

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

The dates have been set and booking forms are now available for First Holy Communion 2024 in both parishes. If your child is making their First Holy Communion this year, please collect a booking form from Fr Graeme after Mass. We will try to accommodate individual preferences but places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Thank you.

ST GREGORY'S WELD BANK 1774 - 2024

This year, St Gregory's will celebrate its milestone 250 year anniversary. Whilst the exact date of the Anniversary falls in November, in order to assist us in making this a whole parish celebration we will need to hold part of the event outside in the church grounds and for this we will rely on the help of the warmer weather! The date for this milestone celebration has therefore been set as the weekend of **27th & 28th July**. Further details to follow but in the meantime, please put this date in your diaries.

CONFIRMATION 2024

The website for registration for the Sacrament of Confirmation will remain open until the **15th March**. For those young people in Year 8 attending Catholic High Schools in the Liverpool Archdiocese, preparation and registration will be coordinated through the school. Any young people in Year 8 attending non-Catholic High Schools can register for Confirmation preparation at www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk. They will then be invited to take a part in a 'catch up' session that will try to cover what they have missed in the RE classes of our diocesan Catholic schools. There is a poster in the church porch which contains a QR code which candidates from non-Catholic High Schools can scan in order to register.

LIVE SIMPLY WEEKEND

There will be a Fair Trade stall & refreshments at St Gregory's during the 2nd weekend of Lent as we look again at how we aim to achieve the Live Simply Award. Further information to follow in due course.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

I	E	Y	H	E	A	L	I	N	G	LEPER
T	N	V	S	O	M	L	E	S	N	PLEADED
A	N	G	I	O	Y	E	T	E	I	HEALING
P	D	W	S	D	R	R	P	E	R	EVIDENCE
L	P	E	O	R	E	P	O	N	E	RECOVERY
E	S	N	R	T	V	N	E	K	F	TOWN
A	E	K	C	U	O	H	C	L	F	STRETCHED
D	N	H	O	H	C	U	A	E	O	HAND
E	E	R	E	P	E	L	C	N	N	TOUCH
D	E	R	E	D	R	O	S	H	D	KNEES
										CURED
										OFFERING



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 11th February 2024 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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

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 4th Feb 2024

Gift Aid: **£148.80**

Loose Plate: **£384.85**

Standing Orders: **£369.92**

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

REFLECTION

The message of healing continues in today's Gospel when we hear how a leper comes to Jesus and asks to be healed.

At the time of Jesus, as well as being physically sick, those who were lepers were also seen as sinners who were being punished by God. They were dismissed, despised, ignored and pushed to the margins of their community and family and excluded from all religious and social activities.

This encounter between the leper and Jesus is a bit out of the ordinary as it is the leper who takes the initiative and approaches Jesus. He knows the strict religious laws and yet he still breaks them - he doesn't keep his distance and he doesn't shout 'unclean' but instead walks right up to Jesus, falls on his knees and pleads with Jesus to cure him. In return, Jesus reaches out, touches and heals him. He not only

heals the leper, but he reaches out across all social and religious boundaries separating the clean from the unclean, breaking every religious and social restriction in order to identify with him. If we are honest with ourselves and God, there are parts of our own lives that we might call 'unclean.'

Perhaps there are things in our past that we have said and done which we are not very proud of - maybe relationships with our families and friends that are still broken and that still cause hurt after many years. Today's Gospel invites us to think about the choices we make as individuals. Jesus was

faced with a choice in today's Gospel - by choosing to heal the man with leprosy, he showed God's compassion for the sick and the outcast. The man knew that Jesus had a choice and that he could reject his request—he may have expected that Jesus wouldn't help him. The social taboos surrounding leprosy certainly gave him little on which to base his hope. In the person with leprosy, we see an image of all those in need

- the sick and the outcast of our world are watching us, to see if we as Christians will choose to extend a hand ourselves to others in need of healing and compassion. Today let us have the faith to look inside ourselves and find the humility to ask for God's help, so that we in turn may reach out to those who are most in need of our help.

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 - Brenda McGuigan - Sarah O'Connor - Angela Helmn
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 Denise Price 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

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.

DAY OF RENEWAL

There will be a Day of Renewal at St Clare's Church (Parish Hall), Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston PR2 9HH led by Gary Stephens (leader of the Prince of Peace Community & CEO of the New Dawn Walsingham) on **Saturday 2nd March 2024 from 10:00am to 4:00pm**. The day will begin with Mass at 10:00am. Tea & coffee will be available but please bring a packed lunch. For further information, please contact:
Christine Tel: 07745 009694 or Annette Tel: 07954 429333

IRENÆUS EVENT - LOOKING TOWARDS THE CROSS

Irenaeus are hosting a series of Lenten Evenings at the Irenaeus Centre on Tuesdays throughout Lent (5th, 12th, 19th & 26th March). The event is also available via Zoom Link. For further details please email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or call 0151 949 1199.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated in each Parish every week during Lent and will be led by Parishioners. If you would be willing to lead one of the sessions, please let Fr Graeme know asap so that a rota can be drawn up. Thank you.

St Oswald's - Thursday at 6:30pm commencing 15th February

St Gregory's - Friday at 6:30pm commencing 16th February

PRAYER CARDS FOR THE UKRAINE

Prayer cards for the Ukraine from Caritas Social Action are available at the back of church, please do take one.

SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Ask, and it will be given to you'

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 11 Feb	9:30am 6:30pm	6th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	John & Elizabeth Watmough (A) Mary Spedding (A) Bell & Donegan Families	ST GREGORY'S <i>Day of Prayer for the sick & those who care for them</i>
SUN 11 Feb	11:00am	6th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Alan Macdonald (BR) Frank Ogden (A & BR)	ST OSWALD'S <i>Day of Prayer for the sick & those who care for them</i>
Mon 12 Feb	10:00am		Kevin Fishwick (LD) Barbara Edwards (LD)	
Tues 13 Feb	9:15am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 14 Feb	9:30am 6:30pm	ASH WEDNESDAY	People of the Parish LISCF	Day of Fast & Abstinence
Thurs 15 Feb	9:15am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 16 Feb	8:30am 9:15am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	
Sat 17 Feb	10:00am	Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order	Special Intention (G&I)	
SUN 18 Feb	9:30am 6:30pm	1st SUNDAY OF LENT	Valerie Bretherton Bert Southworth James Monks (LD)	ST GREGORY'S
SUN 18 Feb	11:00am	1st SUNDAY OF LENT	People of the Parish	ST OSWALD'S