

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

Parish News

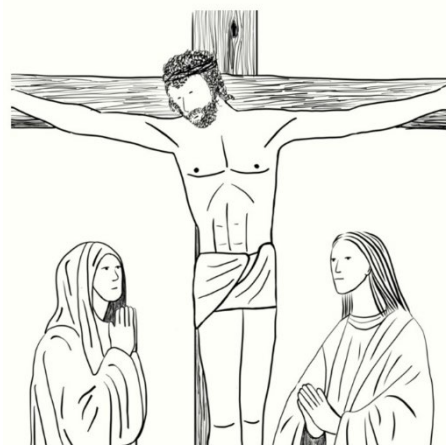
1st Sunday in Lent
22nd February 2026

CAFOD Family Fast Day

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. This coming Friday we are invited to go without something to eat or drink that we would normally enjoy and give the money we save to help our brothers and sisters in need. There will be a retiring collection on the 28th February and the 1st March, after all Masses. Please give what you can, using the CAFOD envelope or in the retiring collection. At any time, you are welcome to put an envelope marked "CAFOD" into the collection and we will make sure it is sent on. If you pay tax in the UK, please use one of the Gift Aid envelopes at the back of church to make your donation. This adds 25% to the value of your donation. Thank you.



**In Lent the Stations of the Cross
will be prayed in our churches,
starting on 23rd February.
Mondays at St Bede's at 1pm
Thursdays at St Chad's at 7pm
Fridays at St Bede's at 7pm**



Everyone is very welcome to join us for these times of prayer helping us to prepare for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. If you would like to be involved in reading at our Stations of the Cross, please speak to the leader after the service.

The community at St Joseph's Brindle are meeting for readings, hymns and quiet prayer in church on Saturdays, to begin with in Lent, 4pm-5pm, followed by a cuppa in the presbytery. Everyone is very welcome to join in this time of prayer.

We are currently putting together the **rotas for ministry at our weekend Masses** – Special Ministers of Holy Communion, Readers, Little Church leaders and Welcomers. If you would like to volunteer, please let us have your contact details or talk to Fr Mark. Special Ministers of Holy Communion and Little Church volunteers will need a current DBS given through the Archdiocese. Thank you.

Tea and coffee will be served in St. Chad's Parish Centre on **Sunday 22nd February after the 9.15am Mass.** Everyone is warmly invited to come along.

Children in Year 4 or older who would like to celebrate their First Confession and First Holy Communion this year are invited to come to the first preparation session. Classes will be held at St Bede's at 6.30pm in church beginning on Thursday 26th February and at St Chad's after the 9.30am Mass beginning Sunday 1st March. Children attending other schools should contact our parish office. Please keep all our candidates and their families in your prayers at this important time.

St Chad's Craft Group will meet on **Tuesday 24th February** from 1.30pm to 3.30pm in **St. Chad's Parish Centre**. Everyone is welcome, no skills or previous experience required.
Clayton Thursday Group meets on **Thursday 26th February** for the over 60's, in **Whittle Methodist Church on Preston Road** between 12.45pm and 3.15pm.
St Chad's Reading Group will meet on **Monday 2nd March**, 2pm to 4pm in St. Chad's Parish Centre. Books are provided from the County Library service and are available to borrow at each meeting. New members are very welcome.

During March, we ask all **Missio Red Box holders** to bring their boxes to church for collection. Feel free to empty your box at home and place your donation in the Missio brown envelope provided with the previous collection in September. If you no longer have the envelope, any envelope or small bag can be used. If possible, please write the amount on the front of the envelope/bag, along with your name. The boxes/envelopes can be left at the back of St Bede's or St Chad's Churches any time during March. Thank you for supporting Missio."

St. Chad's Social Group is looking for new volunteers to join their team. St. Joseph's parishioners are more than welcome to attend. The next meeting is on **Monday 2nd March in St. Chad's Parish Centre, starting at 6.45pm**. Please come along and volunteer if you can.

Trouble at' Mill, an afternoon '**Sing a Long**' with Lancashire favourites. Commencing on Monday 23rd February at 2pm, in Gregson Lane, Community Centre. Preston. PR5 ODP. Come along, disabled friendly and no stairs. Entry is a small donation and Tea & Coffee available.

The Parish Centre at St. Bede's has been closed following a major fault with the electrical system. We will let you know when it can be used again. We are very sorry for the inconvenience this will cause and hope to have the hall up and running again as soon as possible. We are also going to need to start work to reinforce the foundations at the corner of the hall where the kitchen is located. We have been told that work on this will be starting soon. Thank you for your understanding while we get everything up and running again.

