

THE PENTECOST CHALLENGE

Fr Graeme & Mgr McKenna are raising funds for Friends of the Holy Land to help Christian Communities through the pandemic and keep children at their schools. They are walking as a Team called 'Weldbank Walkers' and aim to raise £2,100 by walking a total distance of 168 miles between them! You can sponsor them and follow their progress online by following this [link](#). Alternatively, if you prefer, there are some sponsorship forms at the back of church. They aim to complete the challenge by Pentecost Sunday 23rd May. If you would like to join the team and raise some sponsorship money yourself, just let us know - you would be most welcome. Wish them luck!

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

All being well, once we reach the next step in the Government's 4 step road map, from 17th May onwards, those who are sick and housebound will be able to receive Holy Communion at home once more. In addition, if there is anybody else who has been isolating since the beginning of the Pandemic and who does not yet feel it is safe to return to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please let us know as soon as possible.

Synod 2020/21

'As we approach our Archdiocesan Synod, taking place online on 19th June, Synod Members are currently discerning how they will vote on the recommendations that have emerged. If you haven't seen them yet, you can find them: On our Synod Recommendations Website (www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk) alongside theological reflections on the topics

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

25th April 2021 - Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B

REFLECTION

For most 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 uses the image and symbol of the shepherd, the people to whom he was speaking 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 the same to us, a shepherd knows each of them 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. We are not all the same to the Jesus but he loves each of us personally and intimately. The Prophet Isaiah has a beautiful image of this when we 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 great love and devotion, how much more does Jesus love and care for each of us? Jesus 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 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 here and now, not some time in the future. As we continue our journey through Easter 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.

St Gregory's RC Church

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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 - 15:00

Parish Administrator:

Christine Edwards

Safeguarding Rep:

Edward Brierley

WEEKLY COLLECTION

w/c 18th April 2021

Gift Aid: **£102.00**

Loose Plate: **£241.50**

Standing Orders: **£186.25**

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

Please Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters Who are Sick

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

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

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

CHURCH REOPENING UPDATE

Following the Prime Ministers announcement of a 4 step road map out of lockdown, and following further guidance received from the Archdiocese, St Gregory's is now open for Public Worship. All previous precautions including social distancing, the wearing of face masks and sanitisation regimes must remain in place.

There will also be no toilet facilities available.

The following will apply in Step 2 (from 12th April):

Funerals are permitted to go ahead and can be attended by close family only (max 30 people)

Burials of ashes can also continue with up to 15 people in attendance

Weddings can now go ahead with 6 attendees and are no longer limited to exceptional circumstances

No Baptisms to take place at this time

We will update the guidance re: Steps 3-4 as we progress through each stage of the Government roadmap.

May God continue to Bless you and your families
Fr Graeme

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

Weekday Masses:

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

Sunday Masses: 9:30am (St Gregory's), 11:00am (St Oswald's - not Live Streamed)

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

CHORLEY FOODBANK

As the Covid rules have now been relaxed a little, the box in the porch is now back in operation. Items such as teabags, coffee, cereal, pasta, rice, tinned goods and toiletries would be gratefully received. Thank you for your support.

MASS INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Date	Time	Dedication	Intention	Notes
Sun 25 Apr	9:30am	4th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Ann & Agnes Walsh (A) Robert Parkinson (A)	World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Sun 25 Apr	11:00am	4th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Charlotte Fishwick	St Oswald's Coppull
Mon 26 Apr	8:30am 1:30pm	Blessed Robert Anderton of Euxton	David Warbis Brian Hampshire (LD) <i>Requiem Mass</i> Adrian Leighton	
Tues 27 Apr	10:00	St Maughold	Vincent Price (A) Tommy McGuigan B(R)	Devotions 1:00pm-2:00pm
Wed 28 Apr	8:30am	St Peter Chanel & St Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort	LISCF Michael Marsden (A)	
Thur 29 Apr	10:00am	St Catherine of Siena	Edmund & Timothy Donegan Marian Knight (B)	Devotions 1:00pm-2:00pm
Fri 30 Apr	8:30am	St Pius V	Paul Spedding (S)	
Sat 01 May	10:00am	St Joseph the Worker	Mary Gertrude Kenyon B(R)	
Sun 02 May	9:30am	5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Thomas Livesey (A)	St Gregory's Weld Bank
Sun 02 May	11:00am	5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	William Ingram (A)	St Oswald's Coppull