

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

Parish News

**Christmas Day
25th December 2022**



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 thought of it and quietly taken care of it. People take care of our gardens and grounds, teach 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, read 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. I'm always very grateful 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. Let's take time in these precious days of Christmas, like Mary, to treasure the message of 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. My prayer is that Jesus will always find a welcoming home in all our hearts.

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

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

Our Christmas Family Bingo will be held in St. Chad's parish centre on **Sunday 8th January 2023 from 2.30pm until 5pm**. Even though it's now taking place after Christmas, it is never too late to eat chocolate so please come along. Family friendly fun and games everyone can join in with. Everyone is very welcome to come along.

If you would like to come on your own, you will be made very welcome.



Christmas Raffle.

We raised £525.25 in St. Chad's and St. Bede's parishes for the Christmas Raffle. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket and donated the prizes. Could K. Bateson, A. Hillis and J. Clarke from St. Bede's parish collect your prizes after Mass or from the parish office at St Bede's Thursday or Friday 10-2pm. Thank you.

Christmas Cards to the Holy Land and Wymott and Garth Prisons.

We have sent 120 cards to the Holy Land and 85 cards to our local prisons. Thank you for your support for our fellow Christians living in difficult circumstances and the many prisoners who will get great solace from this act of kindness. Thank you.

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.

Chorley Buddies Christmas Toy Appeal.

Thank you so much for the amazing response in this very difficult year, to the Christmas Joy Toy Appeal. Nearly 300 children in Chorley will have a bigger smile on their face due to your generosity. Thanks to everyone from our parishes and our schools who were able to make a donation.

ALPHA starts again soon.

Perhaps Christmas is a reminder of the blessing that our faith can be in our lives. If you would like to know more about our Catholic faith you are very welcome to join our Alpha Course which starts at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Harper's Lane on 19th January. It's a friendly and informal way to ask your questions and listen to a clear presentation of our beliefs. Please contact the Chorley Network of Catholic Laity who are running the course on 01257 542324 or email cnocl@hotmail.com. We can also put you in touch with members of our parishes who volunteer on the course so they can answer any questions you might have.

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.

St. Chad's and St. Bede's Parish Centres are available to hire for use by groups and for some private functions. For enquiries about our rates and conditions of use for St Bede's Parish Centre please call Aidan on 01257 271818 and for St Chad's Parish Centre please call 07719718523. If you get the answer phone, please leave your name and telephone number and we will call you back.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY LARDER

Food insecurity is on the increase, and the reasons are complex. There is a wider section of society being dragged into poverty for the first time. Some need food for a few weeks and others long term. The Larder provides food support to individuals and families from Bamber Bridge, Clayton-le-Woods, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale.

On behalf of our 20 volunteers and more than 55 families who we support each week: We **THANK YOU** for every can, packet and pound.

Your generosity makes it possible to provide this important service and **The HOPE of CHRISTMAS** will comfort and sustain us all into 2023.

Call in for a coffee and cake.

The Community Larder will be open 9.30am to 11.30am **Monday** and **Friday** at **St. Aidan's**, 46 Station Road, Bamber Bridge. PR5 6QL.

Email: christiancommunitylarder@gmail.com Tel: 07762905978

Food left at the back of St Chad's goes to support Chorley Help the Homeless. Food left at the back of St Bede's goes to the Community Larder.

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

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

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

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

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

St Bede's Parish Office 01772 335209

The office is open on Thursday and Friday for all enquiries.

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

Deacon: Rev Simon Gilbertson

Masses this week

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

5pm St. Bede's Dominic McCrudden

7pm St. Chad's Jim Harrison

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

9.15am St. Chad's Parishioners

11am St. Bede's Parishioners



Monday 26th December 12 noon St. Chad's Elizabeth Monk

Tuesday 27th December 9.15am St. Bede's Brian Torevell

Wednesday 28th December No Mass

Thursday 29th December No Mass

Friday 30th December 9.15am St. Bede's Service of the Word
and Holy Communion

10am St. Chad's Funeral Mass for Margaret Gray

Saturday 31st December 6pm St. Bede's Delia Oates

Sunday 1st January Mary Mother of God

9.15am St. Chad's Parishioners

11 am St. Bede's Parishioners

Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners

Syd Newton, George Morris, Peter Deacon, Amy Greenhalgh, Margaret Gray, Thomas Hesse, Ray Briant, Eileen Farnworth, Robert Rainford, Brenda Wrightson, Maria Reynolds, Eileen Ainscough, Tony Miller, Tony Morris, Gabrielle Myerscough, Connie Foy, Katherine Yates, Marie Coleman, Jenny Campbell, Virginia Hayton-Weed, Lawrence Eccles, Vivienne Howard, Patrick Phillips, Lynne Wilkinson and the residents of Highcliffe, Greenways, Brookside, Meadow Bank Nursing Homes and Brookhaven.

Please keep in your prayers Kathleen Norris, Bernadette Clitheroe, Louise Sweeney, Margaret Gray, Anna Howard and David Johnston who have died recently.