

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF
St Gregory's Weld Bank



23rd December 2018 - Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle C, Page 90

PARISH MINISTRIES

Counting	24 December	David Chadwick & Pauline Turner
Sacristy & Sanctuary Group	30 December	Janet Critchley & Pauline Critchley
Dial a Ride	30 December	Paul Thompson & Tommy McGuigan
Readers	30 December	9:30am Simon Robinson
		11:00am Dominic Stone
		6:30pm John Oswell
Ministers of the Eucharist	30 December	9:30am Louise Cogan, Margaret Scard, Clare Meredith
		11:00am Denise Conway, Richard Jackson, David Chadwick
		6:30pm Joe Commerford, Carol Hardman

CHILDREN'S CORNER

H	A	E	L	H	A	D	U	J	A	MARY	JUDAH	ZECHARIAH
E	A	T	O	T	M	B	O	W	D	ELIZABETH	CHILD	LEAPT
L	B	I	M	E	O	Y	J	R	E	WOMB	BLESSED	FRUIT
I	L	U	R	B	M	O	W	A	S	MOTHER	JOY	PROMISE
Z	E	R	O	A	L	A	T	H	S			
A	S	F	E	Z	H	E	R	C	E			
B	E	D	L	I	H	C	O	Y	L			
T	P	A	E	L	O	T	E	A	B			
M	O	T	H	E	R	S	O	Z	L			
D	E	S	I	M	O	R	P	M	E			

REFLECTION

Today our Advent season draws to a close with a liturgy filled with promise and expectation. This week's Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. On this Sunday each year, the gospel passage is a story of Mary's pregnancy, and this year Luke tells us the story of the visitation. We also meditate on this story in the second joyful mystery of the rosary, so that this could be an ideal opportunity to really reflect more than we usually do in saying the rosary.

It is the story of two pregnant women and, therefore, an opportunity to enter into the symbolism of that experience, especially for those who have gone through it, seeing it as a symbol of how waiting can be a creative time, one when we express our love and one also when we can unmask all the self-centredness that is latent within us and blocks our ability to give ourselves wholeheartedly to others. Of course, it could also be a meditation on the sacredness of pregnancy itself.

Mary should be the main focus of our attention, a symbol at this moment of her life, of the person of faith and indeed of the church that she is. Particularly significant is the expression 'blessed' that is attributed to her by Elizabeth; we must give the word its full biblical meaning, indicating that a person has a great gift from God and also that he or she has brought blessings to others. Mary's blessedness in this passage is simply that she has faith.....no great achievements or visible signs of God's favour.....just faith. Today, let us pray for one another that we may live our lives illuminated by faith.

Responsorial Psalm:

'God of hosts, bring us back;
 let your face shine on us and we shall be saved'

St Gregory's RC Church

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 Organization/St-Gregorys-
 Weldbank-177113458975673/

Part of the
ARCHDIOCESE of LIVERPOOL

Registered Charity No: 32709

Church Office Hours:

Mon/Wed/Thurs 09:00 - 13:00

Parish Administrator:

Christine Edwards

Safeguarding Rep:

Edward Brierley

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Gift Aid: £316.88
 Loose Plate: £534.54
 Standing Orders: £168.94

Thank you for your kind and
 generous donations which go
 towards the maintenance &
 running of the parish

Please Pray for Our Sick Brothers and Sisters

Margaret Wood - Bill Burns - Margaret Bower - Winifred Calderbank - Hugh O'Daly - Victoria Birkett - Lois Chiasson - Maureen Jackson - Gerard McGuigan - Julie Hurley - Thomas Moss - Fred Simpson - Joan Woodruff - Nora Taylor - Marian Leyland - Margaret Wrennall - Harold Sutton - Margaret Fishwick - Yvonne Bell
Heal thy servants, O Lord, who are sick and send them comfort from thy holy place. Amen.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

RETIREMENTS

After many years as a helper on the minibus which brings some of our senior parishioners to Mass each Sunday, Tommy McGuigan has decided to retire at the end of the year. In addition, after almost 8 years as members of our counting team, Bruce and Denise Conway have also decided to retire. We thank them all for their years of service and all those who continue in Parish ministries. We are always looking for more volunteers, so if you could spare some time to help out on a rota basis, please do let me know.

PRE - CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR GRAEME

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those many people who have worked so hard within and for the Parish throughout the year. Your dedication is much appreciated. It only remains for me to wish you all a very Happy & Holy Christmas and may the Prince of Peace bless you and your loved ones. God Bless you all, Fr Graeme

MASS FOR ALTAR SERVERS

Mass on Boxing Day, the Feast of St Stephen (Patron St of Altar Servers), will be offered for the intentions of our Altar Servers. All Altar Servers are invited to attend this special Mass at which two of our Senior Altar Servers will receive their silver medals for ten years service in this ministry.

PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Sincere thanks to all those who attended our Christmas Lunch earlier this week and those who helped out with the taxi service, cooking and serving. A good time was had by all!

NEW YEAR HOUSE BLESSINGS 20*C+M+B+18

Special Blessing stickers and prayer cards will be available at the back of Church next week. Please do take one and pray together with those who live and visit your home.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

WEDNESDAY MORNING MASS
 As agreed at the last Parish Open Meeting, during January we will celebrate Mass each Wednesday at 12noon instead of 8:30am to allow those who are unable to attend the early Mass the opportunity to attend a weekday Mass. On alternate weeks, Mass will be followed by Eucharistic Adoration. We will review the change at the end of January.

Our 1st Mass of Christmas (Christmas Eve) will be offered for the people of the Parish. The two Masses on Christmas Day will be offered for the intentions on our Parish List. Sheets are available at the back of Church for you to write the names on. If you wish to leave an offering, please place it in the box with your name (and Gift Aid number if you have one). These Mass Offerings will be donated to the Charity Shelter, who care and provide for homeless people in our diocese. Thank you for your generous support.

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
Sun 23 Dec	9:30am	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Joseph Robinson & Cyril Iddon	Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers
Sun 23 Dec	11:00am	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Cyril Moss (A)	
Sun 23 Dec	6:30pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Calderbank & Noblett Families	
Mon 24 Dec	8:30am 8:00pm	1st Mass of Christmas	Harry & Doreen Ainscough People of the Parish	Carols 7:30pm
Tues 25 Dec	9:30am 11:00am	Christmas Day	Parish Christmas List Parish Christmas List	Children's Mass Sung Mass
Wed 26 Dec	11:00am	St Stephen	Guild of St Stephen (Altar Servers)	
Thurs 27 Dec	10:00am	St John	Jenny McAleenan (LD)	
Fri 28 Dec	10:00am	The Holy Innocents		Communion Service
Sat 29 Dec	10:00am	St Thomas of Canterbury (Becket)		Communion Service
Sun 30 Dec	9:30am	The Holy Family	Ken Waring (A)	
Sun 30 Dec	11:00am	The Holy Family	Booth & Kenyon Families	
Sun 30 Dec	6:30pm	The Holy Family	Sr Marie of the Annunciation	

HOLY ROSARY: will be prayed twenty minutes before the weekday Mass

CONFESSIONS: are held after mass on Saturday morning

If you wish to book a Mass Intention, please see Fr Graeme after Mass on Sunday or call the office during office hours