

St Chad's RC Church

237 Town Lane,
Whittle-le-Woods,
Chorley, Lancashire PR6 8AJ
Tel: 01257 262713
Email: stchads.chorley@gmail.com
Website: www.stchads-southhill.org
Priest-in-charge: Rev. Canon Peter G Stanley



NEWSLETTER 8th December 2019 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A



Repent for the kingdom of God is close at hand. Mt.3:1-12

John the Baptist is the central figure in today's Gospel. Like Jesus, John preached a message of repentance. 'Repentance' here is translated from the Greek word *metanoia* which means much more than just being sorry for the past. It involves a deep and radical change in one's thinking and behaviour. Our most dangerous enemy is complacency: "I'm a good enough Catholic. I'm not perfect, of course, but I keep the basics of my religion. I'm OK." Where relationships with God are concerned, to stay in the same place is to go backwards.

Advent means "coming" and, if this season is to be meaningful, there has to be a genuine coming of Jesus into our lives. It is a time to remind ourselves of our constant need for *metanoia*. If John the Baptist were with us today, what would he tell us? What would he warn us against? How can we and our families give better witness to the Christian message? What changes are called for in how our parish gives witness to the Gospel?

We are probably well into preparations for the celebration of Christmas. But what preparations have we made for the year ahead? Will Jesus really be part of our lives? Will he truly enter our lives in a special way? Are his concerns our concerns? Namely, a desire to offer service to others, to work with others to build a better society, founded on love and justice and an equal sharing of resources.

"Peace (and justice) on earth to those who are God's friends" needs to become not just the song of the angels but a programme for us and our community. (Sacred Space)

MASSES / INTENTIONS

Sat	7 th	Dec	NO VIGIL MASS	
Sun	8 th	Dec	10.30am MASS	Mary Hollinghurst R.I.P
Mon	9 th	Dec	No Mass or Eucharistic Service	
Tue	10 th	Dec	9.15am Eucharistic Service	
Wed	11 th	Dec	9.15am Eucharistic Service	
Thu	12 th	Dec	No Mass or Eucharistic Service	
Fri	13 th	Dec	No Mass or Eucharistic Service	
Sat	14 th	Dec	NO VIGIL MASS	
Sun	15 th	Dec	10.30am MASS	Cicely Billington (Anniversary)
			1.00pm Baptism	Harriet Elizabeth Ellison

Weekend Mass times. Please check newsletters for weekday Mass times.

St Chad's: Sunday 10.30am

St Joseph's: Harpers Lane: Sat 6.00pm, Sun 8.30am, 4.30pm

St Bede's: Sat 6.30pm, Sunday 11.00am

St Gregory's: Sun 9.30am, 11.00am, 6.30pm

CONFESSIONS: 10.30am – 11.30am at St Joseph's Harpers Lane, Chorley

RECENTLY DECEASED: Gertrude Cavanagh, Mary Hollinghurst, Kevin James Walsh

ANNIVERSARIES: Anne Wilson, Cyril Green, Stuart Bolton, William Clayton

READER: Sun 15th Dec. E. Humphrey

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend's collection totalled £534.02 incl £405.32 Gift Aided.

MASS ROTA: Copies of the Rota for Readers and Ministers of the Eucharist covering Advent and Christmas are ready. Please take a copy from the porch.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CAROL SERVICE: 2.00pm, Thursday 19th Dec. Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in the company of Archbishop Malcolm McMahon. Refreshments available afterwards. Please see the poster at the back of church.

CHRISTMAS AT ST CHAD'S:

Tuesday 17th December, Junior Carol Service, 6.30pm

Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve Mass, 6.30pm.

25th December, Christmas Day Mass, 10.30am

THE PARISH CRIB will be put up in the church after 10.30 Mass **next week, Dec 15th.**

All able bodied men and women are asked to spare half an hour to help; many hands will make light work! Thank you.