HELP NEEDED. Volunteers are needed to help with cleaning our churches. If you think you can help, please talk to Fr Mark. We also need a few more members for our choir at the 9.15am Sunday Mass at St Chad's. Just make your way to the choir loft before Mass if you would like to be part of the choir. Any singers or musicians in our parishes who would like to get involved in helping with music at our weekend Masses are also very welcome. If you would like to volunteer in any way in the parish, please let us know. We would be very happy to help you get involved. Send us an email or ring to have a chat.

Donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and warm clothing are needed. Food left at the back of St Chad's goes to support Chorley Help the Homeless. Please leave donations at the back of St Bede's Church for the Christian Community Larder in Bamber-Bridge. If you need help or would like to offer help they can be reached on 07762905978. Email: christiancommunitylarder@gmail.com Warm clothes, blankets, sleeping bags etc. left at the back of St Bede's Church go to the Metanoia Project helping homeless people in Preston. Your support is very much appreciated especially during this time of bad weather.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been blessed with members of St Joseph's Parish choosing to join our weekend Masses both at St Bede's and St Chad's. It will take us all a while to settle into new ways of doing things. I ask your patience and understanding as we learn what needs to be done to make everyone feel at home.

It is of course a big change for those coming from St Joseph's but I hope all our parishioners are open to finding new ways of doing things and learning from each other.

All our priests will be asked to take on more responsibilities in the coming years as the numbers of priests falls due to retirements. They will have more parishioners to support and serve and often they have duties which take them out of the parish too, on committees for the Archdiocese and the deanery, in high schools, hospitals etc. It's a time when we can find new ways for people to share their gifts in the service of the mission of the Church to bring the good news to more members of our communities. I'm sure this is the work of the Holy Spirit and that God's grace is powerfully at work among us.

The following information is in response to some of the questions that have been asked over the past few weeks. I think some of it will be useful to all the members of our parishes.

Let's keep each other in our prayers that God might be able to use us all in His loving plan for our world. God bless, *Fr Mark*

Parking at St Bede's. We apologise for the problems people have experienced parking at St Bede's over the last couple of weekends. For the church and the primary school at St Bede's we try to operate a one-way system. There is a road accessed from Preston Road which runs alongside the church between the presbytery and the cottages. Please enter the carpark via this entrance. We leave the carpark by the opening onto Westwood Road. There are quite a few parking spaces available through the school gate in front of the parish hall. There is also on-street parking on Preston Road. We have been asked to have the lighting improved from the carpark to the church. We have asked a company to help us with this.



Access for people who use a wheelchair at St Bede's

We have a few parking spaces in front of the presbytery at St Bede's for people who use a wheelchair or a walking aid. Please do not use these spaces if you don't need level access. Access to the church is through the gate between the presbytery and the barns.

Access for people who use a wheelchair at St Chad's or who find the steps difficult. There is level access from the lower parish centre carpark through the path through the bushes and around the back of the presbytery. If you let us know you are coming the sacristy door will be open giving a more level access to the church.

Gluten Free Hosts Gluten free hosts are normally distributed by the priest at each Mass. If you need a gluten free host, please introduce yourself to the priest before Mass so we know we have enough hosts consecrated. Please receive Holy Communion from the priest.

St Joseph's Offertory Envelopes handed into the collection at St Chad's and St Bede's are currently handed back to St Joseph's to be put in the parish bank account.

Parish contact forms are available at the back of church. These must be signed by each individual wishing to hand in their contact details to be kept in our parish files.

Receiving the weekly newsletter by email. Please fill in one of the parishes' contact forms and tick the box indicating you would like to sign up for our weekly newsletter.

Welcomers arrive early for weekend Masses and stand at the back of church handing our Mass leaflets and answering questions of new parishioners or visitors to the parish. New members to our welcomers teams are very 'welcome'.

Ministers of Holy Communion who take the Blessed Sacrament to someone in their home or in a care home are asked to make sure we have the name and address of the person being visited in the parish office. This is a safeguarding requirement. It also allows the parish priest to arrange to visit sick and housebound parishioners in their homes. We try to keep this list up to date but we need your help to do this.

Our Parish Websites. We currently have three different websites, one for each parish, which are updated every week. They are all maintained by parish volunteers. We are very grateful for their generous service each week. We hope to create a new website for our three parishes in the coming months perhaps with links to the existing sites.

Names of people wishing to be prayed for can only be included in our newsletter with the consent of the person named. This is to keep us in line with GDPR legislation. We no longer print the names of those being baptised or getting married in our newsletter for the same reason.

Mass intentions can be handed in using the envelopes at the back of church. It is not always possible for a Mass to be offered at short notice and some dates requested may already have been asked for. There is no set donation for Mass to be offered for your intention but any money given is a support to our parish.

Parish Facebook Group. Our Facebook page is updated each week with information from our newsletter and what is happening during the week. It is a closed group as we had some issues with dodgy adverts and scammers etc. when we first started the page during the first Covid lockdown. It may take a day or two for our administrators to admit new members into the group. The group is currently called 'Parishes of St Chad and St Bede'.

