

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 4th December

9.30am Norman Martin (A)
11.00am Cyril Moss (A)
6.30pm Dorothy Scard (LD)

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Weekday Masses

<i>St. John Almond</i>	Mon.	8.30am	Special Intention
<i>St. Nicholas</i>	Tues.	8.30am	J. & E. Watmough
<i>St. Ambrose</i>	Wed.	8.30am	Bryan Mitchinson LD
<i>St. John Diego Cuahtl.</i>	Thurs.	8.30am	Bertha Gerard (FM)
	Fri.	8.30am	Thomas Gerard(FM)
	Sat.	10.00am	Bernard Rigby

Sunday 11th December

9.30am John & Elizabeth Watmough
11.00am Teresa Hamer (A) and baby Harry Philip
6.30pm Ken Threfall

Please Pray For Our Sick Brothers And Sisters

Kitty Ellison · Jayne Hodge · Kathleen Reynolds · Brigid Cain · Hazel Lee · Mary Patten · Agnes Martindale · Robert Stretton · Hilda Haworth · Mildred Bridge · Margaret Wood · Harold Sutton · Margaret Bower · Thomas Moss · Gerard Baker · Hugh Daly · Margaret Dearden · Maureen Jackson · Dorothy McDonald (Howarth) · Maureen McIver · Bill Burns · Lois Chiasson · Gerard McGuigan · Moya Jones · Teresa Kershaw · Ken Ball · Raymond Chiasson · Teresa Critchley

Sadly we record the death of Thomas Allan Locke on 28th November. May he rest in peace. A Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday, 7th December at 11am. Daily Mass will be as usual at 8:30am.

Baptism

We welcome in Baptism today Clara McLeod and pray for her and her family at the start of their new faith journey.

Collection

Thank you for last week's collection of £1052.

Cathedral Christmas Carol Service

A 'Dementia Friendly Christmas Carol Service' will be celebrated with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon and contributions from six choirs on 14th December, *Christ the King Cathedral*, 2pm. If you have relatives or friends who suffer from dementia, this could be a wonderful opportunity for an 'Advent day out'. Refreshments in the Gibberd Room afterwards, and everybody is most welcome to attend. Please see the poster in the porch for contact details.

Christmas Cards

St. Gregory's own Christmas cards are on sale at the back of church in the cards rack, 65p each.

Advent Series of Preparation for Christmas

Thursdays, 7:30pm – 9:30pm St. Wilfried's Parish Centre, Preston, PR1 8BU Free admission, donations welcome. For more information please see the poster in the porch.

Worlds Gifts - CAFOD

At the back of church you will find the CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue with a range of virtual gifts that make a real difference to communities which live in poverty around the world. 'Trees for Life', for example provides five tree saplings to a poor farming family (£7) and you will receive seeds to plant your own tree as well.

Rosary in Church – every weekday

The rosary team invite you to join them in praying the rosary aloud 20 minutes before the start of weekday Mass: 8:10am Mo – Fri and 9:40am Saturdays, and please feel free to join in if you come to Mass a little early.

Graveyard

Paul informs us that due to the low temperatures the water in the graveyard will now be turned off till it gets warmer again.

Catholic History in Preston, South Ribble and Chorley

A resource for sharing photographs, articles and information on the rich Catholic history and heritage in this part of Lancashire. Search for the above name on Facebook and click 'join group'.

St. Mary's Friends of Uganda

Prize Bingo night on **Friday 9th December**, 7:30pm. All most welcome.

Ministering to the Assembly

Counters 5th December - Denise and Bruce Conway

Rotas 11th December, Third Sunday of Advent

S.A.S. Sandra Donnelly, May West, Madge Martin

Dial a Ride Phil Southworth and Bernard Hargreaves

Readers Michael Hall

Sharon Hobin

Alex Duxbury

Ministers Emmy Moss

Linda Walmsley

Paul Rynn

David Chadwick

Margaret Scard

Carol Hardman

Chris Huddy

Richard Jackson

St. Gregory's Newsletter

4th December 2016 2nd Advent Sunday Parish Mass Book page 85



The Parish Office is staffed on
Monday, Wednesday and Friday from
9.00am to 13.00pm.

Website www.stgregoryschorley.org.uk
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e-mail stgregorys.weldbank@btinternet.com



Saint of the Week

St. Nicholas

Nicholas was Bishop of Myra in south western Turkey who lived in the fourth century. Very little is known about his life, though he is one of the best known and most venerated saints in both East and West.

He is said to have given three bags of gold to three girls for their marriage dowries in order to save them from prostitution.

"Santa Claus" takes his name from St. Nicholas, based on his patronage of children. In many European countries and America also his feast day is widely celebrated by giving presents to children, in remembrance of his charity and care as a bishop.



Children's Corner

L	O	C	U	S	T	S	S	M	E	JOHN
R	E	I	E	G	A	S	S	E	M	PREACHED
E	E	O	R	N	I	T	E	S	D	WILDERNESS
R	R	V	D	I	N	I	N	S	E	MESSAGE
T	R	A	I	E	V	I	R	E	H	REPENT
Y	L	A	P	R	A	E	E	G	C	VOICE
S	E	E	N	E	C	A	D	A	A	PREPARE
E	R	N	B	I	R	I	L	N	E	BELT
C	N	H	O	J	A	P	I	A	R	LOCUSTS
I	O	V	I	H	I	S	W	S	P	HONEY
										SANDALS
										RIVER

Reflection

Isaiah promises him, John welcomes him, Paul invites us to imitate him: a thumbnail portrait of the Messiah in the readings today, useful to refer to when at Christmas we meet him as a child.

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Living a Child's Dream

Isiah 11:6 presents us with what seems to be a surreal world:

*Then the wolf will live with the lamb,
And the leopard shall lie down with the goat.
The calf and the young lion shall browse together,
And a little child will lead them.*

Predators and prey no longer fear each other. Instinct is subdued and wolves and leopards magically become vegetarians! This is a world unlike our own; it is the world pictured by a child. There is complete harmony because the child has not yet experienced the complexities and cares of life.

The child with this dream still lives in us even as we mature.

Certainly, we are not naive enough to expect that those interested in "eating" us will suddenly become beneficent.

We can, however, work on our own "wolfness" and "leopardness" to make the child's dream more of a reality. Rather than promoting aggression, we can actively choose peace.

We might reflect on where we sometimes may be tempted to be a "wolf" or "leopard": who invites our aggression? What situations tempt us to frustration? How do we bad-mouth or "eat" the reputation of another? Within our own soul, is there a "lion" that undermines our self esteem or our self-worth?

Can we develop a strategy to permit the lion and lamb to pasture together just for a day?

Can we give a compliment to someone we would prefer to bad-mouth, or do an act of kindness to someone who irritates us?

Can we comfort our own soul with kind words rather than with judgment?

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From 'Praying Advent' by Joan Mueller