

# 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 9<sup>th</sup>/Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Year B



**SALVATION** is one of the great themes of Advent. Today a great cry goes forth from our Liturgy. "Prepare a way for the Lord; make His path straight. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill levelled;

winding ways to be made straight, rough roads made smooth and all humanity will see the Salvation of God."

These are wonderful words. They are a declaration of God's love for us. Some people think that, in order for God to love them, they must be perfect. They say 'God would never want me with all my imperfections and sins' It is, however, through our imperfections that our souls become open to God's grace. Our imperfections are the wounds that catch God's eye and qualify us for His great mercy, forgiveness and healing.

*"Let us pray and prepare a way for the Lord by listening to His voice whispering to us in the wilderness of our hearts and grant that we may reach out gladly for His healing grace and thereby live according to His Holy Will."*

## 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 11 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Distin
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Deceased Members of the Holliday Family
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Deceased Members of the Durnian Family
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Hannah Beardshaw
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Simon Forrest

## FEASTS NEXT WEEK

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	St. Damasus
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	St. Lucy
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	St. John of the Cross

## LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** Joint Service of Reconciliation with St. Clare's will take place at St. Gregory's at 7.00 p.m.

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 p.m.:** "A Blessed Messiah is Born" - a performance of sacred music at St. Joseph's Church in preparation for Christmas. The concert is performed by Occento choir conducted by Nathan Smith, with the repertoire including pieces such as: Away in a Manger, The Crown of Roses, In Dulci Jubilo and Gabriel's Message. The concert is free of charge with donations welcome.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 p.m. in church:** Our Primary School Christmas Concert.

### CAFOD Gifts:

World Gift Catalogues are now available on the table in the Porch.

### Christmas Raffle:

Tickets will be on sale each weekend; £1.00 per strip, first prize £50.00. All proceeds to Parish Funds. Donations of prizes will be much appreciated; these can be given to a steward, Deacon Jim or one of our priests.

### Decorating the church:

Next Sunday after our 10.00 a.m. Mass it will be time again to decorate our church for Christmas. If you would like to help you would be very welcome. The Parish Draw and the Christmas Raffle will also take place and tea, coffee and biscuits will be served. We would be grateful for any holly or greenery. This may be left in the porch or put over the gate next to the garage at the parish house.

### Christmas Masses:

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00 a.m.

### Christmas Eve:

First Mass of Christmas - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 p.m. preceded by Carols from 6.00 p.m.

### Christmas Day:

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Family Mass at 10.00 a.m.

### Boxing Day:

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December - Mass at 10.15 a.m.

## DEACON JAMES JOSEPH MAGUIRE

Today Deacon Jim celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. He is not only a devoted father, grandfather and great-grandfather but has been a tower of strength and support to this parish during the last 28 years.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JIM!**

<b>MASS</b>	Saturday	6.30 p.m.	34
<b>ATTENDANCES</b>	Sunday	10.00 a.m.	101

<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	Offertory	£472.51
	Special Collection -	£63.50
	Poor Missions	
	CAFOD Emergency	£502.69
	Appeal for the	
	people of Palestine	
	and Israel	

**Sincere thanks for your most generous donations.**

**Sincere thanks for a private donation to parish funds.**

**Donations towards the cost of flowers for our altar at Christmas would be much appreciated. These should be given to Deacon Jim.**

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.



## CHRISTMAS FAYRE ST. GREGORY'S SCHOOL

We are holding our annual Christmas Fayre in school on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 3.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. There will be lots of stalls, games, a raffle and a chance to meet Father Christmas as well as some Princesses! Please do come along and support our Primary School.

## READINGS NEXT WEEK

Monday	Isaiah 35 vv 1-10	Luke 5 vv 17-26
Tuesday	Isaiah 40 vv 1-11	Matthew 18 vv 12-14
Wednesday	Isaiah 40 vv 25-31	Matthew 11 vv 28-30
Thursday	Isaiah 41 vv 13-20	Matthew 11 vv 11-15
Friday	Isaiah 48 vv 17-19	Matthew 11 vv 16-19
Saturday	Ecclesiasticus 48 vv 1-4, 9-11	Matthew 17 vv 10-13

### Next Sunday - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Year B

Isaiah 61 vv 1-2, 10-11	Paul/Thessalonians 5 vv 16-24
John 1 vv 6-8, 19-28	



## 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, 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; for all 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.*

## MASS INTENTION

Robert Swan

## 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 (but not pasta and cereals). Also welcome are 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.

## LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2024

**23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

An invitation is issued by Bishop Paul to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes next year. The Youth Section will travel by coach with an evening and a day sightseeing in Paris so will set off on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and return on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Further information is available on the parish notice board in the church porch.