

PRE-CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we approach the end of this season of Advent, I would like to thank all of the children for their carol services and for helping us get into the true spirit of Christmas which we start to focus on from this weekend. I hope you all have a prayerful last week of Advent and that the pressures of the Christmas season do not get too much for you!

God Bless you all, Fr Graeme

ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

There will be an Advent Service of Reconciliation at St Gregory's this afternoon 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, all of 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 after Mass on **Wednesday mornings from 9:00am - 11:00am**. All are welcome.

LIVING WATERS FOODBANK - CHRISTMAS APPEAL

A big thank you from Chorley Foodbank for all your kind donations of items for the food parcels which will be distributed to those families who are most in need this Christmas. Any further donations can be left in the box in the church porch. Thank you for your continued support.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

BETROTHED	CHILD	HUSBAND
HONOUR	DIVORCE	ANGEL
DREAM	WIFE	BIRTH
SON	PROPHET	HOME



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 18th December 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

REFLECTION

During the last few weeks, we have been surrounded by all the signs, sounds, symbols of Christmas; decorations, carols, trees, gifts and presents - these are all very important parts of our traditional festivities and it wouldn't be Christmas without them. But in today's first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we are told; *'The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means*

'God-is-with-us'. So let us not lose sight of this sign from God amidst all the other signs surrounding us in these remaining few days before Christmas. At this time, quite rightly, the general focus of our attention is on Mary herself who is not only central to the narrative of Christmas, but also to the history of salvation. God called and chose Mary personally by name to be the Mother of Jesus - in faith and humility she agreed to what was asked of her but neither asked for, nor looked for this great honour and responsibility. It was through her courageous act of faith that God breaks into our world and our lives.

Today's gospel also highlights another person through whom God worked; Joseph - like Mary, he too was called by name. He heard the word and message God had for him through an angel. Like Mary, he was encouraged with the words, *'Do not be afraid.'* In faith and humility, Joseph also said 'Yes' to what God was asking of him.

Like Joseph, we can all feel unworthy of the honour of welcoming Jesus into our hearts and homes. We are indeed unworthy, not because we have so little to offer, but because we have so little humility, faith and trust in God's goodness. God chooses ordinary humans to be part of his plan for the world. It is through Mary, Joseph and countless millions throughout history that God's kingdom is proclaimed and built. Today, each of us is called by God personally with these words:

***'I call you by your name, do not be afraid.
You are precious to me and I love you.'***

St Gregory's RC Church

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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 11th December 2022

Gift Aid: **£56.60**

Loose Plate: **£361.36**

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 - 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 Paul Eastham

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 today or from the Parish Office Mon/Wed/Thurs 9:00am - 4:00pm

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 18 Dec	9:30am	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Valerie Bretherton Cyril & Teresa Iddon	Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers ST GREGORY'S
	3:00pm		SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION	
	6:30pm		Bryan Topping Cyril Moss (A)	
SUN 18 Dec	11:00am	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	The People of the Parish	Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers ST OSWALD'S
Mon 19 Dec	10:00am		Catherine & Cecil De Lacy Bob Johnson Evan Critchley (A) Rita Devine	
Tues 20 Dec	9:15am		Paul Eastham (LD) John Calveley	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 21 Dec	8:30am	St Peter Canisius	NB: NO MORNING MASS	EXPOSITION 12:00 - 2:00pm
	9:30am	REQUIEM MASS	Paul Eastham	
Thur 22 Dec	9:15am		Bryan Topping William Fishwick (A)	EXPOSITION 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 23 Dec	8:30am	St John of Kanty	EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	
	9:15am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	
SAT 24 Dec	10:00am	1ST MASS OF CHRISTMAS	David Warbis (A) Lilian McNulty (LD)	Parish Christmas List Intentions & People of the Parish Carols from 6:00pm Carols from 7:30pm
	6:30pm			
	8:00pm			
SUN 25 Dec	9:30am	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	Parish Christmas List Intentions & People of the Parish	ST GREGORY'S
SUN 25 Dec	11:00am	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	Parish Christmas List Intentions & People of the Parish	ST OSWALD'S