

THANKYOU

A big thank you for all your cards, kind words, greetings and generous gifts, they are very much appreciated. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, peaceful and if not prosperous, at least sustainable New Year!

May God Bless you all throughout 2023.

Fr Graeme

CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

This year the Christmas Mass offerings of **£610.00** will be donated in your name to the charity 'DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal'.

St Gregory's - £465.00

St Oswald's - £145.00

PEACE SUNDAY: 15TH JANUARY 2023

This year, Peace Sunday will be celebrated on January 15th. Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will celebrate a special mass for peace at 11:00am at The Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. All are welcome to attend.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - 18th - 25th JANUARY

Resources for the week of prayer for Christian Unity can be downloaded at:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>

CEMETERIES

Please note: all Christmas wreaths and pots will be removed when dead or after the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (2nd February 2023). If you wish to keep any pots or wreaths, please remove them yourself.

Any ornamental pots removed from graves will be kept in the Sexton's office.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

WORD LIST:

F N Q H T
 C K A M S S E B G
 T I R I P S Y L O H D
 X F G S T T S U R T K I F
 J D T I H P Y B X K E S H
 T X C Z L F N J R O R M C P J
 R U K S H U V Z F D S G I E E
 P I H S E L P I C S I D P S S
 D I A M D N A H O V Z O L O U
 S Z L I Y O L R M S N C E J S
 H V V P O C X I V Z R G I
 P N O I T A I C N U N N A
 T Y Y U L E I R B A G
 O Y R T S I N I M
 U R H T G

ANNUNCIATION
 CROSS
 DISCIPLE
 DISCIPLESHIP
 FAITHFUL
 GABRIEL
 HANDMAID
 HOLYSPIRIT
 JESUS
 JOSEPH
 MINISTRY
 TRUST



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 1st January 2023 - Mary The Mother Of God, Year A

REFLECTION



Today, as we continue the sacred season of Christmas, we celebrate this important day in the company and presence of our Lady, the Mother of God. Mary is not only central to Advent and Christmas, she is also central to God's plan for salvation. From the moment of her conception, through her being called personally by God to be the Mother of Jesus and her final vigil at the foot of the cross, Mary is offered to us as the prime example of what it is to be a follower of Jesus as his disciple. In reality, the gospels don't actually give us a lot of details about Mary's life, all we have are fragments of the important things that happened to her. The gospel for today's wonderful feast is one of those gospels. On Christmas Day the gospel told us that shepherds made their way to the manger to see the new born child and his parents. The gospel today tells us that they hurried away from the manger sharing with everyone everything they had seen and experienced. It must have been an occasion that was full of excitement and perhaps even some confusion. But somehow, with all that what was going on around her, Mary treasured all these things in her heart. Wisely, she did not dismiss, deny or ignore anything that happened to her - instead, she accepted all that was taking place was part of God's plan for her and for the whole human race. Through grace and the gift of faith, Mary co-operated fully with what God asked of her; not just at her Annunciation, but each and every day of her life as she followed Jesus. This is Mary's greatness and her example that we are asked to follow in our own daily lives. Difficult though it can be sometimes to believe or accept, God does have a plan for each of us; no matter what happens to us. So today, let us ask ourselves - can we too follow the example of Mary and put our faith, hope and trust in God?

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 25th December 2022

Gift Aid: **£42.50**

Loose Plate: **£82.00**

Standing Orders: **£186.25**

Sincere thanks for your
kind and generous
Christmas Offerings of
£820.15

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

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 Margaret Dickinson
 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.

POPE FRANCIS RENEWS CALLS FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE

Earlier this week, on the feast of the martyr St Stephen, Pope Francis called on all Catholics to pray for those who have harmed them — and those persecuted — as he renewed his call for peace in the Ukraine and worldwide. He said: 'Let us ask the newborn Jesus for the newness of a heart capable of forgiveness: we all need a forgiving heart!

Let us ask the Lord for this grace: Lord, may I learn to forgive.

Let us ask for the strength to pray for those who have hurt us, to pray for those who have harmed us, and to take steps of openness and reconciliation'.

Pope Francis concluded with a prayer to 'Our Lady, Queen of martyrs' to 'help us to grow in charity, in love of the Word and in forgiveness'.

On this feast of Mary, the Mother of God, let us pray:

Mary, most holy Virgin and Queen of Martyrs, accept the sincere homage of my devoted affection. Into your heart, pierced by so many swords, do you welcome my poor soul.

Receive it as the companion of your sorrows at the foot of the Cross, on which Jesus died for the redemption of the world. With you, O sorrowful Virgin, I will gladly suffer all the trials, contradictions, and infirmities which it shall please our Lord to send me. I offer them all to you in memory of your sorrows, so that every thought of my mind, and every beat of my heart may be an act of compassion and of love for you. And you, sweet Mother, have pity on me, reconcile me to your divine Son Jesus, keep me in His grace, and assist me in my last agony, so that I may be able to meet you in heaven and sing your glories. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 01 Jan	9:30am 6:30pm	MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD	Thomas & Winifred Booth Mary & Joseph Kenyon Kath & Jim Dunn Harry & Doreen Ainscough Ken Wareing (A)	ST GREGORY'S
SUN 01 Jan	11:00am	MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD	In Thanksgiving (CR)	ST OSWALD'S
Mon 02 Jan	10:00am	St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen	Derek Smith Robert Warwick (LD)	
Tues 03 Jan	9:15am 1:00pm	The Most Holy Name of Jesus REQUIEM MASS	Neil Haydock Margaret Dickinson	NO DEVOTIONS TODAY
Wed 04 Jan	8:30am 10:00am	FUNERAL SERVICE	Bernard Marmion Louisa Rogers & Family Liam Smith	NO EXPOSITION TODAY
Thur 05 Jan	10:30am 6:30pm	REQUIEM MASS THE EPIPHANY	Mary Spear Thomas Martland (A)	EXPOSITION 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 06 Jan	9:15am 9:30am	THE EPIPHANY	EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE HOLY MASS	HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
Sat 07 Jan	10:00am	St Raymond of Penyafort	Elizabeth Dearden (BR) Michael McFarlane (A)	
SUN 08 Jan	9:30am 6:30pm	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Margaret Wrennall (A) William & Anne Higham (A) Tony Brown (LD) Deceased members of the Walmsley & McNally families	ST GREGORY'S
SUN 08 Jan	11:00am	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Marie Gallery	ST OSWALD'S