

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024

Booking forms are now available for First Holy Communion 2024 in both parishes. If your child is making their First Holy Communion this year, please collect a booking form from Fr Graeme after Mass. We will try to accommodate individual preferences but places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Thank you.

ST GREGORY'S WELD BANK 1774 - 2024

This year, St Gregory's will celebrate its milestone 250 year anniversary. Whilst the exact date of the Anniversary falls in November, in order to assist us in making this a whole parish celebration we will need to hold part of the event outside in the church grounds and for this we will rely on the help of the warmer weather! The date for this milestone celebration has therefore been set as the weekend of **27th & 28th July**. Please put this date in your diaries.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY 2024

Thousands of women and men around the world face the same question: without a way of getting enough food throughout the year, how do you make sure your family can eat? This was the question that James, a fisherman in Liberia, found himself asking. His family hadn't eaten for two days. Their neighbours had helped them through hard times in the past, but they had nothing to give now. He risked losing everything to go out onto the water. Five fishermen a month were dying in storms at sea. Just like him, they couldn't afford the safety equipment needed to stay safe at sea and get a good catch. With our support more people like him will get the chance to feed their families safely throughout the year and to achieve their plans and dreams. There are envelopes at the back of church for your kind donations.

LIVE SIMPLY WEEKEND

There will be a Fair Trade stall & refreshments at St Gregory's next weekend. Please do come and support this event. There are also leaflets with hints & tips included with your newsletter this weekend as we look at more ways to minimise our impact on the environment.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

SPIRIT	WILDERNESS	TEMPTED
SATAN	WILD	BEASTS
ANGELS	GOOD	NEWS
CLOSE	REPENT	BELIEVE



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 18th February 2024 - 1st Sunday of Lent, 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 11th Feb 2024

Gift Aid: **£90.20**

Loose Plate: **£318.60**

Standing Orders: **£369.92**

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

REFLECTION

Our gospel this Sunday sees Jesus being led into the desert. The desert in Jewish history was very important because when God freed and saved the People of Israel from slavery in Egypt, they spent forty years in the desert. They wandered and sometimes got lost as they tried to find their way to the Promised Land. This was not an easy journey for them. At times they lost faith in each other and in God - they forgot the promise that God made to them; *'I will be your God and you will be my people.'* As they made their way through the desert, many would have stopped travelling and settled near the closest oasis or watering hole. Some others would have joined other tribes and religions that they met along the way. When they were at their lowest point, they made a statue of a golden calf and began to worship it. They had forgotten where they had come from, what God had done for them and had lost sight of where God was leading them. In St Mark's Gospel, the desert marks the beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan - the ultimate test was to be Jesus' final hours on the cross. It is no surprise therefore that we begin Lent with Jesus in the desert. Like his ancestors, he too is tried, tested and tempted. However, Jesus refused to give up or give in so quickly or so easily. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations which we face in our own lives. As we begin our Lenten journey, we need to recall and remember that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. When we are tempted, we need to follow the example of Jesus. He did not rely on his own strength but turned to God and asked for help. We will not be able to walk the Lenten journey alone. We need to realise that like Jesus, we too need God's help, support, guidance and protection. Whenever we feel tired or ready to give up or give in, we should turn to God for encouragement. We know that God will be with us during Lent as God was with Jesus when he was in the desert. God will never leave us on our own.

Please Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters Who are Sick

Fr Laurence Mayne - Dorothy Fairclough - Christine Zawistowicz - Paul McBeth - Baby Elmo Allan
 Sheila McGeown - Teresa Abernethy - Rita Compton - Shirley Langstrath - Jimmy Waddington
 Catherine - Paul Spedding - Susan Yates - Brenda McGuigan - Sarah O'Connor - Angela Helmn
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
 Francis Derek Threlfall 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

LENT 2024

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated in both parishes each week during Lent and will be led by Parishioners. Our grateful thanks to those who have volunteered to lead the prayers. If people wish to follow the devotions privately, resources will be made available in Church, but please do not remove them. The times for the communal celebrations are:

St Oswald's - Thursday at 6:30pm

St Gregory's - Friday at 6:30pm

CELEBRATING LENT WITH ART

Come along and join us in the Parish Meeting room at St Gregory's each Wednesday evening throughout Lent. With the help of a different painting each week we'll be reflecting on different stages of Jesus' journey leading to the events of Easter. Starting this Wednesday, 7:00 to 8:00pm and finishing the week before Palm Sunday. You can come for just one of the sessions or as many as you wish. All are very welcome to attend.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

World Day of Prayer is celebrated on the first Friday of March each year to encourage Christian women to engage in personal prayer and lead communal prayer within their mission auxiliaries and associations. To mark this occasion, the churches in Coppull are joining together to celebrate an ecumenical service at Christ Church, Charnock Richard on **Friday 1st March beginning at 6:00pm**. Refreshments will be served after the service.

All are welcome to attend.

LENTEN ALMS

Our Lenten Alms collection during this season of Lent will be offered to
 'The children of Gaza and the Holy Land'

SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'God is with you in everything you do'

Genesis 21:22

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 18 Feb	9:30am	1st SUNDAY OF LENT	Valerie Bretherton Bert Southworth	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		James Monks (LD)	
SUN 18 Feb	11:00am	1st SUNDAY OF LENT	People of the Parish	ST OSWALD'S
Mon 19 Feb	10:00am		Margaret Dearden	
Tues 20 Feb	9:15am		One who is sick	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 21 Feb	8:30am	St Peter Damian	Barbara Edwards (LD)	EXPOSITION 10:00am - 12:00 noon
Thurs 22 Feb	9:15am	See of St Peter	William Morris (A) Elaine McGreevy (BR)	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 23 Feb	8:30am	St Polycarp	EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	
	9:15am			
Sat 24 Feb	10:00am		Nora & Ken Ball David Porter	
SUN 25 Feb	9:30am	2nd SUNDAY OF LENT	Teresa Hamer	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Paul McManus	
SUN 25 Feb	11:00am	2nd SUNDAY OF LENT	Brian Finnigan (A) John Ormesher (A)	ST OSWALD'S