

ARMCHAIR RETREATS

Each week Fr Denis Blackledge chooses a couple of scripture passages to break open the living word in a homely way to give fresh encouragement, and deepen the daily living of folk as friends and followers of Jesus. These can be found at:

<https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/armchair-retreats>

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2021

2020 marked the 25th anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday (RJS) in Britain and Ireland. This significant anniversary also coincided with the tragic killing of African American, George Floyd and the re-emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement with its various protests on both sides of the Atlantic. The pandemic continues to wreak havoc in societies around the world, highlighting the existing inequalities in our society; the poorer, more marginalised communities being disproportionately impacted by it. All of these events have served to demonstrate the need for greater racial justice in Britain and Ireland. Next Sunday we mark Racial Justice Sunday 2021 and in these times of tension let us pray for those who suffer from any kind of racial injustice. In stating that 'black lives matter', it doesn't mean that other lives don't matter, but where a community has suffered injustice for some, it brings to emphasise that their dignity is important.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST DAY 2021

27th January 2021 marks Holocaust Memorial Day, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. On this day, we are asked to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Let us pray that the International Community will work to avoid similar atrocities in our world today. Further information can be found at: <https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/this-years-theme/>

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

ARRESTED	GALILEE	GOOD
NEWS	HAND	REPENT
BELIEVE	CASTING	FOLLOW
JAMES	ZEBEDEE	BOAT



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF St Gregory's Weld Bank

24th January 2021 - 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

St Gregory's RC Church

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Chorley, Lancs
PR7 3NW
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Parish Priest

Fr Graeme M. Dunne

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<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 17th January 2021

Gift Aid: **£51.00**

Loose Plate: **£460.00**

Standing Orders: **£180.48**

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

REFLECTION

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus at the start of his public ministry called on people to follow him. In the case of the disciples, they weren't praying nor were they in the temple or the synagogue but we are told he called on them whilst they doing their ordinary daily work of fishing and mending their nets on the sea shore. Jesus called them by their own names and the disciples immediately dropped everything to follow him. Many of us would find such a sudden radical request unsettling - there are probably only a few things for which we would willingly drop everything - and yet this is the immediacy with which these first disciples responded to Jesus. They were willing to drop everything in order to make Jesus and the Kingdom of God the most important things in their lives. After Jesus called these and later other men and women to follow him he sent them out in his name to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God - he sent them out in *his* name, not their own. Today, in the same way, Jesus continues to call each of us by our name wherever we are and whatever we are doing, through our ordinary daily lives and activities. Those in the gospel today dropped everything they were doing and followed Jesus when he called them which was all very sudden and dramatic. Our response may not be as quick and decisive, but it doesn't need to be. We all follow Jesus at our own pace, in our time and in our own way. The important thing to remember is that Jesus never stops calling us by our name. He invites us to follow him with these words, *'if you want to be my disciple, come, take up your cross and follow me'*.

Today we are not only called, we are also sent out to proclaim the gospel through how we live our lives, in what we say and do. In these uncertain and troubling times, as we all continue to live with some form of restrictions and social distancing measures, our means of reaching out to others may not be as easy, but we must all do our best, as now more than ever we are called to reach out to others.

How will you respond to His call?

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 - Muriel Wilson - Rosemary Brindle

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 Michael Maguire & Marie Meehan

*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 in 2 weeks' time.

CHURCH CLOSURE UPDATE

In view of the number of Covid19 infections being still so high (both new infections and deaths), those churches that are currently closed will remain closed and the situation will be reviewed in another 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 24 Jan	9:30am	3rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Cyril Moss (B) Catenians - Vocations to the priesthood, diaconate & religious life	SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD
Mon 25 Jan	8:30am	The Conversion of St Paul	Bernard Christopher (LD)	
Tues 26 Jan	10:00am	St Timothy & St Titus	Derek Parker (A) Beryl Colette Messenger (A)	Holy Hour 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Wed 27 Jan	8:30am	St Angela Merici	John Meehan (LD)	INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY
Thur 28 Jan	10:00am	St Thomas Aquinas	The Fishwick Family	NB: NO DEVOTIONS TODAY
Fri 29 Jan	8:30am		Bernard Halstead (LD)	
Sat 30 Jan	10:00am		Fred Simpson (A)	
Sun 31 Jan	9:30am	4th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Herbert Spedding (B) Tom Grady (B)	RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY
Sun 31 Jan	NO 11:00am MASS	ALL MASSES/DEVOTIONS ARE BOTH LIVESTREAMED & RECORDED AND CAN BE VIEWED AT ANY TIME		