



ST. GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Website: www.stgregoryspreston.org.uk

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Ted Gannon

Deacon: Rev. Jim Maguire - Tel: 01772 860980



Saturday 24th/Sunday 25th August 2019
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

THE KINGDOM OF GOD is offered, not just to the Jews, but to all people from the four corners of the world. Jesus came to announce the Good News of the kingdom of God. The Jews were the first to be entitled to the banquet of the kingdom, but they refused to obey His call to repentance. They thought that they could enter the kingdom of God as a matter of course. After all, were they not members of God's chosen people? Jesus, however, told them that this fact alone was not enough. They must enter by the "narrow gate"; that is, they must strive by means of effort and sacrifice to produce fruits of repentance. They must traffic in good not evil otherwise their privileged position would mean nothing.

All this is relevant to us for, through our Baptism, we are members of God's chosen people. We are in a privileged position. In the eyes of God, money, rank, status etc. have no importance. We can count on nothing but God's love and mercy. Let us, therefore, be happy to make our way in by the "narrow gate"; by opening our hearts to others with love and compassion, so that we may be found worthy of God's kingdom.

"Merciful Father, give us the grace to rise above our human weaknesses. Fill our hearts with Your love and keep us faithful to Your Gospel."

MASS INTENTIONS

John Barry, Thomas Swarbrick, John & Mary Jane Holden.

A REMINDER

- There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each Saturday morning from 11.00 a.m. until 12.00 noon.
- The church is open each day from 8.00 a.m. until dusk.
- Please continue to bring in food to help the Food Bank at the Foxton Centre, especially tea, coffee, sugar, UHT long-life milk and meals in a tin e.g. meat - also, anything suitable for homeless people with no cooking facilities. However, the Centre is not able to accept any alcoholic drinks. There are boxes at the back of the church.
- Please also bring in clothes/bedding (but no duvets, please) for the Rwanda Group Trust Charity Shop. These can be given in any condition as those not fit for sale can be weighed in for cash. There is a box in the porch.

After I announced recently that I would be leaving St Gregory's to take up a full-time ministry in Spirituality involving Spiritual Direction (Accompaniment), Individually Guided Retreats, Quiet Days etc, I have been asked a few times "What is Spiritual Direction?" For us, Spiritual Direction or Spiritual Accompaniment is a partnership between two disciples who walk the road in the company of Jesus, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24vv13-35). The Companion or Director listens to what the other says and is there to help that one notice what is going on in her or his life and prayer. It is about helping another grow in the awareness of God's loving presence everyday experience. The Director has no agenda; that is created by whatever the one who comes decides to talk about. The Director is not there to provide answers, but to help another see and respond to our loving Lord and God. Usually the conversation lasts an hour and the two meet every four to six weeks.

Fr Ted

PLEASE LET US KNOW of anyone who is in hospital or a nursing/care home so that arrangements may be made to visit them. If you know of anyone ill or housebound who cannot get to church; ask them if they would like Communion at home, then let us know.

LITURGY NEXT WEEK

Monday 26th

9.00 a.m. Service of the Word

Tuesday 27th

12.00 noon Service of the Word

Wednesday 28th

12.00 noon Mass - May Worden

Thursday 29th

12.00 noon Mass - Agnes McDermott

Friday 30th

12.00 noon Mass - Christine Hills

Saturday 31st

6.30 p.m. First Mass of Sunday - Jack Johnson

Sunday 1st September

10.00 a.m. Mass - The Parishioners

- **THE STALL**, with a selection of Fairtrade goods, will be at the back of church after both Masses on the second weekend of every month with tea and coffee served after the 10.00 a.m. Mass.
- **THE 'DID YOU KNOW'** column is taking a break for a few weeks but will be back in our Newsletters by the end of August.
- **DO YOU HAVE** any spare or left over coins or banknotes, holiday money or old stamps? All donations are gratefully received and all proceeds go to CAFOD. There will be a box at the back of church.
- **LANCASTER BLOG:** To read all about what is happening in parishes within the Lancaster Diocese, visit <https://cafodlancaster.wordpress.com>.

FEASTS NEXT WEEK

Tuesday 27 th August	St. Monica
Wednesday 28 th August	St. Augustine
Thursday 29 th August	The Passion of St. John the Baptist
Friday 30 th August	SS. Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward (Martyrs)



YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

For Francis Burns, Sam Dowd, Pam Raggett, Betty Whiteside, Eric Grimes, Jackie Lyons, Maureen Hetko, Fred Griffiths, Bernadette Benson, Donald &

Ingrid Whiles, Michelle Riley, Raine Tallon, Joan Muir, Susan Lavelle, Mary Gallagher, Teresa Flanagan, May Eccles, Marian Roberts, Emma McElroy 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.

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

For all who have died recently and for Thomas Swarbrick, John & Mary Jane Holden and all others whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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



COLLECTION LAST WEEK (including Buildings' Fund)	£719.42
SPECIAL COLLECTION: Lourdes Group	£58.00
FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION:	£92.21
SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY: Catholic Trust (This is a levied collection and our levy due to the Diocese is £1,005.50.)	
SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: Parish Buildings' Fund	
MASS ATTENDANCE: Saturday 6.30 p.m. = 80 Sunday 10.00 a.m. = 133 Feast of the Assumption = 55	

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Monday	Thessalonians 1 vv 1-5, 8-10	Matthew 23 vv 13-22
Tuesday	Thessalonians 2 vv 1-8	Matthew 23 vv 23-26
Wednesday	Thessalonians 2 vv 9-13	Matthew 23 vv 27-32
Thursday	Thessalonians 3 vv 7-13	Matthew 24 vv 42-51
Friday	Thessalonians 4 vv 1-8	Matthew 25 vv 1-13
Saturday	Thessalonians 4 vv 9-11	Matthew 25 vv 14-30
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C		
	Ecclesiasticus 3 vv 17-20, 28-29	Hebrews 12 vv 18-19, 22-24
	Luke 14 vv 1. 7-14	

THE PARISH BUILDINGS' FUND has now reached the total of **£23,635.18.**



The Ladies' Group will meet on Tuesday 27th August at 2.00 p.m. in the Social Centre for a talk on "Chocolates by Josie." All are welcome to join us.

ST. GREGORY'S SOCIAL CENTRE

Saturday 24th August - Artist Assured
Bingo - Monday, Wednesday (8.30 p.m.) Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtime
The Centre is available for hire for private functions
Bookings can be made by contacting the Secretary or the Stewardess on 01772 798336 or 07539 611952 (mobile)

PARISH REGISTER

To register as a parishioner of St Gregory's Parish, please complete a registration form which you can find on the table at the back of the church benches. The form can be handed to Fr. Ted, Deacon Jim, put into the collection basket or posted through the letterbox of the Parish House.

THE PARISH BULLETIN is issued every weekend. It is distributed at our Parish Masses, 6.30 p.m. Saturday evening and 10.00 a.m. Sunday morning. It is then available throughout the week on the table at the back of church or you can view it on-line at www.stgregoryspreston.org.uk.