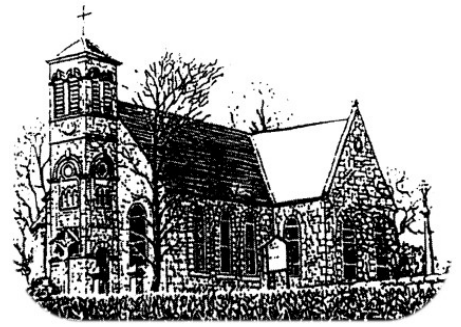


St Chad's RC Church

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NEWSLETTER. 3rd SUNDAY AFTER EASTER Year A. 26th April 2020



Dear friends,

The word of God can be a great support to us more than ever in these strange and difficult days, Stories from the Bible that we might have heard many times over the years can suddenly take on anew meaning or depth when we are open to listening to God's call in our hearts.

This weekend we are given the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. We know it well, but it is a message God wants us all to hear today.

In their confusion, hurt, disappointment, questioning and sadness they couldn't see who it was walking with them, speaking to them, sharing their journey on every step. There he was, Jesus, but they didn't know it. They invited him to stay with them and he opened their eyes to see that he had been with them all along. Invite Jesus to be with you now, wherever you are, and know what the disciples on the road

discovered, that he had been there all along.

Like many people, I'm finding it a long time to be here alone.

It's OK really. There are things to do to fill the time. But the Gospel has invited me to not waste this opportunity to enjoy simple being in his company. I'm talking to the dog more than I usually do, and she just looks puzzled. But I'm also trying to remember to turn to the one who I don't always notice or remember, with a word or thanks, or a prayer for those who I know are struggling. I'm trying to remember to say a word of thanks before I eat because even our food reminds us that God is taking care of us. Thanking God for the blessings of the day before I go to bed is another moment when I can see a bit more clearly where Jesus has been walking along the road with me, but I might have missed his presence.

There's an old hymn I'm very fond of 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus', if you get the chance to listen to it. I like the version by 'Salt of the Sound' which you can find on YouTube. It calms me down and reminds me where to look for peace in these troubled times. The words are something like this: 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of the earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace' You can find it by clicking on this link. I hope it brings you a bit of peace in the middle of everything that is going on. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFfIt2Bd3o>

I'm keeping you and your families in my prayers each day. Turn your eyes upon Jesus.

God Bless, Fr Mark.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: George Morris, Peter Deacon, Amy Greenhalgh, Vincent Cahill, Margaret Gray, Thomas Hesse, Ray Briant, Winifred Baxendale, Rosalia Lakot. Julie K, Anne Henrys, Pat Johnson, Robert Rainford, Brenda Wrightson, Maria Reynolds, Richard Farnworth, Eileen Ainscough, Tony Morris, Marie Barnish, Eileen Farnworth, Helen Witte, Peter Fishwick, Gabrielle Myerscough, Connie Foy, Mark Smith and Marie Fowler nee Clayton. The residents of Highcliffe, Greenways, Brookside, Meadow Bank Nursing Homes and Brookhaven

RECENTLY DECEASED: Mary O'Brien, Dorothy Franks

LOCALLY STREAMED MASSES can be found at www.stgregoryschorley.org.uk

If you go to <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk> you will see other churches in our diocese which are webcasting their services.

OUR LADY'S SHRINE, WALSINGHAM All Masses, Services, Benediction, Exposition etc are available by 24 /7 live streaming. Three Masses every day and Exposition throughout the night. www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream/

LIVE- STREAMING FROM THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY - CATECHESIS

The Shrine is very grateful to Father Stephen Wang for allowing us to use his Sycamore Program. We shall be showing the 20 half hour videos, starting on Monday 27th April. They will be shown at 10.30am and 4.00pm each day.

MASSES FOR THOSE SUPPORTING THE SICK AND VULNERABLE

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in caring for our sick in hospitals and care homes, each week a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join. This will take place every Thursday at 7.00pm before the 8pm public show of thanks to health workers.

Celebrating on April 30th, Bishop Richard Moth Our Lady and St Philip Howard. Watch live on Arundel YouTube Channel

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS: Fr Mark is saying Mass privately each day and invites anyone who would like a Mass to be said for a particular intention to get in touch with him on Tel. No 01257 460154 or by email.

ISOLATED PARISHIONERS If you know any parishioner who might be feeling a bit isolated Fr Mark would be very happy to ring them if you think that would help. Please ring Father or send an e-mail. Thanks.

FOLLOW ST CHAD'S & ST BEDE'S ON FACEBOOK! We have a group to enable us all to stay more closely in touch with each other, particularly during these days when we do not meet weekly as we've been used to. Everyone is invited to take a look and join if they wish. Look for "Parishes of St Chad & St Bede" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/232935341437045/>

#YouAreNotAlone At home shouldn't mean at risk, but sadly for many people the lockdown has meant that they are trapped in isolation with their abuser under a pressurised situation. If you need support please contact the National Domestic Violence Helpline - 0808 2000 247 or www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

SYNOD 2020

In the light of the changes COVID-19 has brought to our lives, we reflect the kind of Church God is calling us to be.

During these days of isolation and social distancing we are experiencing different ways of being Church. Our prayer and worship has been transformed as we gather remotely, online, from our own home. Our sense of community is challenged as we find creative and new ways of coming together to meet, to socialise, to work, or to check in on each other.

Today begins our extra period of reflection as we consider what our Synod can learn from the experience of living through these difficult and different times. We have produced a short film and a leaflet to help guide your reflection. Please use them and encourage others to reflect too as we continue to discern the Church God is calling us to be. If possible, share these on your personal and parish social media.

Visit our website, reflect on the materials, and submit your proposals for action. We will close the online submission form on Monday 4th May 2020.

With best wishes

Fr Philip, Fr Matthew, Jacqui and Matt.

The Synod Office Team.

Go to www.synod2020.co.uk to see the material and submit your ideas.

AN UPDATE OF RESOURCES FOR PRAYER provided by the Archdiocesan Formation Team

Resources now available include:

- Reflection for the Third Sunday of Easter
- Advice for those wanting to livestream
- Outreach ideas and information from Nugent
- Readings and reflections for those who have been bereaved
- Family prayer ideas
- Resource for children
- Parenting during COVID-19 reflections
- Dementia activities and advice

All can be accessed / downloaded at <https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/> or through <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/> by clicking on 'Prayer and Other Resources'

More information is available each week from our parish websites and on our parish Facebook group.

Important: Holy Communion whilst in hospital.

Please contact St. Joseph's Presbytery if any of your family is admitted to Chorley Hospital 01257 262713.

If any family member is admitted to Preston Hospital, please inform the chaplain on 01772 522435.

If any family member is admitted to Wigan Infirmary, please inform the chaplain on 01942 822324.

This request comes from the respective hospital chaplains.

While our parish offices are closed this joint newsletter will be produced for both our parishes and placed on our notice boards and websites.

BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES

Baptisms and Marriages are by appointment only. Initial enquiries should be made personally to Fr Mark – **01257 460154**. 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.

3rd Sunday of Easter Readings at Mass

First reading

Acts 2:14,22-33 [©](#)

God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to this

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad
and my tongue cried out with joy;
my body, too, will rest in the hope
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.

You have made known the way of life to me,
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 15(16):1-2,5,7-11 [©](#)

R: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;

it is you yourself who are my prize.'

R: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

R: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety.

For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay.

R: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

R: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Your ransom was paid in the precious blood of Christ

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35 ©

They recognised him at the breaking of bread

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.