

Parishes of St Bede, Clayton Green and St Chad, South Hill

Parish Newsletter

Sunday 10th January, 2021
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord



Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Beattie

St Bede's Parish Office is now closed.

For all parish enquiries please telephone Fr Mark on 01257 460154

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

Facebook page Look for "Parishes of St Chad and St Bede" and request to join the group.

E-mail: stbedesclaytongreen@rcaol.org.uk or stchad.chorley@rcaol.org.uk

SUSPENSION OF CHURCH SERVICES FROM TODAY 9TH JANUARY, 2021

Dear Friends,

To keep each other as safe as we can our church services are now suspended. Public Mass will not be celebrated this weekend. Several of our stewards and volunteers have rightly decided to shield in the coming weeks and I do not think we can open our churches safely. Only Funeral Masses and Funeral Services will take place in our churches for the time being.

The Government is telling everyone to stay at home to prevent the spread of the new variant of the coronavirus. We have to play our part too.

Mass will be streamed on our Facebook Pages "Parishes of St Chad and St Bede".

(The quality of this streaming is not great. If the sound is difficult to hear from your device it has been suggested that you use ear-phones or a Bluetooth speaker.)

Mass is also being live-streamed from other local churches on this site:- <https://www.churchservices.tv/county/lancashire/>

The Church continues to exercise its ministry of care through each one of us as we pray at home, take care of our loved ones and neighbours as best we can, and live in a spirit of trust that God is with us in these difficult days.

I know how difficult it can be to live alone I find the isolation that is being asked of us a challenge too. If it would help please ring me on 01257 460154. I will be very happy to hear you. If you would like to receive our weekly newsletter by email please let us know and we can add you to our list.

Our office at St Bede's is now closed. Our parish administrator, Clare, is working from home.

All enquiries should be addressed to me on 01257 460154 or by email stbedesclaytongreen@rcaol.org.uk or stchad.chorley@rcaol.org.uk

You will also find updates and our weekly newsletter on our parish websites. www.stbedesclaytongreen.co.uk and www.stchads-southhill.org

I keep you and those who are dear to you in my prayers each day.

God bless,
Fr Mark

I attach here two messages, one from local Directors of Public Health, and another from our Dean, Fr Graeme Dunne, which have helped me make this difficult decision.

A message to all Church Ministers from Lancashire County Council

'As Directors of Public Health representing Lancashire, we are strongly advising all faith communities to pause communal prayer and worship during the lockdown period, to reduce the possible spread of the new Covid variant.

We recognise that this is a big request, but it will help to protect our communities at this critical stage of the pandemic.

While we can't require our faith communities to do this, we are asking everyone to make this temporary change to protect each other.

You have already made changes to your worship arrangements, but we are asking for caution at this difficult and concerning time.

We're seeing increasing numbers of cases in Lancashire, and worrying increases in the number of people hospitalised from Covid, as well as increasing numbers of deaths. NHS and hospital capacity is under enormous strain across Lancashire...'

From Fr Graeme, the Dean of the Chorley Pastoral Area.

In a letter to the priests of the Archdiocese, sent this week, Archbishop Malcolm wrote:

"Although I have circulated the recent government advice on the opening of churches, I want to emphasise that the final decision in this regard is yours. ... You have to consider your volunteers and stewards. ... Now is the time to make wise decisions for the good of all. As priests I am very aware of how committed you are to your sacred ministry and that you will not leave your people without pastoral care."

In the light of these comments and the rising number of cases of Covid-19 and deaths, and the pressure being placed on our hospitals a number of priests in the deanery have decided to suspend public worship until the impact of the virus starts to fall, and the vaccine is more widely available. We hope this will be in the near future.

This was a difficult decision to take, but we feel it is the right thing to do and will be kept under review in the coming weeks. We thank you for your understanding and ask for your prayers.

Fr Graeme Dunne VF

Dean of the Chorley Pastoral Area

Masses this week

Sunday 10th January, 2021

Live streaming of our Masses

Mass from our parishes is being streamed on our Facebook page. Go to Facebook and look for "Parishes of St Chad and St Bede" and request to join the group.

Mass will be normally be streamed on this page at 11am each day.

You can use this site <https://www.churchservices.tv/county/lancashire/> to find **lots of other Masses being streamed**. Follow the link to see Mass streamed from St Joseph's, Chorley, St Gregory's, Leyland St Mary's, and Browndedge St Mary's.

The following intentions will be remembered at Mass on these dates.

