

The stable, Mary, Joseph and the child Jesus, visited by shepherds and wise men. It is right that we should remember and celebrate in this way, but sometimes our celebrations can lose sight of the reality of that cold winter's night two thousand years ago. The distance travelled: Mary and Joseph were far from home, they were living in a land ruled by an occupying power, forced to travel to Bethlehem to take part in a census. When they arrived there, among the crowd, there was nowhere for them to stay until an innkeeper let them use a stable. There were shepherds looking after their flocks on a dark hillside with no light and no warmth and wise men who travelled from afar, a great distance, in the hope of seeing the saviour. Suddenly, a transformation as darkness became light. A child is born. Shepherds, at first cowering and scared, have a vision of angels bringing tidings of great joy, for 'today a Saviour has been born to us, he is Christ the Lord'. Christmas transforms our lives too, especially if we give to those around us: to people who are on their own at Christmas, or by visiting the housebound and the sick in hospital. We can make welcome those, who like Mary and Joseph, are far from home; those seeking asylum, those in prison, and members of the Forces who must be apart from their loved ones. On Christmas Day we hear the account of the nativity showing us what God's love means for us today. Let us recognise His love so that our lives may be transformed.

With my prayers and every good wish for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

+ Malcolm McMahon OP

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool

NEW YEAR HOUSE BLESSING

This weekend for the start of the New Year, "**House Blessing Stickers**" will be available for your homes for 2018. They have been blessed. A5 Prayer Leaflets are also available with the stickers. The Blessing of homes on, or around the Feast of the Epiphany (celebrated this year on Sunday 7th January) enjoys a long history. It is an old custom to chalk an inscription on the front of your home: 2000 C+M+B+18

Christus Mansionem Benedicat:
"Christ Bless This House"

ST. JOSEPH'S,
HARPERS LANE,
CHORLEY PR6 0HR

☎ 01257 262713

Liverpool R.C. Archdiocesan Trustees Inc. Registered Charity No 232709

www.chorleystjoseph.org.uk

Email: chorleystjoseph@btinternet.com



A loop Induction System has been installed in this Church.
Please turn hearing aid to 'T' setting.



Feast of the Holy Family – Sunday 31st December 2017

HOLY MASS & SERVICES

- Sunday (Sat)** **6.00pm** Parishioners
 8.30am Edmund & Ellen Whittle (RIP)
 10.30am Mary Acton (B)
 4.30pm Dec. & Living Mem. Livesey & Platt Families

Mary, Mother of God – Monday 1st January 2018

12 Noon Richard Parkinson (A)

- Tuesday** **8.30am** Special Intention (BH)
Wednesday **8.30am** Tony Aspinall (A)
Thursday **8.30am** Marie Worden (RIP)
Friday **8.30am** Joan Eccles (RIP)
Saturday **9.00am** Kathleen Hindle (RIP)
Sunday next **6.00pm** Frank Sherlock (90th B)(RIP)
 8.30am Cecily Nowell (A)
 10.30am Joe Fox (A)
 4.30pm Parishioners



Confessions: Saturday 10.30am – 11.30am

Please Pray For The Following Who Are Sick:

Canon Albert Shaw, Bert Smith, Eileen Snape, Jean Thurston, Sister Francis, Bert Meakin, Grace Fernando, James Desmond Gorman, Teresa Todd, Doreen Moss & Martin Kavanagh. We also remember to pray for all those in Chorley Hospital, Derian House Children's Hospice & our Nursing Homes. Eucharistic Ministers visit the Wards every Sunday morning with Holy Communion. Heal Thy Servants, O Lord, who are sick, and who put their trust in Thee. **R/. Send them help, O Lord, and comfort from Thy holy place.**

IMPORTANT – Please contact St Joseph’s Presbytery, if any member of your family is admitted into Chorley Hospital and would appreciate a visit.

