



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

Parish News

**Christmas Day
25th December 2024**

Dear Friends,

All through the year our parishes are only able to keep going thanks to our very generous volunteers who share their time and their skills in God's service. It's a great blessing as a priest to go to do something only to find that someone has already quietly taken care of it. People look after our gardens and grounds, and make sure the bins get put out on bin day, they share their faith with our young people, clean our churches, prepare the flowers, carry out repairs, launder the cloths we use at Mass, maintain our websites, count and bank the money and maintain our parish halls, prepare adults for baptism or reception into the Church, visit the housebound, proclaim the Word of God and lead the music in our worship, serve at the altar and look after safeguarding our young people and vulnerable adults. These are just a few of the important tasks that make it possible for our community to continue to be a place of prayer and service. I would also like to thank Deacon Simon who in addition to his duties as chaplain at Preston and Chorley hospitals is a great support to me and to our families preparing for the baptism of their child.

A special word of thanks goes to the staff of our two great parish schools. They are places of love and care where our faith is handed on with kindness and great skill. This year both our schools were visited by our Archdiocesan inspectors and they received glowing praise for their work with our young people and their families. We can all be very proud of both our parish schools.

Thank you to all the parishioners who help us form together a supportive and welcoming community of prayer. Everyone who is able to attend Mass makes a real contribution to the atmosphere of prayerful celebration we all appreciate through the year. We can be grateful too to our parishioners who are no longer able to join us at Mass but who keep us all in their prayers at home. In the coming years it will be the case that there will be fewer priests but with the generosity of the members of our community we will be able to meet any challenges and new ways of working that will come along. Let's take time in these precious days of Christmas, like Mary, to treasure God's merciful love in our hearts. Every year the story of that first Christmas reminds us that Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger because there was no other place to be found for him. May Jesus always find a welcoming home in all our hearts. In the Bible God tells us over and over again, "Do not be afraid." God is with us through all we have to face. He has made his home among us and within us.

***Father, we thank you for the love and mercy you have shown us
in the gift of your beloved Son Jesus, our Saviour.***

***May we treasure your presence with us every day of the year
and humbly walk in his way of loving service. Amen.***

With my thanks and with prayers that you and your families will have a peaceful and happy Christmas. God bless, **Fr Mark**

Christmas Raffle.

We raised over £1000 in our parish Christmas Raffles which is a great help to our running costs this winter. Thank you to everyone who sold or bought tickets and to the donors of the prizes. Congratulations to the winners who have now been informed of their win.

Preparation for First Holy Communion will begin in February in both our parishes. If you have a child in year 4 or above who would like to make their First Holy Communion next year who does **not** attend St Chad's or St Bede's primary schools, please get in touch and we will let you know when the preparation is starting.

Poinsettias at Christmas

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to help us decorate our Churches for Christmas with Poinsettias. A card of dedication has been placed by each plant donated. Our flower team will let us know when it's OK to take your plant home.

Confessions are heard in the confessional in St Bede's church on Saturday evenings before the 6pm Mass from 5.30pm until 5.50pm. Or at any time on request.



Pilgrimage to Padua and Lake Garda. Fr Mark has been invited to help on a pilgrimage to Padua and Lake Garda 16th – 23rd May 2025, travelling with members of the Catholic Parish in Lydiate. There are spaces for some of our parishioners to make the pilgrimage too. It's unfortunately very expensive. £1235 per person sharing half-board. If anyone would like more information or is interested in joining the pilgrimage there is a poster giving the itinerary at the back of church or you can ask Fr Mark for a booking form.

We are looking for a few more volunteers who would be able to take Holy Communion to parishioners in St Bede's parish who are unable to join us at Mass. They might be in a nursing home or at their home. If you are willing to accompany one of our volunteers or drive them around that would be a help too. These roles need a DBS check which we guide you through. Please talk to Fr Mark if you would like to help. Thank you.

AN INVITATION TO A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

As you know, the process is underway for the appointment of a new Archbishop of Liverpool. You are invited to contribute to this process to have your voice heard. This is an exciting development in the life of the Church. There will be two meetings, held with the blessing of Archbishop Malcolm, on Thursday 16th January 2025 at St Mary's Leyland, PR25 1PD (7.00pm – 9.30pm) and Saturday 18th Jan 2025 at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, L17 1AA (10.30am - 1.00pm). Each gathering will be the same – so only come to one of them. We will look at where we are as a diocese and our future development and we will consider the qualities needed in our future Archbishop. This is open to all members of our community here in the Archdiocese but we are asked to reserve a place if we want to attend. Please send us an email or phone the parish office in the New Year if you would like to be at the meeting.

Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners

George Morris, Amy Greenhalgh, Thomas Hesse, Ray Briant, Robert Rainford, Brenda Wrightson, Maria Reynolds, Eileen Ainscough, Tony Miller, Katherine Yates, Marie Coleman, Virginia Hayton-Weed, Lawrence Eccles, Patrick Phillips, Joyce Campbell, Agnes Moss, Sandra Farrel, Diane Gunn, Shelagh Young, Liam Fogg, Dorothy Whittle, Gary Crook, Robert Hackeson, Marie Gamble and the residents of Highcliffe, Greenways, Brookside, Willow Bank, Meadow Bank Nursing Homes and Brookhaven.

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Beattie. **Telephone 01257 460154**

Deacon: Rev Simon Gilbertson

St Bede's Church. 598, Preston Road, Clayton-le-Woods. PR6 7EB

01772 335209

St Chad's Church. 237, Town Lane, Whittle-le-Woods. PR6 8AJ.

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

Facebook page Look for "Parishes of St Chad and St Bede"

E-mail our parish office: stbedesclaytongreen@rcaol.org.uk

[or stchad.chorley@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stchad.chorley@rcaol.org.uk)

[or to Fr Mark privately m.beattie@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.beattie@rcaol.org.uk)

[The parish office is open on Monday & Tuesday.](#) **01772 335209**

Masses and Services

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|-------------|---|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | Tuesday 24th December | | Christmas Eve | |
| 5pm | St. Bede's | Dominic McCrudden | | |
| 7pm | St. Chad's | Hughes family | | |
| | Wednesday 25th December | | Christmas Day | |
| 9.15am | St. Chad's | Parishioners | | |
| 11am | St. Bede's | Parishioners | | |
| | Thursday 26th December | | Feast of St Stephen | |
| 11am | St. Chad's | Vincent Noblet | | |
| Friday | 27 th December | 9.15am | St Bede's | Service of the Word and Holy Communion |
| Saturday | 28 th December | 6pm | St. Bede's | Thanksgiving |
| Sunday | 29th December | | Feast of the Holy Family (PW1) | |
| | St. Chad's | 9.15am | Mary & John Hilton | |
| | St. Bede's | 11am | Vivien Howard | |
| Monday | 30 th December | 9.15am | St. Chad's | Service of the Word and Holy Communion |
| Tuesday | 31 st December | 9.15am | St. Bede's | Service of the Word and Holy Communion |



Wednesday 1st January 2025. Mary, the Holy Mother of God



10.30am St. Chad's Thanksgiving (Health)

12 noon St. Bede's Bernard & Jenny Walker RIP

Thursday 2nd January 9.15am St Chad's Harry Bolton RIP

Friday 3rd January 9.15am St. Bede's Alan Hill RIP

Saturday 4th January 6pm St. Bede's Denis Ronson RIP

Sunday 5th January **Epiphany of the Lord**

9.15am St. Chad's Parishioners

11am St. Bede's Frank, Angela & Declan Collins