

ST. GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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St. Clare's Church: Tel: 01772 719604

Priest in Charge: Rev. Fr. John Mark Agulefo

Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr. Stephen Talbutt

Deacon: Rev. Jim Maguire - Tel: 01772 860980

Saturday 23rd/Sunday 24th September 2023

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A



THE FIRST READING STATES "God's ways are not our ways; God's thoughts are not our thoughts."

Just how vast is the difference between God's ways and our ways, God's thoughts and our thoughts? This is illustrated in the Gospel. God's generosity utterly transcends human generosity.

In the parable Jesus faces up to His critics and shows them what God is like. God is generous and full of compassion for the poor and the outcast. God deals with us in ways that are very different from the ways we normally deal with other people or with one another. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high is God's generosity above our generosity. The goodness of God is a great comfort to us but it is also a great challenge because we are called to imitate it; to make our ways of dealing with one another more like God's way of dealing with us.

It is with the heart that we grasp God's ways. Once God has touched our hearts and warmed them with His love, we will begin to love in our turn and then we will truly know what God is like. God is love.

"Lord, open our minds and enlarge our hearts so that we think more like You and act like You. Let us never begrudge Your goodness to others, knowing that we are undeserving of Your favours and stand more in need of Your mercy and forgiveness."

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MASSES NEXT WEEK

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Mass at 10.15 a.m.

Saturday - Mass at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday - Mass at 10.00 a.m.

MASSES WILL BE SAID AS FOLLOWS

Monday 25 th	Sick & Housebound of the Parish
Friday 29 th	Richard Haythornthwaite
Saturday 30 th	The Parishioners

MASS INTENTIONS

Richard Haythornthwaite

If anyone wishes to have Masses said for any particular intentions, can they pass them on to Fr. John Mark, Fr. Stephen or Deacon Jim or put them through the letter box of the Parish House. If you want the Masses said on any special day please put the date and, if possible, the Mass will be said then.

FEASTS NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 26 th	SS. Cosmas & Damian
Wednesday 27 th	St. Vincent de Paul
Friday 29 th	SS. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael
Saturday 30 th	St. Jerome

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions will be heard each Saturday from 6.00 p.m. to 6.25 p.m. and anytime on request.

Please let us know of anyone who is sick or housebound and cannot get to church so that we can make arrangements to visit them and take the Sacraments to them.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM - PREPARING FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR IN FAITH AND PRAYER

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday is today and there is a mandated Second Collection for this work (as it supersedes Home Mission Sunday). The day calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. "Evangelii Gaudium" is Latin for "Joy of the Gospel". The day supports the work carried out by the Mission Directorate on behalf of the Bishops' Conference. The Holy Father has invited the whole Church to prepare for the Jubilee in the two years prior through:

- Reflecting on the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council in 2023.
- Deepening our prayer life, with a special focus on the Lord's Prayer, in 2024

MASS	Saturday	6.30 p.m.	48
ATTENDANCES	Sunday	10.00 a.m.	98
COLLECTIONS	Offertory	£488.20	
	Home Missions	£49.50	

TODAY: Special Collection for Bishop's Administration Fund

If you prefer to sign a Standing Order or undertake a Bank Transfer, please use the following details:

A/c Name: Parish of St. Gregory, Preston

A/c No: 81335332

Sort Code: 40-27-02

Please make sure you add your name to the payment, especially if you are a Gift Aider in order that we can claim back the tax.

LADIES' GROUP

The Ladies' Group will meet in the Club on Tuesday next, 26th September at 2.00 p.m. All welcome.

PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 3rd October at 7.00 p.m.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER

For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

FOOD BANK APPEAL

Please continue to bring in items for the Salvation Army Food Bank. Anything you can give will be taken to them. They are desperate for tinned and dried food plus tea, coffee, sugar, UHT long life milk and meals in a tin e.g. meat - also, anything for homeless people with no cooking facilities. They are not, however, allowed to accept alcoholic drinks. There is a box at the back of church.

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Monday	Ezra 1 vv 1-6	Luke 8 vv 16-18
Tuesday	Ezra 6 vv 7-8, 12, 14-20	Luke 8 vv 19-21
Wednesday	Ezra 9 vv 5-9	Luke 9 vv 1-6
Thursday	Haggai 1 vv 1-8	Luke 9 vv 7-9
	SS. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	
Friday	Daniel 7 vv 9-10, 13-14	John 1 vv 47-51
Saturday	Zechariah 2 vv 5-9, 14-15	Luke 9 vv 43-45

Next Sunday - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 18 vv 25-28 Paul/Philippians 2 vv 1-11
Matthew 21 vv 28-32



YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

for Sam Dowd, Jackie Lyons, Donald & Ingrid Whiles, Michelle Riley, Raine Tallon, Gerard Renaudin, Rudolph Carlisle, Members of the Wood and

Madden Families, Robert Swan, John Allen. Maureen Sharrock, Harry Oulton, John Monty Black, Martin Gee, Cynthia Maguire, Margaret Nuttall, Agnes Partington, Teresa Durnian, Agnes Jordan and all who are sick.

For the housebound and those in hospital.

For carers and all who are anxious for the health of their loved ones.

For the relief, comfort and solace of all refugees and the homeless.

For missionaries and for all victims of strife and terrorism.

For peace in all the troubled areas of our world.

For our clergy and all our parishioners.

For all who are battling the Coronavirus and those risking their own lives and safety to care for them.

Our Lady, our Mother, comfort of the afflicted, pray for them.

For all who have died recently, especially Peter Hammond; for Richard Haythornthwaite and all others whose anniversaries occur about this time and for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

SEASON OF CREATION

We have just started this year's Ecumenical Season of Creation, (1st September - 4th October) when Christians in the world join in prayer for Creation.

In the joint statement from Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, it is said:

"Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children."

In the same spirit our parish will have:

- a 'Laudato Si' Parish Celebration with Laudato Si Children's Liturgy and sharing of plants after the 10.00 a.m. Mass at St Gregory's today.
- the Screening of 'The Letter', the movie where Pope Francis is one of the protagonists, at St Clare's on Thursday 28th September, 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

All Welcome!