In an emergency the hospital switchboard will contact the on-call Catholic Priest. Please request this from any member of Staff on the Ward. Patients transferred to The Grange Rehabilitation Centre, The Grange, Oakbridge Drive, Buckshaw Village, PR7 7EP, please contact Euxton St Mary’s on: 262655 or email: mail@stmarys-euxton.com

Please include in your Prayers: All those who have **Recently Died:**

Jean Livesey (REQUIEM: Monday 8th January, 10am at St. Gregory’s) & all those whose **Anniversaries** occur about this time: Richard Parkinson, Monica Donalds, Tony Aspinall, Cecily Nowell and Joe Fox.

Children’s Liturgy – “Little Church” every Sunday morning at the 10.30am Mass for children up to First Holy Communion age.

“Little Church” THIS week: Paula O’Leary & Julie Clarkson

“Little Church” NEXT week: Catherine Allton & Christine Hunt.

If you would like to help as a volunteer with Children’s Liturgy on a Sunday would you make contact with Father Stanley. Thank you.

Mother & Toddler Group: Meet on a Wednesday morning in the Primary School, Cedar Road from 9.00am until 11.15am.

St Joseph’s Retirement Club: New members welcome over 55 years of age. Every Thursday afternoon at 1.30pm in the Parish Centre. Admission 50p including Tea and Biscuits, Bingo, Artists and Outings. All welcome.

Faith Sharing Group: No meeting on **Wednesday the 3rd January 2018** due to the Christmas & New Year Holidays.

Eucharistic Ministers and Readers - Rotas are available at the back of Church for 2018. Please collect your copy.

Collection: Gift Aid: £848.20p **Loose Plate:** £328.26p **Total:** £1,176.46p
Thank you as always for your wonderful generosity.

Counters Today:G Horrocks/C Farnworth **Next Sunday:**M Finch/K Wilkinson

Altar Servers this week: Volunteers please!!

St. Joseph’s Parish Bulletin: Would you like to receive the weekly parish bulletin by email? If you would, then please send a blank email to: stjosephchorleybulletin@gmail.com. Please, **ONLY** use this email to request the bulletin – the parish general email remains the same.

Readers Today 31st December

6.00pm Gerard Riley
8.30am G King/W Gildert/S Francis
10.30am L Crowther/J O’Leary/A Wetzstein
6.00pm Richard Hunt

Next Sunday: 7th January

6.00pm Sr. Cecilia
8.30am S Francis/C Jenner/G King
10.30am R Challoner/L Crowther/C Clarkson
4.30pm Catriona Scallon

Eucharistic Ministers Today:

6.00pm Patricia Evans
8.30am J Weldon/E Whitney/M Redshaw
10.30am P Hilton/K Hart/V Christie
A Titterington
6.00pm Christine Farnworth

Next Sunday:

6.00pm Irene Love
8.30am C Carter/W Gildert/B Walmsley
10.30am G Riley/T Schofield/R Hart
K Hart
4.30pm Peter Cahill

Readers: New Year’s Day – Monday 1st January 2018

12 Noon Winifride Gildert, Maurice Smith & Andrew King

Eucharistic Ministers:

12 Noon Pauline Hilton, Jim & Judy Weldon

St Joseph’s Parish Centre – Members Notice: Available for all types of social events. Receptions for Christenings, Weddings & Funerals, Birthdays, Anniversaries & Christmas Parties. A meeting room is also available.

Large Screen TV for LIVE Sports events. For bookings please contact the Parish Centre Manageress: 01257 275137

E-mail: StJosephsChorley@apcmc.co.uk Website: www.st-josephs-chorley.co.uk

**2017 Christmas Message of
The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP,
Archbishop of Liverpool.**

If we take time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, the feast can transform our lives, and not just for a few days at the end of the year. The Christmas message of peace and love never changes from one year to the next because it is there for us every day of our lives. The Gospel tells us that ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life’. We remember this especially at Christmas, showing our thanks by reaching out to those around us. We remember the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem: the nativity reproduced each year in numerous plays and presentations and recreated through the centuries in countless works of art.