

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Today is set aside by the Church throughout the world as a special day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The special collection today will be for the Priests Training Fund. Please keep in your prayers all those currently in training for the priesthood and also remember all of the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead.

CONFIRMATIONS 2024

Confirmations for the young people in both of our parishes will this year take place at St Gregory's on **Tuesday 25th June at 7:00pm**. Bishop John Rawsthorne will preside. Please keep all our young people and their families in your prayers as they prepare to receive the sacrament and take this next important step on their faith journey.

PRAY IN MAY/ETHIOPIA APPEAL

Mary's Meals, who provide school meals to over 2.4 million children every day, invite you to join their Pray in May campaign. During the month of May, dedicated to Our Lady, we invite you to join us in praying for the hungry children who rely on our life-changing school meals, and for all the children and families around the world who live in poverty.

Please visit <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/churches-and-prayers/pray-in-may>

RENEW YOUR SPIRIT: A DAY OF CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

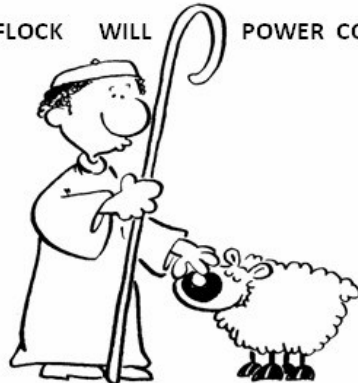
Saturday 10th May 10am – 4pm at The Irenaeus Centre, Great Georges Road, L22 1RD
Join Irenaeus for a day of renewal as we invite the Holy Spirit to work among us and enlighten us. Guest speaker: Michelle Moran.

This event is open to everyone, whether you're new to Charismatic Renewal or have been involved in the past, please do come along.

For more information and to register, please contact Moira at: moira@ireaneus.co.uk.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

S	R	L	F	O	W	O	R	D	S	GOOD	SHEPHERD	SHEEP	WOLF
N	P	E	E	H	S	C	E	S	C	VOICE	ABANDONS	FATHER	LEAD
O	D	P	W	D	I	R	H	D	A	FLOCK	WILL	POWER	COMMAND
D	E	E	A	O	I	E	T	N	T				
N	A	E	V	H	P	F	A	A	T				
A	L	S	C	H	F	I	F	M	R				
B	A	L	E	I	F	L	G	M	E				
A	T	R	I	O	O	D	O	O	G				
R	D	L	L	W	I	V	O	C	S				
S	R	E	T	T	A	C	S	D	K				



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Gregory's Weld Bank

Sunday 21st April 2024 - 4th Sunday of Easter, Vocations Sunday, 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 14th April 2024

Gift Aid: **£117.50**

Loose Plate: **£595.97**

Standing Orders: **£369.92**

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

The special collection today is for the Priests Training Fund.

REFLECTION

For those of us living in towns and cities, we don't often see many shepherds herding their sheep to market! In the Gospel this Sunday, 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 at that time 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 very much the same to us, a shepherd knows each of his sheep individually. When a shepherd calls a sheep, the sheep recognises the voice and responds. 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 the Lord knows and loves each of us as individuals.

No, we are not all the same but Jesus loves each of us personally and intimately. The Prophet Isaiah presents a beautiful image of this when he writes, *'I have called you by your name, you are mine, do not be afraid. You are precious to me and I love you.'* If a shepherd cares for his sheep with such great love and devotion, how much more does Jesus love and care for each of us? He does not force us to listen to his voice when he calls us, instead he invites us to follow him freely - the choice whether or not to respond is ours. We may take our time in responding, but Jesus will never stop calling us by our name; he will wait patiently until we do respond. Jesus does not call and ask us to follow him just for the sake of it. He offers us not only the fullness of life but offers us the fullness of *his* life. Jesus came so that each of us may have life and have it to the full. This fullness of life is offered to us right here and now, not some time in the future. As we continue our journey through the Easter season in preparation for the celebration of Pentecost, may each of us realise how deeply and personally Jesus loves us. When Jesus calls us by our name, may we answer in faith, gratitude and gratefulness and may we follow where he leads us.

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 - Angela Helmn - Mary Langton

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

NEW SUNDAY MISSALS

From Advent this year, the new translation of the lectionary (scripture) is being introduced and so all our Sunday missals/missalettes will be out of date. New Sunday missals are currently being prepared by Catholic publishers. I propose to buy copies of the three year cycle in one volume for use in both parishes. If you would like to pay for a missal for use in the parish in memory of someone, a dedication would be placed inside the front cover asking whoever is using it that Sunday to remember in prayer the name of the dedication. If you would like to participate, it would be **£20** per dedication and there are some forms at the back of church for you to complete. In theory, these missals will be used by our parishioners for many years to come. If people wish to purchase a personal copy for their own use, this can also be arranged through the parish. Please see Fr Graeme.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Our children are coming to the end of their preparation for their First Holy Communion and they will be receiving the sacrament for the first time over the weekends of 8th/9th and 15th/16th June. Please keep them in your prayers over these final weeks.

THE LIVE SIMPLY AWARD

A group of people met recently to coordinate our approach to achieving the Live Simply Award. Activities will include, Fair Trade Coffee mornings, recycling weekends and care for the environment. Both Parish communities will be involved in this project to a different degree. Please keep your eyes open for further information and support these events when they happen. Hopefully we will have achieved the Award within 2 years.

VOCATIONS - CAN YOU HELP?

We are currently looking for volunteers to grow our ministry teams in both parishes. There are plenty of opportunities to become involved whether as a Reader, Eucharistic Minister, Children's Liturgy, Choir, Altar Servers, SVP or the Teams who keep our churches clean & tidy. There will be a meeting on **Monday 29th April at 7:00pm** where representatives from each of the groups will talk about their ministry and how it enriches their faith. All are welcome.

SCRIPTURE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'My Father will honor the one who serves Me'

John 12:26

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
SUN 21 Apr	9:30am	4th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Joseph Kenyon (BR)	ST GREGORY'S World Day of Prayer for Vocations
	6:30pm		Bernard Marmion	
SUN 21 Apr	11:00am	4th SUNDAY OF EASTER	William & Ann Higham	ST OSWALD'S World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Mon 22 Apr	10:00am	REQUIEM MASS	Brenda McGuigan	
Tues 23 Apr	9:15am	St George	LISCF	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 24 Apr	8:30am	St Adalbert & St Fidelis	Brenda McGuigan (LD)	EXPOSITION 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Thur 25 Apr	9:15am	St Mark	Charlotte Fishwick (BR)	DEVOTIONS 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 26 Apr	8:30am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	ST GREGORY'S
	9:15am		EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE	ST OSWALD'S
Sat 27 Apr	10:00am	St Maughold	Valerie Bretherton Vincent Price (A)	
SUN 28 Apr	9:30am	5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Ann & Agnes Walsh (A) Sam Smith (A)	ST GREGORY'S
	6:30pm		Thomas Livesey (A & BR)	
SUN 28 Apr	11:00am	5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Christians in the Holy Land (EOHSJ)	ST OSWALD'S