

ASH WEDNESDAY 2021

Unfortunately due to church closure, the normal distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday will be unable to take place this year. However, in line with guidance received from the Archdiocese, individual packets of ash will be blessed at the 8:30am Mass and will be available for collection from the presbytery between **9:00am - 3:00pm** together with a short prayer service leaflet so that people can take these home and administer the ashes for themselves in a prayerful way. For those who are unable to collect during this time slot due to other commitments, packs will be made available in a box outside church for you to help yourselves.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL

We may not all be in Church this Lent but we can still show our support to those families and communities who are most in need overseas by supporting CAFOD's Lent Appeal. You can make an online donation at: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day> or alternatively you can post your donation through the presbytery door (please mark your envelope CAFOD and include your Gift Aid number if you have one)

NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH 10th - 18th MARCH 2021

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th - 18th March 2021 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work.

The Mass is available on **Zoom** and **YouTube** via the parish website: stjosephsparish.co.uk and the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena where you will also find the Novena prayer leaflet.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| I | E | Y | H | E | A | L | I | N | G | LEPER |
| T | N | V | S | O | M | L | E | S | N | PLEADED |
| A | N | G | I | O | Y | E | T | E | I | HEALING |
| P | D | W | S | D | R | R | P | E | R | EVIDENCE |
| L | P | E | O | R | E | P | O | N | E | RECOVERY |
| E | S | N | R | T | V | N | E | K | F | TOWN |
| A | E | K | C | U | O | H | C | L | F | STRETCHED |
| D | N | H | O | H | C | U | A | E | O | HAND |
| E | E | R | E | P | E | L | C | N | N | TOUCH |
| D | E | R | E | D | R | O | S | H | D | KNEES |
| | | | | | | | | | | CURED |
| | | | | | | | | | | OFFERING |



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Gregory's Weld Bank

14th February 2021 - 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 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 7th February 2021

Gift Aid: **£185.00**

Loose Plate: **£445.00**

Standing Orders: **£186.25**

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

REFLECTION

The message of healing continues in today's Gospel when we hear a leper comes to Jesus and asks to be healed. At the time of Jesus, as well as being physically sick, those who were lepers were also seen as sinners who were being punished by God. They were dismissed, despised, ignored and pushed to the margins of their community and family and excluded from all religious and social activities.

This encounter between the leper and Jesus is a bit out of the ordinary as it is the leper who takes the initiative and approaches Jesus. He knows the strict religious laws and yet he still breaks them - he doesn't keep his distance and shout 'unclean' but instead walks right up to Jesus, falls to his knees and pleads with Jesus to cure him. In turn, Jesus reaches out, touches and heals him. Jesus not only heals the leper, but he reaches out across all social and religious boundaries separating the clean for the unclean - breaking every religious and social restriction in order to identify with him. If we are honest with ourselves and God, there are parts of our own lives that we might call 'unclean.'

Perhaps there are things in our past that we have said and done which we are not very proud of - maybe relationships with our families and friends that are still broken and that hurt after many years. Today's Gospel invites us to think about the choices we make as individuals. Jesus was faced with a choice in today's Gospel - by choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus showed God's compassion for the sick and the outcast. The man knew that Jesus had a choice and that he could reject his request. He may have expected that Jesus wouldn't help him. The social taboos surrounding leprosy certainly gave him little on which to base his hope. In the person of the man with leprosy, we see an image of all those in need - the sick and the outcast of our world are watching us, to see if we as Christians will choose to extend ourselves to others in need of healing and compassion. Today let us have the faith and find the humility to ask God's for help, so that we too may reach out to those who are most in need of our help.

Please Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters Who are Sick

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

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 Muriel Wilson

*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. This was a difficult decision to take but we feel it is the right thing to do and will be reviewed every two weeks

CHURCH CLOSURE UPDATE

The situation with church closures was reviewed on Monday 8th Feb at a meeting of the Deanery priests. It was decided that due to the current levels of infection there should be no changes at the present time. The situation will be reviewed again two weeks time.

We thank you for your understanding and ask for your prayers.

Masses/Devotions will be LiveStreamed and recorded at the advertised times.

Weekday Masses:

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

Sunday Mass:

9:30am

Devotions will 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 14 Feb | 9:30am | 6th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME | David Warbis (LD) Bryan Dougan (A) | Day for the Unemployed |
| Sun 14 Feb | NO 11:00am MASS | ALL MASSES/DEVOTIONS ARE BOTH LIVESTREAMED & RECORDED AND CAN BE VIEWED AT ANY TIME | | |
| Mon 15 Feb | 8:30am | | Michael McDonnell (LD) For all care workers, NHS, Police & Fire | |
| Tues 16 Feb | 10:00am | | Kathleen Swarbrick Patrick Kiley (A) | Holy Hour 1:00pm - 2:00pm |
| Wed 17 Feb | 8:30am | | Teresa Hamer (B) Liz O'Donnell (LD) | ASH WEDNESDAY Day of Fast & Abstinence |
| Thur 18 Feb | 10:00am | | Kathleen Marmion (B) For all those suffering with mental illness | Holy Hour 1:00pm - 2:00pm |
| Fri 19 Feb | 8:30am | | William Moore (F) Richard Hayes (LD) | |
| Sat 20 Feb | 10:00am | | Paul McManus (A) Andrew Lowe (LD) | |
| Sun 21 Feb | 9:30am | 1st SUNDAY OF LENT | Bert Southworth Sheila Grady (B) | |
| Sun 21 Feb | NO 11:00am MASS | ALL MASSES/DEVOTIONS ARE BOTH LIVESTREAMED & RECORDED AND CAN BE VIEWED AT ANY TIME | | |