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| Saturday 9 th January | Maria Fowler |
| Sunday 10 th January | Eddie Donegan (RIP) |
| Monday 11 th January | Mary Gamble and Gamble family |
| Tuesday 12 th January | Peter Fishwick |
| Wednesday 13 th January | |
| Thursday 14 th January | Derek Butterworth and Butterworth family |
| Friday 15 th January | Elizabeth Maureen Moss |
| Saturday 16 th January | Mary Batty (RIP) |
| Sunday 17 th January | Parishioners |

Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners:

Syd Newton, George Morris, Peter Deacon, Amy Greenhalgh, Vincent Cahill, Margaret Gray, Thomas Hesse, Ray Briant, Eileen Farnworth, Pat Johnson, Robert Rainford, Brenda Wrightson, Maria Reynolds, Eileen Ainscough, Tony Morris, Marie Barnish, Helen Witte, Connie Foy, Katherine Yates, Marie Rose Sanderson, Mark Smith, Clare Yarwood and the residents of Highcliffe, Greenways, Brookside, Meadow Bank Nursing Homes and Brookhaven.

Please keep in your prayers those who have died recently and for their families.

Barry Hiccox, Josie Noblet and Teresa Roe. ***Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.***

COVID-19 Regulations: Holy Communion may not be taken to people in their homes at the present time. Please ring Fr. Mark on 01257 460154 if you would like to keep more in touch with the parish. It would be great to hear from you even if just for a chat on the phone.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: At present due to Covid 19 restrictions we are not permitted to celebrate this sacrament in the confessional. If anyone would like to make their confession, please telephone Fr Mark on 01257 460154 and we can arrange to meet outside one of our churches.

Helping us pray: At www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk you will see other churches in our diocese which are streaming their services. Each week the Archdiocese provides good resources to help us to pray with the readings used at weekend Masses. Go to www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/ and click on 'Prayer and Other Resources'.

Brownedge Christians Together Food Bank the volunteers and recipients of the foodbank wish to thank all the parishioners for their continuing support in providing a wide range of good quality food. **Donations can still be made at Morrison's in Bamber-Bridge.** Your generosity enables us to deliver essential food items to nearly thirty families. We are now in a good position to offer help to more families and individuals in need. We cover Bamber Bridge, Clayton Brook, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale. If you need food or know of anyone who needs support with food, please contact tony.bctfb42@gmail.com or telephone 07751361960

The Brownedge Christians Together Food Bank is also appealing for empty half dozen egg boxes. These can be left in the food bank boxes in St Mary's Church or in the porches of St Mary's Priory and St Benedict's Monastery.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Prayers taken from the CAFOD website.
Prayer for the end of the virus

SECAM, the Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences in Africa and Madagascar, has suggested the following prayer for all those affected by the coronavirus:

Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation.

We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world.

Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world.

Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families.

We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found.

We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people.

Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. Amen.

Light in the darkest times

A light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower."

John 1:5

Loving, ever-living and compassionate God, You understand the pain of loss, the heartache of bereavement,

May we hold in our hearts all those whose families or friends have died.

You are a light that shines in the darkest times,

Guide us and heal us in our sickness and sorrow.

You comfort us in times of fear,

May we comfort each other, even as we keep apart.

You console and lead us in times of doubt and confusion,

May we follow the light of your love and spread hope.

You move our hearts to acts of generosity,

May we be led to share what we have with those in need.

God of life,

We thank you for the signs of your light in the midst of our darkness,

May we be signs of your compassion in the heart of your world.

Amen.

Prayer: Linda Jones/CAFOD

Infinite power and love

Lord God, we entrust to you the families and communities

affected by Coronavirus, wherever they may be.

We pray especially for health care workers, that you may guide and protect them.

We pray that your Spirit might inspire those researching new medicines and treatments.

And in the midst of this, keep us strong in faith, hope and love. Grant us the courage

and perseverance to be good neighbours.

May the words of your Son Jesus Christ in the Our Father,

be our prayer as we entrust ourselves and all of us who are affected

to your infinite power and love.

Amen.

Adapted from an Ebola prayer by Caritas Guinea

Your loving care

Lord Jesus,

when you walked with us on earth

you spread your healing power.

We place in your loving care

all who are affected by Coronavirus.

Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.

Bring relief to our sick,

console our bereaved,

protect those who care for us.

We lift our prayer to you Lord,

and trust in your infinite mercy,

as we wait for the daybreak.

Amen.

Prayer for uncertain times

Lord Jesus Christ, light of this world, thank

you for the hope you have given us.

Help us to give our worries to you and, above all, to trust in your unfailing love.

For you have promised us "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you."

Almighty God, our protector, let us trust in you to carry us through this time of uncertainty.

Jesus, hear our cries as we mourn those

who've left us.

Whatever tomorrow may bring, we will praise your name. Amen.

Prayer: Sasha Breakenridge, CAFOD volunteer

Sunday 10th January 2021

First reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

The baptism of the Lord

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds; make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Second reading: 1 John 5:1-9

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth – so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said: This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said: 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'