

PARISH CHRISTMAS LIST 2023

The Christmas Masses this year will be offered for the intentions of those on our Parish Christmas List. There are some sheets at the back of church for you to complete. Mass offerings this year will be donated to the Catholic Community in Bethlehem.

ADVENT RETREAT WITH FR DENIS MCBRIDE C.S.S.R

Fr Denis McBride leads a FREE online retreat, based on his book *Stations of the Infancy*. To access the retreat, please go to: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/advent-retreat>

PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS WITH FR STEPHEN WANG

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of shopping for Christmas and join us in the meeting room at St Gregory's each **Wednesday evening throughout Advent 7:00pm - 9:00pm**
Week 4 - The Power of Prayer (20th Dec)

For further information please contact Michael Hall on 07548 305615

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities:

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.


<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2023>

THANKYOU

Sincere thanks to all our parishioners for your very generous support for the Christmas Joy Toy Appeal and also the Living Waters Foodbank Christmas Appeal. During these difficult times of financial hardship for so many, your support is gratefully appreciated by those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

S	E	Y	H	A	J	I	L	E	A	JOHN	WITNESS	LIGHT
E	L	W	N	O	H	I	L	S	T	LEVITES	ELIJAH	PROPHET
S	E	N	H	A	G	R	E	I	S	ISAIAH	PHARISEES	BAPTISE
S	V	N	A	H	H	E	W	T	S	WATER	BETHANY	JORDAN
T	I	O	T	R	S	T	O	P	E			
S	T	J	C	I	E	A	E	A	N			
E	E	T	R	E	S	W	E	B	T			
I	S	A	I	A	H	A	S	E	I			
R	H	T	J	O	R	D	A	N	W			
P	R	O	P	H	E	T	I	H	A			




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

Sunday 17th December 2023 - 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), 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 10th Dec 2023

Gift Aid: **£ 76.00**

Loose Plate: **£429.19**

Standing Orders: **£186.25**

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

REFLECTION

Advent is traditionally a time of reflection and penance in preparation for Christmas. But today, the 3rd Sunday, is an exception - today there is a relaxation of the penitential mood, a glimpse of the coming celebrations, an anticipation, a bit like a 'trailer' to the coming joy of Christmas. The pink candle is lit on our advent wreath and today's readings are full of joy and happiness. The first word of the Entrance Antiphon is 'Rejoice' or in Latin 'Gaudete'. This sentiment is repeated in the responsorial psalm: 'My soul rejoices in my God'. These words and the whole of the canticle are from the great hymn that Mary sang when visiting her cousin Elizabeth. It is a hymn of liberation for the weak, the poor, the marginalised, the hungry. The joy is because this promised liberation is going to become a reality through the coming of Jesus. This liberation is also reflected in the 1st Reading from Isaiah. 'The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me'. Jesus is filled with the Spirit of God. The Lord has anointed him 'To bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, a freedom to those in prison...' The coming of Jesus means all of these things: it is a time for rejoicing. For us too, this is the real meaning of Christmas and that is why we celebrate. This theme of joy is not explicit in the Gospel but it speaks about John the Baptist who came to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light but he came to bear witness to the light - to clear the way for the coming of Jesus, the true Christ and long-awaited Messiah. What has this to say to us today? It is our role to go before him, clearing the way so that he may come into the lives of other people. This is our evangelising responsibility. Like John the Baptist, we are not the Light but we are called, by our baptism, to bear witness to the Light by all we say and do. So, as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, let us look into ourselves - now is the time for us to count our blessings and to express our thanks for those blessings by joyfully using them for the benefit of others. If Jesus is to be born anywhere today, it will be in each one of us!

Please Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters Who are Sick

Sheila McGeown - Dorothy Fairclough - Paul Gallery - Christine Zawistowicz
 Paul McBeth - Baby Elmo Allan - Fr Laurence Mayne - Teresa Abernethy - Rita Compton
 Angela Helmn - Shirley Langstrath - Margaret Dearden - 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
 Derek Down 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

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES 2023

The Advent Service of Reconciliation will be held on **Sunday 17th December at 3.00pm**
 at St Gregory's, Weld Bank, Chorley PR7 3NW

St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 24th December - 4th Sunday of Advent - 9:30am
 Sunday 24th December - Vigil of Nativity - 8:30pm with carols from 8:00pm
 Monday 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord - 9:30am
 Tuesday 26th December - Feast of St Stephen, Patron Saint of Altar Servers - 11:00am
 Friday 29th December - EUCHARISTIC SERVICE - 8:30am
 Saturday 30th December - Holy Mass - 10:00am
 Sunday 31st December - Feast of the Holy Family - 9:30am
 Monday 1st January - Mary the Mother of God - 10:00am

St Oswald's Coppull

Sunday 24th December - 4th Sunday of Advent – 11:00am
 Sunday 24th December - Vigil of Nativity - 6:30pm with carols from 6:00pm
 Monday 25th December - The Nativity of the Lord – 11:00am
 Wednesday 27th December - Feast of St John - 10:00am
 Friday 29th December - EUCHARISTIC SERVICE - 9:15am
 Sunday 31st December - Feast of the Holy Family - 11:00am

NB: The morning Masses on Sunday 24th December in both parishes are those of the 4th Sunday of Advent and do not fulfil the Christmas obligation. The vigil Masses at 6:30pm (St Oswald's) & 8:30pm (St Gregory's) are the first Masses of Christmas but do not count as the Sunday obligation. There will be no Sunday 6:30pm evening Mass at St Gregory's on either Christmas Eve or New Years Eve.

SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'My Father's house has many rooms; I am going there to prepare a place for you'
John 14:2

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 17 Dec	9:30am	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Teresa Hamer (A) Fr John Smith (BR)	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Tom & Sheila Grady Margaret Dickinson (A)	
SUN 17 Dec	11:00am	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Alan Platt (LD) Elaine McGreevy (A)	ST OSWALD'S
Mon 18 Dec	10:30am	REQUIEM MASS	James McAleenan	
Tues 19 Dec	9:15am		Andrew Evans Olive Farnworth (F)	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 20 Dec	8:30am	FUNERAL SERVICE	Ronnie & Marie Higham James Critchley (A)	NO EXPOSITION TODAY
	10:30am		Derek Down	
Thu 21 Dec	9:15am	St Peter Canisius	David Woods (LD) Mildred Wilcock (LD)	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 22 Dec	8:30am			EUCHARISTIC SERVICE
	9:15am			EUCHARISTIC SERVICE
Sat 23 Dec	10:00am	St John of Canty	Cyril Iddon (A) David Warbis (A)	
SUN 24 Dec	9:30am	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Emily Moss (LD) Mary Lovatt	ST GREGORY'S
	8:30pm	Vigil of Nativity	Parish Christmas Intentions	With carols from 8:00pm
SUN 24 Dec	11:00am	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	William Fishwick (A) The Baggaley Family	ST OSWALD'S
	6:30pm	Vigil of Nativity	Parish Christmas Intentions	With carols from 6:00pm