

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Clare Meredith & David Critchley who are to be awarded the Benemerenti Medal for their long and exceptional service to the Catholic Church. The awards will be conferred by Bishop Tom Neylon at a special celebration Mass on **Wednesday 3rd May at 7:00pm** at St Gregory's, Weld Bank. All are welcome to attend.

**MASS OF WELCOME**

Next Sunday at both morning Masses we welcome the children who are to be baptized over the next few months. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they take the first step on their faith journeys.

**SPONSOR A WHEELCHAIR APPEAL**

To coincide with their centenary, the Lourdes Pilgrimage group are hoping to fund a number of new wheelchairs and are appealing for sponsorship. The sponsorship could be in memory of someone who has died, or on behalf of a parish, family or organisation. The cost of a sponsored wheelchair is £400 to include an engraved plaque with the name of your chosen individual or group and a fitted seatbelt - those people would then be part of the Lourdes journey both this year and for many more years to come. If you would like to make a donation towards a Parish sponsored wheelchair, please put your donation in an envelope labelled 'Wheelchair Appeal' and place it in the bucket at the back of church.

**KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA**

The Knights of St Columba is the largest Order of Catholic laymen in the UK which has been serving the Church and our communities for over 100 years. Anybody who would like help fundraise for charitable causes, to have a purpose in life and to make friends is invited to join them. To find out more, please contact **Andrew Fowler on 07914 751020** or **Cuthbert Culshaw on 07802 473504** or go to: [www.ksc.org.uk](http://www.ksc.org.uk)

**CHILDREN'S CORNER**

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

- SHEEPFOLD    THIEF    BRIGAND
- SHEPHERD    FLOCK    GATEKEEPER
- STRANGER    PARABLE    PASTURE
- STEAL    KILL    LIFE



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

Sunday 30th April 2023 - 4th Sunday of Easter, Year A

**REFLECTION**

Today is known as Good Shepherd Sunday and is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations - a day when we are called to follow Jesus as his disciples. In today's Gospel from St John, Jesus uses the image of the shepherd to describe himself and his relationship with us. At the time of Jesus, shepherds were a part of daily life for many people. When Jesus used the image and symbol of the shepherd, the people to whom he was speaking would have understood what he was talking about immediately. But what does the image of Jesus the shepherd mean for us today? While sheep all look the same to us, a shepherd knows each of his sheep individually. When a shepherd calls a sheep, the sheep recognises his voice and responds and just as the shepherd knows the sheep, the sheep knows and trusts the shepherd. The shepherd guides and protects the sheep and the sheep go where the shepherd leads them. We are not sheep, but Jesus knows and loves each of us as individuals, both personally and intimately. If a shepherd cares for his sheep with such great love and devotion, how much more does our heavenly Father love and care for each of us? Jesus does not force us to listen to his voice when he calls us but invites us to follow him freely. The choice of whether or not to respond is up to us. We may take our time in responding, but Jesus will never stop calling us or waiting for us to respond. Jesus does not offer us not only the fullness of life; he offers us the fullness of *his* life. As we continue our journey through Easter in preparation for the celebration of Pentecost, may we all find the courage to take the steps we need to take to be a true follower of Jesus. When Jesus calls us by our name, may we answer in faith and gratitude with fullness of heart and may we always follow where he leads us. Jesus came so that each of us may have life and have it to the full. That fullness of life is offered to us here and now, not some time in the future!

**ST GREGORY'S RC CHURCH**

Weldbank Lane  
Chorley, Lancs  
PR7 3NW  
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**PARISH PRIEST**

Fr Graeme M. Dunne

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**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:**

Awaiting Appointment

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

w/c 23rd April 2023

Gift Aid: **£52.50**

Loose Plate: **£403.31**

Standing Orders: **£186.25**

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

*The retiring collection next week will be taken by the SVP.*

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

Sheila McGeown - Dorothy Fairclough - Derek Birchall - Paul Gallery - Christine Zawistowicz  
 Paul McBeth - Baby Elmo Allan - Fr Laurence Mayne - Emily Moss  
 Teresa Abernethy - Angela Helmn - Shirley Langstrath - Margaret Dearden  
 Catherine - Paul Spedding - Baby Jonah Phillipson

*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  
 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

### PARISH CELEBRATION 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Our Annual Parish celebration this year will rightly be combined with a celebration of Mgr McKenna's 60 years of dedicated ministry to the church. Allowing for his personal guests means that places are slightly limited compared with other years. However, an invite to all parishioners is extended and places will be allocated on a first come basis.

Unfortunately, because of the nature of the celebration and the limitation on numbers, for this year only, children under 16 years of age will not be able to attend.

If for any reason you are unable to come to this event, there are other celebrations to look forward to in July and August.

God Bless!

Fr Graeme

### WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Hodkinson & Christopher Jones** who are to be married at St Gregory's this afternoon. We wish them every blessing as they begin their married life together.



### PRAYERS FOR THE CORONATION

There are some prayer cards for the Coronation of King Charles III at the back of church which have been published by the Catholic Bishops Conference. Please do take one.

Both Sunday Masses next weekend will be Masses in Celebration of King Charles Coronation.

### THANKYOU FROM THE SVP

Thank you for your kind and most generous offerings in April of **£263.63**

### THANK YOU

Sincere thanks for your very generous response to the two recent CAFOD Appeals

**Earthquake Appeal - £1298.99 (St Gregory's) & £875.80 (St Oswald's)**

**Family Fast - £255.35 (St Gregory's) & £200 (St Oswald's)**

## MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 30 Apr	9:30am	4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Jim & Kath Dunn Hugh O'Daly (LD)	ST GREGORY'S
	1:00pm	WEDDING SERVICE	Elizabeth Hodkinson & Christopher Jones	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS
	6:30pm		People of the Parish	
SUN 30 Apr	11:00am	4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	William Ingram (A) Philip Compton (BR) William & Ann Higham (BR)	ST OSWALD'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS
Mon 01 May	10:00am	St Joseph the Worker	Bernard Marmion Karen Francis (A)	
Tues 02 May	9:15am	St Athanasius	Michael Crook (LD)	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 03 May	7:00pm	St Philip & St James	CELEBRATION MASS & BENEMERENTI AWARDS	EXPOSITION 10:00am - 2:00pm
Thur 04 May	9:15am	The English Martyrs	Sylvester Woods (F) William & Mary Ratcliffe (F)	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fr 05 May	8:30am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	
	9:15am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	
Sat 06 May	10:00am		Pauline Critchley (LD) For a safe operation	
SUN 07 May	9:30am	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Kathleen & Paul Green Philip Barton (BR)	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm	Coronation of King Charles	Baby Jonah Phillipson	MASS OF WELCOME
SUN 07 May	11:00am	5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Coronation of King Charles	Fr Martin Peyton	ST OSWALD'S MASS OF WELCOME