

ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

There will be an Advent Service of Reconciliation at St Gregory's next **Sunday 18th December at 3:00pm**. All are welcome to attend.

CAFOD ADVENT PRAYERS & RESOURCES

CAFOD 'Pray this Advent' and 'Prayers for Christmas' Daily Advent calendar reflections straight to your inbox if you sign up. See: <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources>

CHRISTMAS JOY TOY APPEAL

Thank you for your generous support for this year's appeal, your kind donations have now been collected for distribution to those families most in need this Christmas.

WARM SPACE

St Gregory's Presbytery will be open for tea/coffee and biscuits each **Wednesday morning from 9:00am - 11:00am**. All are welcome.

LIVING WATERS FOODBANK - CHRISTMAS APPEAL


Chorley Foodbank are urgently appealing for items for their Christmas food parcels which will be distributed to those families who are most in need. Items such as chocolate selection boxes, boxes of biscuits, tinned ham, tinned salmon, packets of stuffing, cranberry sauce & Christmas puddings etc. would be very welcome. Please leave your items in the box in the porch or at the presbytery. Thank you for your support.

SVP CHORLEY BUDDIES ARE RECRUITING!

An exciting vacancy has arisen at the SVP for a Manager to join our new Support Centre in Chorley. We are looking for an individual who will continue the work SVP Chorley Buddies has been doing to improve the lives of the people in the community and to co-create a series of programmes with volunteers and the local community. For further details, please see the noticeboard in the church porch.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

B	Y	D	P	R	O	E	P	H	S	PRISON
L	P	N	O	S	I	R	P	E	O	BLIND
I	P	I	T	L	O	U	H	P	C	LAME
D	A	L	A	P	E	T	I	P	L	LEPERS
N	H	B	H	A	O	P	P	Y	E	CLEANSED
P	W	E	H	L	L	I	E	P	A	LIFE
A	T	O	C	A	Y	R	F	R	N	HAPPY
L	S	I	M	C	P	C	I	I	S	CLOTHES
A	E	E	T	E	P	S	L	S	E	PALACES
C	L	E	A	S	N	E	D	E	D	PROPHET
										SCRIPTURE
										WOMEN




THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 11th December 2022 - Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

REFLECTION

Today we light the single pink candle on our Advent wreath as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday or Rose Sunday - 'Gaudete' meaning joy or rejoice. Children often know it as 'nearly there' Sunday - a time of great anticipation and excitement. As we take another step closer to our Christmas celebrations, there are signs of this all around us. The shops and streets are filled with more people and we are all busier than ever as we decorate and prepare our homes ready for the great celebration. But we are also asked to notice and pay attention to the Advent signs and symbols around us. The wreath in our church is coming to life as another candle is lit, making it glow brighter. Some of us will have set up small cribs in our homes - all these wonderful life-giving signs and symbols point and lead us to the great event of Christmas, the real source of our happiness, joy and celebrations. The opening antiphon for today's Mass gives us the message of our liturgy; **'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.**

Indeed, the Lord is near'. We are called to listen and really take in the words from the Prophet Isaiah; they are as radical and relevant now as when they were first spoken; **'Courage, do not be afraid; look, your God is coming, the Lord is coming to save you.'**

On this third Sunday of Advent, let us take these words to heart - *God is coming to save us*. As the remaining days before Christmas can be so busy, hectic and full of activity, perhaps we could all set a little time aside each day for a few minutes of prayer, stillness and silence - even ten minutes would be very beneficial to our health at all levels. This might help us to slow down and remember what we are actually getting ready to celebrate. The radio, television and the media have been saying to us for the last few weeks, *It's Christmas!* It's not....not yet. We still have a two weeks to go. We just need to be careful that in the midst of all the activity we don't lose sight of what these Advent days are really all about! So as we prepare for the birth of Our Blessed Lord, continue to decorate your homes, put up your cribs, sing your favorite Christmas carol or hymn and as you do....remember

Rejoice in the Lord always; indeed the Lord is near!

St Gregory's RC Church

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/St-Gregorys-Weldbank-177113458975673/>

Part of the ARCHDIOCESE of LIVERPOOL

Registered Charity No: 232709

Church Office Hours:

Mon/Wed/Thurs 09:00 - 16:00

Parish Administrator:

Christine Edwards

Safeguarding Rep:

Edward Brierley

WEEKLY COLLECTION w/c 4th December 2022

Gift Aid: **£88.85**

Loose Plate: **£370.20**

Standing Orders: **£186.25**

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

Please Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters Who are Sick

Hugh O'Daly - Paul McBeth - Baby Elmo Allan - Fr Laurence Mayne - Paul Spedding
 Joanna Hardiman - Teresa Abernethy - Angela Helmn - Shirley Langstrath - Margaret Dearden
 Sheila McGeown - Dorothy Fairclough - Paul Eastham - Derek Birchall - Paul Gallery
 Christine Zawistowicz - Catherine - Philip Compton - Emmy Moss - Margaret Dickinson

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 Tony Brown & Liam Smith
 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

COVID REQUIREMENTS

The following guidelines from the Archdiocese are now in place:

1. **Face-coverings** are recommended for those attending Sunday Mass who are vulnerable.
2. **Sanitiser** - please sanitise your hands before entering the church.
3. **Ventilation** - with the onset of the recent cold weather, the church doors will now remain closed during Sunday services.
3. **Social Distancing** - there is no designated section of the church with social distancing.
4. **Holy Communion** under both kinds will not be reintroduced at this time.

NB: Please be cautious and do not attend if you have any symptoms.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

All our Christmas Masses will be offered for the intentions of those on our Parish Christmas List and the People of the Parish. Christmas List forms are available at the back of church.

Please return your requests by **Thursday 22nd December** if you wish us to include your intentions. This year all Mass offerings will be donated to the charity 'DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal'.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2022

Christmas Eve (St Oswald's) 6:30pm 1st Mass of Christmas (with carols from 6:00pm)
 Christmas Eve (St Gregory's) 8:00pm 1st Mass of Christmas (with carols from 7:30pm)
 Christmas Day (St Gregory's) 9:30am The Nativity of the Lord
 Christmas Day (St Oswald's) 11:00am The Nativity of the Lord

NB: The Christmas Eve Masses in both parishes and the 9:30am Mass at St Gregory's will be ticketed events. Ticket request forms are now available at the back of church.

You can receive your tickets via email, post or collection.

Tickets will be emailed to you (as requested) or will be available for collection after Mass on **Sunday 18th December**.

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 11 Dec	9:30am	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Joe Robinson (BR) Tom Grady (A)	Gaudete Sunday ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Eluned Smith (LD)	
SUN 11 Dec	11:00am	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Annie Eastham (A) Elaine McGreevy (A)	Gaudete Sunday ST OSWALD'S
Mon 12 Dec	10:00am		Bernard Marmion James Critchley (A)	
Tues 13 Dec	9:15am		Doreen Haydock	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 14 Dec	8:30am	REQUIEM MASS	Our Lady of Lourdes	NO EXPOSITION TODAY
	1:30pm		Tony Brown	
Thur 15 Dec	10:30am		Olive Farnworth (F)	NO EXPOSITION TODAY
Fri 16 Dec	8:30am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	
	9:15am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	
Sat 17 Dec	10:00am		Mary Rainford (A) Fr John Smith (BR)	
SUN 18 Dec	9:30am	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Valerie Bretherton Cyril & Teresa Iddon	ST GREGORY'S
	3:00pm		SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION	
	6:30pm		Bryan Topping	
SUN 18 Dec	11:00am	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	The People of the Parish	ST OSWALD'S