

## FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today's Feast marks the conclusion of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. It's a feast of transition from Jesus' hidden life to that of His public ministry. We remember especially those who are to be baptized during the coming year and pray for them and their families.

## THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

In his Apostolic Letter 'Patris corde' ('With a Father's Heart'), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father proclaimed a 'Year of Saint Joseph' be marked from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021. The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of 'ordinary' people who by their actions resemble St Joseph, 'the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence', who nonetheless played 'an incomparable role in the history of salvation'.

Further information about the year of prayer can be found [here](#)

## GRAVEYARDS

Please note that all Christmas wreaths and flowers will be removed from the graveyards in the coming weeks. If you wish to keep anything, please remove it as soon as possible. Thank you.

## SCHOOLCHILDREN

Please remember and keep in your prayers this week all our schoolchildren, both those that are in school and those who are once again having to be home-schooled. Sincere thanks to all of the staff who are working tirelessly to keep our schools open at this time and to all the parents who are having to juggle work and childcare under such difficult circumstances.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

JOHN	POWERFUL	KNEEL
STRAP	SANDAL	BAPTISED
WATER	SPIRIT	HEAVENS
DOVE	VOICE	BELOVED



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

10th January 2021 - The Baptism of The Lord, 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/

### Part of the ARCHDIOCESE of LIVERPOOL

Registered Charity No: 232709

### Church Office Hours:

Mon/Wed/Thurs 09:00 - 14:00

### Parish Administrator:

Christine Edwards

### Safeguarding Rep:

Edward Brierley

### WEEKLY COLLECTION w/c 3rd January 2021

Gift Aid: **£38.00**

Loose Plate: **£130.36**

Standing Orders: **£180.48**

Online Donations: **£175.38**

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

### REFLECTION

Although many of us may have already taken down our Christmas decorations, liturgically speaking, the Christmas season hasn't ended yet - today is the last day. Holidays like Christmas are highlights of our year and provide us with moments of great grace. This grace renews us and prepares us for our return to the season of Ordinary Time and the continuing work of discipleship. Surprisingly, on this the last day of the Christmas season the Gospel does not tell a story from Jesus' childhood but instead, reveals to us Jesus' relationship to God - the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. The feast of the Baptism of our Lord presents us with the Third Epiphany or the manifestation of our Lord, the first being the Nativity of our Lord and the second, the feast of the Magi. The Baptism of Jesus was the moment when he passed from the relative obscurity of village life in Nazareth onto the public stage of his mission of proclaiming God's Kingdom. In today's Gospel we are brought to the banks of the River Jordan somewhere north of Jerusalem where John the Baptist had begun his ministry. We hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will initiate. John the Baptist says that he was baptised with water, but that the one who is to come will baptise with the Holy Spirit. Today's feast is therefore an invitation to reflect on our own baptism. We believe that through Baptism we are also made children of God. When we were Baptised, each of us was filled with the exact same Spirit and because we have been baptised into the life and ministry of Jesus, we too are called to action. Pope Francis tells us, 'Because of their baptism, all members of the People of God have become missionary disciples'. We cannot remain idle or indifferent to the needs of those around us or to the needs of the wider world; we are called to put our faith into action. The Holy Spirit we received at our baptism strengthens and encourages us when we need help. That same Holy Spirit also challenges us to do something rather than nothing!

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

Maureen Jackson - Madge Henshaw - Winifred Calderbank - Eileen Nuttall - Theresa Knowles  
 Kitty Ellison - Julie Hurley - Danny Harrison - Thomas Moss - Margaret Shaw - Hugh O'Daly  
 Baby Elmo Allan - Paul McBeth - Fr Laurence Mayne - Muriel Wilson

*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 Robert Turner.

*Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
 May they rest in peace. Amen.*

## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

### IMPORTANT LOCKDOWN UPDATE

The Archbishop in a letter to the priests of the Archdiocese wrote: 'Although I have circulated the recent government advice on the opening of churches, I want to emphasise that the final decision in this regard is yours. ... You have to consider your volunteers and stewards. You also have yourself to consider ... Now is the time to make wise decisions for the good of all. As priests I am very aware of how committed you are to your sacred ministry and that you will not leave your people without pastoral care.'

The following statement was also received from Public Health England 'As Directors of Public Health representing Lancashire, we are strongly advising all faith communities to pause communal prayer and worship during the lockdown period, to Reduce the possible spread of the new Covid variant. We recognise that this is a big request, but it will help to protect our communities at this critical stage of the pandemic. While we can't require our faith communities to do this, we are asking everyone to make this temporary change to protect each other. You have already made changes to your worship arrangements, but we are asking for caution at this difficult and concerning time. We're seeing increasing numbers of cases in Lancashire, and worrying increases in the number of people hospitalised from Covid, as well as increasing numbers of deaths.

In the light of these comments and the rising number of cases over 50,000 each day and over 1,000 deaths, a number of priests in the deanery have decided to suspend public worship from Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> of January, until the virus's impact starts to fall, and the vaccine has started to be more readily available, we hope in the near future.

This was a difficult decision to take but we feel it is the right thing to do and will be reviewed in 2 weeks' time. We thank you for your understanding and ask for your prayers.

**Masses will continue to be LiveStreamed at the advertised times.**

#### Weekday Masses:

Mon/Wed/Fri - 8:30am Tues/Thurs/Sat - 10:00am

#### Sunday Mass:

9:30am

Devotions will continue to take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm - 2:00pm

God Bless you and your families at this difficult time

Fr Graeme

## MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
Sun 10 Jan	9:30am	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Andrew Evans (A)	
Mon 11 Jan	8:30am 10:00am	FUNERAL SERVICE	John Todd (B) Joan Hart	
Tues 12 Jan	10:00am	St Aelred of Rievaulx	Peter Chapman (LD)	Holy Hour 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 13 Jan	8:30am	St Hilary	Christina Sudworth (LD)	
Thur 14 Jan	10:00am	St Kentigern	Valerie Bretherton	Holy Hour 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Fri 15 Jan	8:30am 10:00am	REQUIEM MASS	In Thanksgiving (Parish) Robert Turner	
Sat 16 Jan	10:00am	2nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Frank Dearden (B)	
Sun 17 Jan	9:30am	2nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	People of the Parish	
Sun 17 Jan	11:00am	PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO MASS VIA THE LIVESTREAM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE		