

St Chad's RC Church

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You can find us on Facebook Parishes of St Chad & St Bede
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/232935341437045/>



NEWSLETTER

5th April 2020

Dear Friends,

As we begin Holy Week it is with sadness that we recognise that this is going to be quite unlike any other Holy Week we have experienced before. There will be no time when we can gather as God's grateful people to relive the central truths of our faith together.

It is going to take a little extra effort on our part to keep this as a *Holy Week*, as a week quite unlike any other.



We can try to set some time aside each day to pray and to reflect, to read the Scriptures or to pray the stations of the cross in our homes. If you have a crucifix in your home you can move it to a more central place or set up a little altar with the crucifix at its centre.

Even though we cannot celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation, as we normally might during Lent, we can reflect on our lives and offer our sorrow to God for any ways in which we have not shown to others the love and mercy that God has shown to us in His Son. The Church this week has repeated its teaching that our sincere repentance and a desire to serve God more closely is a prayer that God always responds to with the forgiveness of our sins. I'm very sorry but palms will not be available for collection this year. We have been asked not to leave them outside our churches as this could lead to the spread of the virus if palms are handled and placed back in the box. You might be able to find your palm from last year and put it in a place of honour in your home. It has been suggested that we might put some greenery on our doors to mark our welcome of the King who comes to give his life for us. This year's palms will be available when we are able to gather in church again.

You will find the times when the great liturgies of Holy Week will be broadcast from St Gregory's Church at <https://www.stgregoryschorley.org.uk/>.

Locally Streamed Masses

St Gregory's, Weld Bank, Chorley

Sunday 5th April Mass at 9.30am, 11am and 6.30pm

Service of Reconciliation 3pm

Mon. Tues. Wed 8.30am & 12 noon

Exposition 1-4pm

Holy Thurs. Exposition 1-4pm, Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm

Good Fri. The Passion of the Lord 3pm

Easter Vigil (Sat.) Mass 8pm

Easter Sunday. 9.30am & 11am

[**www.stgregoryschorley.org.uk**](https://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/

I will be celebrating the liturgies of Holy Week at the following times:

Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7pm
Good Friday	Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion	3pm
Holy Saturday	Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord	8pm
Easter Sunday	Mass of Easter Day	11am

You might light a candle at these times to show your participation in these times of prayer wherever you are.

At the moment of Holy Communion you might like to use this prayer again.

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.

You might like to write a list of the people you are particularly holding in your prayers at this difficult time and keep it with you. Read through it slowly at different times of the day.

More resources for praying at home this week, such as the readings for each service, will be found on our websites as we go through the week:

www.stchads-southhill.org and www.stbedesclaytongreen.co.uk

and on our Facebook Group "Parishes of St Chad and St Bede".

There are reflections for adults and resources for praying with children during Holy Week on these websites.

<https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/>

<http://holyweek.pastoral.center/>

I'll be holding all the members of our two parishes in my heart and in my prayers each day and especially at the altar.

May God bless you each day. May He keep you safe and keep you close to His Heart.

Fr Mark

MASS INTENTIONS. The following intentions will be remembered at Mass in the coming week:
People of the parish, Fred Southworth,

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: George Morris, Peter Deacon, Amy Greenhalgh, Vincent Cahill, Margaret Gray, Thomas Hesse, Ray Briant, Winifred Baxendale, Rosalia Lakot.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Jack Robinson, Mary Benadel

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 either Tel. No 01257 460154 or by email stchad.chorley@rcaol.org.uk.

ISOLATED PARISHIONERS If you know any parishioner who might be feeling a bit isolated and who isn't on line Fr Mark would be very happy to ring them if you think that would help. Please ring Father or send an e-mail. Thanks.

Important: Holy Communion whilst in hospital.

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

FOLLOW ST CHAD'S & ST BEDE'S ON FACEBOOK! Fr Mark has set up a new Facebook 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. Go to:
Parishes of St Chad & St Bede <https://www.facebook.com/groups/232935341437045/>

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.

A telephone conversation service (**ChorleyBuddies**) 01257 542367 is now available. Hours 9am – 9pm. It is an opportunity for the lonely and isolated to have a chat with a friendly voice.

The Catholic Pictorial can be viewed online at: <http://www.catholicpic.co.uk>

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy: The Priests of the Deanery suggest at this time that we adopt somebody who is sick in hospital and/or an NHS worker and say prayers for them each day. We suggest The Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Instructions for How to Pray the Chaplet can be found by following the link:

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet>

Readings at Mass for Palm Sunday. 5th April, 2020

This gospel is read at the procession with palms before Mass:

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

When they were near Jerusalem and had come in sight of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, ‘Go to the village facing you, and you will immediately find a tethered donkey and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, “The Master needs them and will send them back directly”’. This took place to fulfil the prophecy:

Say to the daughter of Zion:

Look, your king comes to you;
he is humble, he rides on a donkey
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.

So the disciples went out and did as Jesus had told them. They brought the donkey and the colt, then they laid their cloaks on their backs and he sat on them. Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path. The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed were all shouting:

‘Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heavens!’

And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil. ‘Who is this?’ people asked, and the crowds answered, ‘This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.’

The following are the readings at the Mass itself:

First reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me
a disciple’s tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.

So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

Psalm 21:8-9,17-20,23-24

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who see me deride me.

They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.'

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet
I can count every one of my bones.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

They divide my clothing among them.

They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.

'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Second reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Jesus Christ's state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name

which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

One of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What are you prepared to give me if I hand him over to you?’ They paid him thirty silver pieces, and from that moment he looked for an opportunity to betray him.

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus to say, ‘Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the passover?’ ‘Go to so-and-so in the city’ he replied ‘and say to him, “The Master says: My time is near. It is at your house that I am keeping Passover with my disciples.”’ The disciples did what Jesus told them and prepared the Passover.

When evening came he was at table with the twelve disciples. And while they were eating he said ‘I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me’ They were greatly distressed and started asking him in turn, ‘Not I, Lord, surely?’ He answered, ‘Someone who has dipped his hand into the dish with me, will betray me. The Son of Man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! Better for that man if he had never been born!’ Judas, who was to betray him; asked in his turn, ‘Not I, Rabbi, surely?’ ‘They are your own words’ answered Jesus.

Now as they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to the disciples. ‘Take it and eat,’ he said ‘this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them. ‘Drink all of you from this,’ he said ‘for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. From now on, I tell you, I shall not drink wine until the day I drink the new wine with you in the kingdom of my Father.’

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, ‘You will all lose faith in me this night, for the scripture says: I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered, but after my resurrection I shall go before you to Galilee.’ At this, Peter said, ‘Though all lose faith in you, I will never lose faith.’ Jesus answered him, ‘I tell you solemnly, this very night, before the cock crows, you will have disowned me three times.’ Peter said to him, ‘Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.’ And all the disciples said the same.

Then Jesus came with them to a small estate called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, ‘Stay here while I go over there to pray.’ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with him. And sadness came over him, and great distress. Then he said to them, ‘My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and keep awake with me.’ And going on a little further he fell on his face and prayed. ‘My Father,’ he said ‘if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it.’ He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, ‘So you had not the strength to keep awake with me one hour? You should be awake, and praying not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing, but the

flesh is weak.' Again, a second time, he went away and prayed: 'My Father,' he said 'If this cup cannot pass by without my drinking it, your will be done!' And he came back again and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy. Leaving them there, he went away again and prayed for the third time, repeating the same words. Then he came back to the disciples and said to them, 'You can sleep on now and take your rest. Now the hour has come when the Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is already close at hand.'

He was still speaking when Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared, and with him a large number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Now the traitor had arranged a sign with them. 'The one I kiss,' he had said 'he is the man. Take him in charge.' So he went straight up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi', and kissed him. Jesus said to him, 'My friend, do what you are here for.' Then they came forward, seized Jesus and took him in charge. At that, one of the followers of Jesus grasped his sword and drew it; he struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. Jesus then said, 'Put your sword back, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father who would promptly send more than twelve legions of angels to my defence? But then, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this is the way it must be?' It was at this time that Jesus said to the crowds, 'Am I a brigand, that you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I sat teaching in the Temple day after day and you never laid hands on me.' Now all this happened to fulfil the prophecies in scripture. Then all the disciples deserted him and ran away.

