

PRISONERS SUNDAY 2023

Today is Prisoners' Sunday, a national day of prayer and action for prisoners and their dependents as marked by the Catholic Church and across the Christian denominations. It is a day to direct our thoughts and prayers to prisoners, their families and children. Prisoners' Sunday is the time to reflect on how we as individuals, as a Church and as a community are serving those affected by imprisonment. It also marks the first day of the ecumenical Prisons Week, a week of prayer which raises awareness of issues faced by those affected by the criminal justice system. Prisoners' families, prisoners and people with previous convictions often find themselves on the margins of society due to the social stigma associated with imprisonment. They are often forgotten or come lower down on the list of causes to 'hold a hand out to'. But St Matthew's Gospel reminds us of our duties towards them:

'I was in prison and you came to see me' (Matthew 25: 36)

AFTERNOON TEA IN AID OF MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

St Gregory's will be hosting an afternoon tea on **Saturday 14th October at 2:30pm** to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Tickets for this event are £7 each (or £11 to include a glass of fizz) and are available from St Gregory's presbytery or Tel: 01257 262462.

Any donations of raffle prizes would be very gratefully received. There will also be refreshments served after the 9:30am Mass next Sunday with all donations going to MCS.

FAMILY FORGE - APPEAL FOR BICYCLES

The Family Forge is a registered charity based in Skelmersdale on the edge of the Merseyside Region. Skelmersdale houses a significant share of the regions' allocation of asylum seekers and refugees. The Family Forge group are engaged in work to support family life through education of people from many nationalities, cultures and religions, including families, married and single men and women. They are currently appealing for unwanted bicycles so if you find you have one that you don't need any more, please do get in touch with them:

Email: info@familyforge.org or FB: [family forge](https://www.facebook.com/familyforge) or Website: www.familyforge.org

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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PARABLE
LANDOWNER
WINEPRESS
TOWER
VINTAGE
PRODUCE
RESPECT
HEIR
WRETCHES
SEASON
STONE
FRUIT



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 8th October 2023 - 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

REFLECTION

If you were to ask somebody to do something and they didn't do it, you might very well give them a second chance. If they failed to do it the second time, your patience might just be stretched a little bit. You could decide to ask them a third time, but if they were to fail again, you would definitely give up on them! Thankfully, our ways are not God's ways. Our God is a God of surprises and second chances and clearly has more patience with us than we have with ourselves and each other! The first reading and the gospel this Sunday both use the image of the vineyard to speak to us about the patience and generosity of God. Jesus tells the chief priest and the elders a parable. The owner of the vineyard sends workers into his vineyard to collect the harvest. However these poor servants don't receive a very positive welcome. The owner then sends more workers into the vineyard but sadly these workers are treated in much the same way. Lastly, the owner decides to send his own son in the hope and belief that they will treat him with some respect. Alas, his hope is ill placed; they kill his son. It comes as no surprise to us, that the owner of the vineyard represents God and his son is Jesus Christ.

Also very clear in the parable, is that those who killed the servants and the owners son are Scribes, Pharisees and the elders who would have loved nothing better than to lay their hands on Jesus there and then and do away with him. In fact they wouldn't have very long to wait before they would do away with Jesus permanently. But this, like all the parables, is held up to us today so that we can see ourselves in it and learn from it. Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God offers the chance to reap an endlessly abundant harvest of love, mercy and forgiveness. They are offered to us freely out of love. Like those in the gospel, we have to choose freely whether to accept or decline God's generous offer. We are the tenants today and God has certain expectations of us.

God looks to us to produce the fruits of love, mercy, compassion and the values of the Kingdom of God. The burning question from this parable for us today is simple but challenging; what sort of fruits and harvest are we producing today though our ordinary daily lives as followers of Jesus?

ST GREGORY'S RC CHURCH

Weldbank Lane
Chorley, Lancs
PR7 3NW

Tel: 01257 262462

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:

Waiting Appointment

WEEKLY COLLECTION

w/c 1st Oct 2023

Gift Aid: **£98.00**

Loose Plate: **£358.50**

Standing Orders: **£186.25**

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

There is a collection box at the back of church for your Harvest Fast envelopes

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 - Emily Moss - Teresa Abernethy
 Angela Helmn - Shirley Langstrath - Margaret Dearden - Fr Jonathan Cotton
 Catherine - Paul Spedding - Susan Yates - Brenda McGuigan - Barbara Edwards

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 David Gary Hardman 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

ANNUAL MASS COUNT - WEEK 3

As part of the pastoral statistics that we compile every year, the total number attending Mass in each parish will be recorded over four successive Sunday's.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

If your child is in Year 4 and not in any of our Catholic primary schools, please contact Fr Graeme as soon as possible to register your child for First Holy Communion and preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thank you.

SVP - APPEAL FOR NEW MEMBERS

Following last weekends appeal by the SVP for new members, there will be a follow up meeting at St Gregory's RC Church, Weldbank Lane, Chorley, Lancs PR7 3NW on **Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 7pm** and an online Zoom meeting on October 12 2023 at 19:00/7pm

Meeting ID: 867 5817 0654 Passcode: 349125 to provide further information. For further details, please contact preston@svp.org.uk

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNSHIPS

Castlerigg Manor (The Lancaster Diocese Youth Service) are looking for young Catholics aged 18-25 to join their Youth Ministry Internship Programme. The scheme lasts for one or two years and gives participants wide ranging experience, skills, training, and qualifications as well as the opportunity to work with a fantastic team based in the Lake District.

For more information contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

MOZART REQUIEM - SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 7:30PM

The choir of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral is joined by the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra to present a programme of music by Beethoven and Mozart. Mozart's sublime Requiem will be preceded by his Overture to the Magic Flute and Beethoven's 1st Symphony. Tickets (£15/10 concessions) www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral

WORD OF LIFE MEETING

The next Word of Life faith sharing meeting is this Thursday from 10:30am to 12noon at the parish house at St Gregory's. All are very welcome as we will also watch a presentation by Roger Hardacre about his recent pilgrimage on the Camino to Santiago de Compostella.

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

| Date | Time | Dedication | Intention | Notes |
|-------------|------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| SUN 08 Oct | 9:30am 6:30pm | 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | People of the Parish Rose Anne Gerard (F) | ST GREGORY'S DAY OF PRAYER FOR PRISONERS & DEPENDANTS |
| SUN 08 Oct | 11:00am | 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | Private Intention | ST OSWALD'S DAY OF PRAYER FOR PRISONERS & DEPENDANTS |
| Mon 09 Oct | 10:00am | St Denis & St John Leonardi | Bernard Marmion Valerie Bretherton | |
| Tues 10 Oct | 9:15am | St Paulinus of York | EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE | DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm |
| Wed 11 Oct | 8:30am | St John XXIII | EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE | EXPOSITION 10:00am - 12:00 |
| Thur 12 Oct | 9:15am 2:30pm | St Wilfrid REQUIEM MASS | EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE David Gary Hardman | DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm |
| Fri 13 Oct | 8:30am 9:15am | St Edward the Confessor | EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE | |
| Sat 14 Oct | 10:00am | St Callistus | Special Intention (JK) | |
| SUN 15 Oct | 9:30am 6:30pm | 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | Raymond Walmsley Frank Fitzpatrick (LD) | ST GREGORY'S |
| SUN 15 Oct | 11:00am | 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | Marie Gallery Annie Eastham (BR) | ST OSWALD'S |