

CAFOD - ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR

The CAFOD Advent calendar of daily prayer and reflection offers an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. You can sign up to receive daily reflections straight into your in-box at: <https://cafod.ork.uk/pray/advent-calendar>

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

Father Denis McBride leads a FREE online retreat, based on his book *Stations of the Infancy*. Fr Denis will read twelve of the fourteen episodes chosen from the Infancy Narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. 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** for video presentation and discussion.

Week 1: Search for Happiness (29th Nov); Week 2: A God who Speaks (6th Dec);
Week 3: The Bible (13th Dec); Week 4 - The Power of Prayer (20th Dec)
For further information please contact Michael Hall on 07548 305615

PEBBLE POOL

From the beginning of Advent, our Pebble Pool Devotion will be reintroduced now that the severity of Covid is over. At the end of each week, devotions will be placed on the altar at the Saturday morning Mass and your prayers will be offered up.

LIVING WATERS FOODBANK - CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Chorley Foodbank are urgently appealing for treats for their Christmas food parcels which this year will be distributed to those families who are most in need. As well as the normal food items, other items such as chocolate selection boxes, boxes of biscuits, tinned ham, tinned salmon, packets of stuffing, cranberry sauce & Christmas puddings etc. would be very welcome. Thank you for your continued support.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

GUARD	AWAKE	ASLEEP
ABROAD	HOME	SERVANTS
TASK	EVENING	MIDNIGHT
DAWN	COCKCROW	KNOW



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 3rd December 2023 - 1st Sunday of Advent, Year B

REFLECTION

Today we begin the great season of Advent, a time of preparation for the birth of Christ and the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. In today's Gospel, St Mark reminds us that Advent is about more than just our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas - today we are also challenged to prepare ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the faithful in St Mark's community, we must also stay alert and be ready. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man. Scholars believe that St Mark's

Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70, a time when Christians were living in difficult social and political times as they began to face persecution as followers of Jesus. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering. The First Reading today from the prophet Isaiah was written at the time when the Jewish people were up in Babylon and praying to God that they would be able to return to their own country and rebuild their temple and once again be at peace in their own homes.

It was a desperate time because they were enslaved and many felt that God had abandoned them. So too, many of us may feel abandoned by God during difficult and challenging times in our lives. But just like the Jewish people, we must have hope – hope in the word of God. And the word of God is, 'I have never left you. I am with you. I am more bright as a candle that shines in the darkness in your life....' but we know that a candle on its own only shows its true value in darkness. We don't put candles around with all the lights on - it's only when we turn the lights off that a candle begins to glow and give us hope. So, in the same way that we try our best to prepare ourselves for many future things - our next holiday, our children's education, our retirement, let us remember that through good times and bad times, we are called to be just as attentive and alert to the coming of the Son of Man and may the candle that shines in the darkness give us hope.

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 26th Nov 2023

Gift Aid: **£55.90**

Loose Plate: **£393.14**

Standing Orders: **£186.25**

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

The retiring collection today will be taken by the SVP

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
 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 Stephen Parker & Joan Flintoff 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

SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR MIGRANTS

Today, the Church commemorates St Francis Xavier, a day also chosen by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People to mark World Migration Day. Let us pray for our society, may it always welcome the stranger and for those countries from which asylum seekers and refugees have fled, may all work together for peace and justice.

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

SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds;
 and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened'

Matthew 7:8

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 03 Dec	9:30am	1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Joan Parker (LD) John & Elizabeth Watmough (A)	ST GREGORY'S Day of Special Prayer for Migrants
	6:30pm		Pauline Clayton (LD)	
SUN 03 Dec	11:00am	1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT	The People of the Parish	ST OSWALD'S Day of Special Prayer for Migrants
Mon 04 Dec	10:00am	St John Damascene	Margaret Mary Ellison Tony Brown (A)	
Tues 05 Dec	9:15am	St John Almond	Mgr Leo Alston Mary Baggaley (LD)	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 06 Dec	8:30am	St Nicholas	Bernard Marmion Joan Parker (LD)	EXPOSITION
Thu 07 Dec	9:15am	St Ambrose	Thomas Gerard (F)	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 08 Dec	8:30am	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	
	9:15am			
Sat 09 Dec	10:00am	St John Diego Cuahtlatoatzin	Mildred Wilcock (LD) David Woods (LD)	
SUN 10 Dec	9:30am	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Joe Robinson (BR) Valerie Bretherton	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Joan & Geoff Parker Peter Evans	
SUN 10 Dec	11:00am	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Annie Eastham (A) Paul Eastham (A)	ST OSWALD'S