The men who had arrested Jesus led him off to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. Peter followed him at a distance, and when he reached the high priest's palace, he went in and sat down with the attendants to see what the end would be.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus, however false, on which they might pass the death sentence. But they could not find any, though several lying witnesses came forward. Eventually two stepped forward and made a statement, 'This man said, "I have power to destroy the Temple of God and in three days build it up"' The high priest then stood up and said to him, 'Have you no answer to that? What is this evidence these men are bringing against you?' But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, 'I put you on oath by the living God to tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.' 'The words are your own' answered Jesus. 'Moreover, I tell you that from this time onward you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.' At this, the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He has blasphemed. What need of witnesses have we now? There! You have just heard the blasphemy. What is your opinion?' They answered, 'He deserves to die.'

Then they spat in his face and hit him with their fists; others said as they struck him, 'Play the prophet, Christ! Who hit you then?'

Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came up to him and said, 'You too were with Jesus the Galilean.' But he denied it in front of them all. 'I do not know what you are talking about' he said. When he went out to the gateway another servant-girl saw him and said to the people there, 'This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.' And again, with an oath, he denied it, 'I do not know the man.' A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'You are one of them for sure! Why, your accent gives you away.' Then he started calling down curses on himself and swearing, 'I do not know the man.' At that moment the

cock crew, and Peter remembered what Jesus had said, ‘Before the cock crows you will have disowned me three times.’ And he went outside and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people met in council to bring about the death of Jesus. They had him bound, and led him away to hand him over to Pilate, the governor.

When he found that Jesus had been condemned, Judas his betrayer was filled with remorse and took the thirty silver pieces back to the chief priests and elders. ‘I have sinned;’ he said ‘I have betrayed innocent blood’ ‘What is that to us?’ they replied ‘That is your concern.’ And flinging down the silver pieces in the sanctuary he made off and hanged himself; The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said, ‘It is against the Law to put this into the treasury; it is blood-money.’ So they discussed the matter and bought the potter’s field with it as a graveyard for foreigners, and this is why the field is called the Field of Blood today. The words of the prophet Jeremiah were then fulfilled: And they took the thirty silver pieces, the sum at which the precious One was priced by children of Israel, and they gave them for the potter’s field, just as the Lord directed me.

Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and the governor put to him this question, ‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ Jesus replied, ‘It is you who say it.’ But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, ‘Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?’ But to the governor’s complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor’s practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, ‘Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?’ For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, ‘Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.’

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, ‘Which of the two do you want me to release for you?’ they said, ‘Barabbas.’ ‘But in that case,’ Pilate said to them ‘what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?’ They all said, ‘Let him be crucified!’ ‘Why?’ he asked ‘What harm has he done?’ But they shouted all the louder, ‘Let him be crucified!’ Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood. It is your concern.’ And the people, to a man, shouted back, ‘His blood be on us and on our children!’ Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor’s soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’ And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When

they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: ‘This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.’ At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, ‘So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God’s son, come down from the cross!’ The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. ‘He saved others,’ they said ‘he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He puts his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, “I am the son of God.”’ Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘*My God, my God, why have you deserted me?*’ When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, ‘The man is calling on Elijah’, and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. ‘Wait!’ said the rest of them ‘and see if Elijah will come to save him.’ But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, ‘In truth this was a son of God.’

And many women were there, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, called Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate thereupon ordered it to be handed over. So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean shroud and put it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. Now Mary of Magdala and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.

Next day, that is, when Preparation Day was over, the chief priests and the Pharisees went in a body to Pilate and said to him, ‘Your Excellency, we recall that this impostor said, while he was still alive, “After three days I shall rise again.” Therefore give the order to have the sepulchre kept secure until the third day, for fear his disciples come and steal him away and tell the people, “He has risen from the dead.” This last piece of fraud would be worse than what went before.’ ‘You may have your guard’ said Pilate to them. ‘Go and make all as secure as you know how.’ So they went and made the sepulchre secure, putting seals on the stone and mounting a guard.