

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

At a time when we celebrate the birth of 'The Prince of Peace' in the humble stable at Bethlehem we cannot but be aware of the destruction and hardship all around us. That said it is important that we continue to place our trust in God and work together to build a world where all people can live with dignity and in safety. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for the witness you give and the support I have received.

I look forward to the coming year with joy and hope for a better future.

May God Bless you all. *Fr Graeme*

## 800<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRIB

This year marks the 800th Anniversary of the First Nativity Crib, created by St Francis of Assisi in Greccio in Italy in 1223. To mark this special anniversary, and to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, we pray 'a child's prayer' at Christmas. *'Dear Jesus, at this time of year, we picture you in the stable at Bethlehem, with Mary and Joseph, a picture of peace and family love, surrounded by the animals and adoring shepherds. We pray that the peace you brought into the world on that first Christmas night will return to our world, and the light of your guiding star will lead us all one day to be with you in Heaven. Amen.'*

*Prayer by Michael Byrne KGCHS Lieutenant for England & Wales, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem*

## A MESSAGE FROM ST GREGORY'S SVP

The Parish SVP would like to thank all parishioners for their generosity throughout the year which has enabled them to provide help and support to many within our community.

Please note, there will be no monthly SVP collection in January.

## CHRISTMAS POSTERS

There are some Christmas posters available at the back of church.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

ANGEL	GABRIEL	JOSEPH
MARY	REJOICE	SON
LORD	JESUS	CHILD
ELIZABETH	BARREN	HANDMAID



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



Sunday 24th December 2023 - 4th Sunday of Advent, 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 17th Dec 2023

Gift Aid: **£132.03**

Loose Plate: **£662.97**

Standing Orders: **£186.25**

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

## REFLECTION

Advent can often lose its focus and get forgotten because of all the other things that demand our attention at this time of the year. The readings on this, the 4th Sunday of Advent give us an opportunity to take Christmas seriously and with that comes a new vision. Today many of us seek fulfilment and happiness through 'doing our own thing'. We sometimes believe that happiness lies in having no commitments, no one to answer to, nobody else's problems to solve – no duty! But there can be a lot of selfishness in the 'do your own thing' approach. It often means taking the easiest path in the belief that this is the road to true happiness – in reality it's more likely to lead to unhappiness! True happiness and fulfilment are more likely to be found in the acceptance of duty or to be exact, in the loving acceptance of duty. In this Mary gives us a great example. She didn't say to the angel, 'Sorry, but I have my own plans. I want to do my own thing.' Instead she said, 'It's not what I want, but what God wants that matters - let what God wants be done to me.' Mary made a complete gift of herself to God, and accepted the task he gave her and even though she didn't understand all the implications of it, she knew that God would give her all the help she needed.

She trusted so deeply in God that she was open to all possibilities and gave up control over her future and let God define her life. Life imposes a lot of duties on us all. Besides duties to ourselves, we have duties to others, and duties to God. Where would the world be if we only thought of ourselves, and insisted on doing our own thing all the time? If we choose to accept duty lovingly and say 'Yes' as Mary did, we may not find happiness and fulfilment in the eyes of the world, but we will certainly find it in the eyes of God. All God asks is that we follow Mary's example and say 'Yes' - in our families, in our community and in our world. Just as God called and chose Mary, God calls and chooses each of us today. Mary gave life to Jesus and shares him with the world. We too are called and asked to follow her faithful example, through our own daily lives. Through what we say and do, may each of us bring Jesus into our needy world of today.

**Please Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters Who are Sick**

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

**St Gregory's Weld Bank**

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

**St Oswald's Coppull**

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

**PLEASE NOTE THE ALTERATIONS TO MASS TIMES AND VENUES  
 NEXT WEEK**

**CEMETERIES**

All Christmas wreaths/pots will be removed when dead or after the **2nd Feb 2023**.  
 Any ornamental pots removed from graves will be kept in the Sexton's office for 4 weeks  
 after which they will be disposed of. Thank you.

**SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

'Great peace have those who love Your law'  
*John 14:2*

**MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS**

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
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
Mon 25 Dec	9:30am	The Nativity of the Lord	Parish Christmas Intentions	ST GREGORY'S
Mon 25 Dec	11:00am	The Nativity of the Lord	Parish Christmas Intentions	ST OSWALD'S
Tues 26 Dec	11:00am	St Stephen	Altar Servers	ST GREGORY'S
Wed 27 Dec	10:00am	St John	Cyril Moss Fr G. Britt	ST OSWALD'S
Thu 28 Dec	NO SERVICES TODAY			
Fri 29 Dec	8:30am	St Thomas Becket of Canterbury	EUCHARISTIC SERVICE	
	9:15am		EUCHARISTIC SERVICE	
Sat 30 Dec	10:00am		Emmy Moss (LD) Francis Meredith (A)	
SUN 31 Dec	9:30am	Feast of the Holy Family	Thomas & Winifred Booth Joseph & Marie Kenyon	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		NO EVENING MASS	
SUN 31 Dec	11:00am	Feast of the Holy Family	The People of the Parish	ST OSWALD'S