a better and brighter place for all people, especially those less fortunate than ourselves and those who are marginalised. May Christ our Light and the Light of Christ fill our homes, families and our parish communities today and always.

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

Sheila McGeown - Dorothy Fairclough - Christine Zawistowicz - Paul McBeth - Baby Elmo Allan  
 Fr Laurence Mayne - Teresa Abernethy - Rita Compton - Angela Helmn  
 Shirley Langstrath - Fr Jonathan Cotton - Catherine - Paul Spedding  
 Susan Yates - Brenda McGuigan - Barbara Edwards - Jimmy Waddington

*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 Kevin Fishwick 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

### MASS OF WELCOME

Today at both morning Masses we welcome the children who are to be baptised over the next few months. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they take this first step on their faith journeys.



### BAPTISMS

Baptisms take place at St Gregory's at 1:00pm on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and at St Oswald's at 12:15pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month. If you would like to book a baptism for your child, please see Fr Graeme after one of the Sunday Masses. Thank you.

### CRIB OFFERINGS

All our crib offerings go to Nugent Care, the Archdiocesan charity which supports vulnerable people. If you would still like to make a donation, please place it in the basket in front of the crib as after the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the crib will be taken down.

### SCHOOL OF PRAYER EVENTS - 9, 16, 23 JANUARY

For 3 Tuesdays in January, Irenaeus are running a 'School of Prayer' event. This exploration of prayer will reflect on different traditions of prayer and the history behind them. Each session will focus on a way of praying, and end with a chance to pray in that way. You will also be invited to use that form of prayer in your own personal prayer at home for that week. This is an ideal opportunity to deepen your prayer life and to share your experience with others. These sessions will take place at the Irenaeus Centre, 32 Great Georges Road, L22 1RD. For more information, contact [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) or call 0151 949 1199.

### SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away'  
*Song of Songs 8:7*

## MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 07 Jan	9:30am	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	Michael McFarlane (A) Jim & Kath Dunn	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Elizabeth Dearden (BR)	
SUN 07 Jan	11:00am	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	William & Ann Higham	ST OSWALD'S
Mon 08 Jan	10:00am	The Baptism of the Lord	David Woods (LD) Margaret Dearden (LD)	
Tues 09 Jan	9:15am		Paul & Marie Gallery	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 10 Jan	8:30am		Bernard Marmion Margaret Mary Ellison	
Thurs 11 Jan	9:15am		Private Intention	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 12 Jan	8:30am	St Aelred of Rievaulx	EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE
	9:15am			
Sat 13 Jan	10:00am	St Hilary	John Todd (BR)	
SUN 14 Jan	9:30am	2nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Emmy Moss Frank & Margaret Dearden	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Ainscough Family Harry Moss John Hayes (LD)	
SUN 14 Jan	11:00am	2nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	People of the Parish	ST OSWALD'S