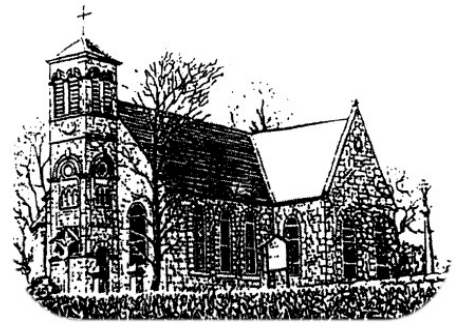


St Chad's RC Church

237 Town Lane,
Whittle-le-Woods,
Chorley, Lancashire PR6 8AJ
Tel: 01257 460154
Email: stchad.chorley@rcaol.org.uk
Website: www.stchads-southhill.org
Parish Priest: Fr Mark Beattie



NEWSLETTER. 6th SUNDAY AFTER EASTER Year A. 17th May 2020



Dear Friends,

It has certainly been an Eastertide quite unlike any other this year, but I hope it has been a help to us all in these strange times. Knowing that Christ has died for us and is now alive and at our side is a support unlike any other.

Eastertide this week will move to a new moment, to a new mystery to ponder. On Thursday we will joyfully celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven. His work is completed and He returns to the Father to be our intercessor and our friend. He has promised to send His Holy Spirit to be with us always, to remind us of His words and to enable us to continue His work in the world.

Perhaps being locked down might help us to keep these days of prayer from the Ascension to Pentecost, the first Novena, in a more intense way this year. Each of us can invite the Holy Spirit to fill us once again to help us to become more like Christ in our dealings with others. We can pray for the Holy Spirit to be powerfully at work across the world, helping us all to make our world more like the place God wants it to be. We can pray that the work of the Holy Spirit in God's Church and in our parishes will be unhindered by our timidity or our reluctance to change.

Let's keep each other in our prayers and remember especially those who are suffering most in this time of pandemic. We can pray for those who are most isolated, those who are sick or who care for the sick, those who are facing real financial hardship, and our brothers and sisters across the world who are living with all kinds of threats to their health without proper medical help.

Come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of all believers. You can renew the face of the earth. Amen.

I'm keeping you all daily in my prayers, God bless you and yours,

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. The residents of Highcliffe, Greenways, Brookside, Meadow Bank Nursing Homes and Brookhaven

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for Marie Clayton Fowler and Margaret Rigby who were buried at St Bede's this last week. Please pray also for their families at this difficult time

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/

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 14th May Bishop Robert Byrne CO, St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle 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

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

- Resources now available include:
- Reflection for the Sixth Sunday of Easter
- Readings for the Sixth Sunday of Easter
- Resurrection appearances, Matthew's Gospel reflection
- It takes two: building a marriage that lasts (a free online marriage enrichment course)
- Deaf News (May/June 2020)

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

This Sunday (17 May) is designated as the International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians.

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR EASTERN CHRISTIANS

What is the International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians?

The International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians enables Eastern and Western Christians to come together in communion through prayer, and is shared by the Eastern Churches in communion with the Bishop of Rome, including the Armenian Catholic, Chaldean, Coptic Catholic, Ethiopian and Eritrean Catholic (in Africa), Greek Melkite, Maronite, Syrian Catholic, Syro-Malabar (in India), Syro-Malankara (in India).

When is the International day of Prayer for Eastern Christians?

The International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians – organised by Oeuvre d'Orient in Paris - takes place on Sunday 17th May 2020, with the participation of Christians from all of Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, the Horn of Africa and India.

Who are the Eastern Christians?

The Eastern Christians are direct descendants of the Early Christians and trace their roots back to apostolic times. There are more than 26 million Eastern Christians living in the Middle East and surrounding regions. For Western Christians, they provide a direct link to the Early Church, leading us to the roots of Christianity and showing us, through their tradition and witness, a living faith in Christ.

Why is the International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians on the Sixth Sunday of Easter?

Sunday after Sunday, during the Easter celebrations, Eastern and Western Christians hear the Acts of the Apostles which witness to the first preaching of the Gospel. These readings remind us of the origin of the Eastern Churches and the history of the first Eastern Christians, who brought the Gospel to us. Nowadays, many of these Eastern Christians are oppressed and persecuted, and struggle to survive and to pass on our faith to their children, in their own lands where Christianity was born and first spread.

An international day of communion through prayer.

We invite Western Christians to embrace the following prayer intention for Eastern Christians: "Heavenly Father, we pray today for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East. By your heavenly grace, strengthen the faith and hope of Eastern Christians. May they be blessed with peace and prosperity in their lands. And may we be inspired by their devotion and witness to the Gospel, by their love and compassion for all in their communities, and by their courage, their endurance and self-sacrifice against oppression. Through their charity, tolerance and friendship, bring peace and reconciliation to those troubled lands, where Christianity was born and first spread. Through Christ our Lord. Amen"

Messages from Fr Mark

Donating to St Chad's via text

You are now able to donate to St Chad's parish via text. Please follow the instructions below. The donation will be added to your regular mobile telephone bill. Thank you.

Text [STCHAD](#) to 70085 to donate £2. Texts cost £2 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £2 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text [STCHADNOINFO](#) to 70085.

Text [STCHAD](#) to 70450 to donate £3. Texts cost £3 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £3 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text [STCHADNOINFO](#) to 70450.

Text [STCHAD](#) to 70460 to donate £5. Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £5 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text [STCHADNOINFO](#) to 70460.

Text [STCHAD](#) to 70470 to donate £10. Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text [STCHADNOINFO](#) to 70470.

If you would like to make a donation in support of St Chad's parish please read the following message.

St Chad's Online giving website

Our parish has its own unique link on the website and a photograph of your church is shown to provide additional reassurance to donors that they are donating to their parish. All donations will go to the parish selected by the donor.

<https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/st-chad-south-hill-chorley>

There is a detailed guide on how to donate on the website. If you need any support with this please contact n.smith@rcaol.org.uk with details of your telephone number and the most convenient time to call you.

Any parishioner wishing to make a donation electronically to their parish during lock down is now welcome to get in touch with me. Please e-mail me to either parish e-mail address and I can send you the form. People are also welcome to set up a regular Standing Order using the same form which you can download from this website

stchads.chorley@rcaol.org.uk

stbedesclaytongreen@rcaol.org.uk

Please say if your donation is for St Bede's or St Chad's. You are asked to make sure you attach your name with your donation if you want your gift to be included in the Gift Aid scheme.

Please don't worry at all if this is not possible for you at the moment. We have really held back from making a big thing about money at a time when people have more important things on their minds. I have been approached by several people about this so I thought it was OK to share it here and on our parish websites.

Also:

We have received this notice from our Catholic Hospital Chaplains who have asked us to circulate it to parishioners.

"It is important for priests whose parishioners are in COVID-19 wards to encourage families to ask the ward staff to invite one of the Chaplains to visit their loved ones. The hospital will usually ask relatives if there is anything they believe their loved ones would like or need, and that would be the moment for families to tell the hospital staff that their loved one would appreciate the services of one of the Chaplains – for the Sacrament of the Sick, the Commendation of the Dying or Prayers for the Dead. The hospital will often, understandable, not invite the Chaplain onto the ward without being prompted by the families of their patients"

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.

6th Sunday of Easter 17th May 2020, Readings at Mass

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First reading: Acts 8:5-8,14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 65

R/ Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

R/ Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!'

Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men.

R/ Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might.

R/ Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul:

Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me.

R/ Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Second reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said, "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we shall come to him." Alleluia!

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father,