Baptisms take place on Sundays at 12.15. If you would like to have your child baptised, please telephone us and we will arrange to meet and make the arrangements.

Cemeteries. St Bede's cemetery is closed for new graves. We are able to offer plots for cremated remains for residents of the parish. St Joseph's and St Chad's cemeteries have limited spaces left and are only available for residents of the parish. Graves may not be purchased in advance.

St Vincent de Paul Group meets at St Bede's. They pray together and try to respond to those who need help in our community. They raise funds by regular collections after Masses at St Bede's but donations can be made at any time. Would it be OK to also collect at the Sunday morning Mass at St Chad's now and again? Please let me know what you think. New members from across our three parishes are very welcome to join the group and support this important sign of our community, putting the Gospel of love into practice.

Social Events. Both St Chad's and St Bede's parishes have groups who organise social events. These raise much needed funds but perhaps more importantly they help us get to know each other a bit better and extend the reach of our parishes to people who might not pray with us but are still part of our community. It would be great to also have parish events at St Joseph's Parish Hall. If this is something you would like to help with, please let Fr Mark know and we will see what we can arrange.

Weddings. We are required to have six month's notice for a wedding to take place in church. Please contact Fr Mark if you would like to be married in church. Sometimes people think that they are not able to be married in church for one reason or another. Please talk to us if this is the case. There might be some help we can offer.

Some new groups would be great too.

- Help with older children who would like to be baptised or make their First Holy Communion.
- Help with funerals and support for those who have been bereaved.
- People who can organise trips and pilgrimages.
- Adults who help at the altar when we don't have altar servers at Mass and at funerals.
- A parish council or parish mission team.

- A group that would organise events for our younger parishioners and teenagers.

A parish Finance committee is currently being formed to have oversight of our parish expenditure with a volunteer from each of our three parishes. Thanks to those who have agreed to take part. This will help us to share financial information with our parishioners for greater accountability and a deeper sense of our shared responsibility for the future.

Our parishes are all part of the Family of Parishes which is called (rather unimaginatively) ‘Family 3’ and is part of the Lancashire Deanery. We have a representative from each parish who meet with our priests and Deacon Simon to look at how we can work closer together and share our resources. Our three parishes are part of a family with St Joseph’s, Harpers Lane in Chorley and St Joseph’s Withnell.

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Beattie Tel. 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.

St Chad’s Parish Hall 07719718523 **St Bede’s Parish Hall** 01257 271818

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

www.brindlestjosephs.org.uk

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

or to Fr Mark privately m.beattie@rcaol.org.uk

The parish office is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. **01772 335209**

Masses and Services this week

<i>Saturday 21st February</i>	<i>6pm</i>	<i>St. Bede’s</i>	<i>A successful operation</i>
<i>Sunday 22nd February</i>	First Sunday of Lent (PW1)		
	<i>9.15am</i>	<i>St. Chad’s</i>	<i>Christine Halsall (RIP)</i>
	<i>11am</i>	<i>St. Bede’s</i>	<i>Jeannette & Adam Watson</i>
<i>Monday 23rd February</i>	<i>9.15am</i>	<i>St. Chad’s</i>	<i>Robert Hackeson</i>
<i>Tuesday 24th February</i>	<i>9.15am</i>	<i>St. Bede’s</i>	<i>For the Lord’s mercy and forgiveness</i>
<i>Wednesday 25th February</i>	<i>No Mass</i>		
<i>Thursday 26th February</i>	<i>9.15am</i>	<i>St. Chad’s</i>	<i>Special Intention</i>
<i>Friday 27th February</i>	<i>9.15am</i>	<i>St. Bede’s</i>	<i>Parishioners</i>
<i>Saturday 28th February</i>	<i>6pm</i>	<i>St. Bede’s</i>	<i>Marie & Tony Morris</i>
<i>Sunday 29th February</i>	Second Sunday of Lent (PW2)		
	<i>9.15am</i>	<i>St. Chad’s</i>	<i>Liz Fogarty (RIP)</i>
	<i>11am</i>	<i>St. Bede’s</i>	<i>Peter Gallagher (Anniversary)</i>

Please also pray for our sick and housebound parishioners:

Kath Yates, Jim Holmes, Paola De Sanctis, Eileen Ainscough, Agnes Moss and the residents of Highcliffe, Greenways, Brookside, Willow Bank, Meadow Bank Nursing Homes and Brookhaven.



Confessions are heard in the confessional at St Bede's Church
on Saturday 5.30pm to 5.50pm or at any time on request.

Altar Servers. New servers are always welcome. Children in Year 4 or older are very welcome to learn how to serve at Mass. It's a great way to learn more about the Mass and help us to pray together. Please let Fr Mark know if you would like to join our team.