CAFOD: WORLD GIFTS: Don't forget to collect your catalogue and please take one for your family, friends and neighbours. We have more available in the Sacristy.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:- If you would like to dedicate a Poinsettia to someone, please give your name, a donation of £5 and the dedication in one of the envelopes in the porch or give the details to Pauline Wilson or any of the flower arrangers. Thank you

CAFOD: WORLD GIFTS: Don't forget to collect your catalogue and please take one for your family, friends and neighbours. We have more available in the Sacristy.

PIOUS LISTS MASSES: As we celebrate just the one Mass per week at St Chad's, all dates are taken until February 2020. So, it was decided to send the offerings for Pious List Masses to Fr Leonsyo Akena in Uganda who, you may remember, was with us for two weeks last November while Fr George was away. Fr Leo has sent an email thanking us which reads: "Am humbled in sincere appreciation to St Chad's Catholic Parish Community for the 200£ Masses that I have received from you today!!! (*Written 4th Dec*) I promise to use the Masses to support my ministry in my Parish community!! Especially for Charity to the poor, sick, orphans or the aged in my Parish community who live in acute desperate human conditions! In the spirit of Pastoral charity and for the identity of the Church as one body of Christ who's the light of the world, I promise you constant prayers and unity!! Yours sincerely, Fr Leonsyo Akena Angep"

CAFOD: WORLD GIFTS: Don't forget to collect your catalogue and please take one for your family, friends and neighbours. We have more available in the Sacristy.

RECYCLING: Please put the following items in the box provided at the back of church. Batteries, Computer toners and cartridges, spectacles, old mobile phones, pens and unused Charity bags. These will be passed on to school for recycling. Thank you very much.

HELP THE HOMELESS – CHORLEY: For Christmas the Charity we support like to make up special parcels for their needy clients. Suggested donations to the tub in the porch can include toiletries (eg, tooth brushes, soaps, face cloths) and little gifts (crayons, writing pads, chocolates, sweets, puddings) NB. No donations after 15th December.

STAMPS FOR DERIAN HOUSE: Please remember to place used (cut from envelopes) and unwanted postage stamps in the box at the back of church. They are taken to Derian House where they help to raise funds for our local children's charity. Now that Christmas is here let's gather a bumper crop from cards that arrive in the post.

CHRISTMAS DRAW: Thank you to all who helped to make our annual Raffle a success. £336 was raised for church and parish improvements. Not as much as in previous years but welcome none the less. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes, bought tickets, sold tickets, attended the Parish Lunch. Thank you to everyone who carried boxes about, our younger parishioners who helped with prize allocation, those who sold Christmas cards, counted the money. Josie could not have managed without you all. Thanks also to Sue and Janet who arranged and cooked the most enjoyable lunch and their grandchildren who ran around for them.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, Cribbs, Candles etc. are on sale at the back of church until the end of Advent.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION: If anyone is unable to get to church and wishes to receive Holy Communion **regularly at home** or can get to **church but has difficulty going** to receive Holy Communion we can help. Please let Josie Noblet or Elizabeth Humphrey know and they will make the necessary arrangements for you.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES and STATEMENTS: These have been removed from the back of church as we have been advised by the Archdiocese that they should not be left out for collection. Please see Peter Hughes or Elizabeth Humphrey if you require yours.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please contact St Joseph's Presbytery (01257 262713) if any member of your family is admitted to Chorley Hospital and would appreciate a visit. In an emergency the hospital will contact the on-call Catholic Priest. Ask any staff member to arrange this.

FEASTS:

Monday, 9th Dec. Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Transferred from 8th as Advent takes precedence
Wednesday, 11th Dec. St Damasus I, Pope
Thursday, 12th Dec. Our Lady of Guadalupe
Friday, 13th Dec. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
Saturday, 14th Dec. St John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor

BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES

Baptisms and Marriages are by appointment only. Initial enquiries should be made personally to Fr Peter Stanley - 01257 262713. A minimum of 6 months' notice is needed for a Marriage. If a specific date is required for a Baptism or a Marriage please ensure it is available before making any other arrangements to avoid disappointment. We always do our best to accommodate everyone's wishes.