



ST. GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Parish Priest: Rev. Father Ted Gannon

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Saturday 8th/Sunday 9th December 2018

Second Sunday of Advent - Year C



SALVATION is one of the great themes of Advent. Today a great cry goes forth from the Liturgy.

“Prepare a way for the Lord; make the paths straight. Let every valley be filled in; every mountain and hill levelled; winding ways to be

straightened; 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 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 mercy and healing.

“Lord God, You have prepared fitting remedies for our weaknesses. Grant that we may reach out gladly for Your healing grace and thereby live in accordance with Your will.”



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets will be on sale each week at the back of church. There will be a first prize of £50.00. We would be

grateful for donations of other prizes and all proceeds will go towards the Parish Buildings’ Fund.

A REMINDER

- Each Saturday morning there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 11.00 a.m. until 12.00 noon.
- The church will be open each day from 8.00 a.m. until dusk for private prayer.
- 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 church porch.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DIARY DATES

Friday 14th December from 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. in church: An hour of prayer in the style of Taizé: simple refrains and chants from the Psalms; Scripture; silence. Come and rest in the Lord a while.

Thursday 20th December at 7.00 p.m. in church: Advent Liturgy of Reconciliation with Sacramental Absolution.

Saturday 22nd December: Mass at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday 23rd December: Mass at 10.00 a.m.

Monday 24th December: First Mass of Christmas 6.30 pm (Carols from 6.00 p.m.)

Mass at Midnight

Tuesday 25th December: Mass of Christmas Day 10.00am

MASS INTENTIONS

Michael O’Leary, Siobhan Turner, Jim Carroll, Stephen Holme, Kathleen Donaghy, John & Elizabeth Walling, Thomas Ashley and Thomas & Jane Turberfield.

LITURGY NEXT WEEK

Monday 10th

9.00 a.m. Service of the Word

Tuesday 11th

12.00 noon Service of the Word

Wednesday 12th

12.00 noon Mass - James Booth

Thursday 13th

12.00 noon Mass - Bill Singleton

Friday 14th

12.00 noon Mass - Siobhan Turner

Saturday 15th

6.30 p.m. First Mass of Sunday - The Parishioners

Sunday 16th

10.00 a.m. Mass - Dorothy and Joseph Hannah



The group will meet in the Social Centre on Monday 17th December at 7.00 p.m. to look at music for Christmas. Anyone who can sing or play an instrument is very welcome to join us. If you do not wish to be part of the group but just wish to learn the music you are also very welcome.

- **THE STALL**, with a selection of Fairtrade goods, will be at the back of church after both Masses this weekend with tea and coffee served after the 10.00 a.m. Mass.
- **FAIRTRADE CHRISTMAS CARDS** are still on sale and will be until Christmas.
- **ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS:** Buy a goat for Rwanda or a CAFOD World Gift from the catalogue. See the notice board.
- **DID YOU KNOW** in March, Amina and her family became refugees, fleeing their home country because the ethnic group they belonged to were under attack. Amina said, "When we arrived at the camp, the children were sick because of bad weather. My baby was a twin. Her twin died. She got sick because of the rain and cold." During Advent, we are reminded of how the Holy Family themselves became refugees, homeless and dispossessed as are millions of refugees today. Your gifts, your kindness and compassion bring hope and do make a real difference for refugees like Amina and her family. Please keep all refugees in your prayers.
- **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.



YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

For Francis Burns, Sam Dowd, Pam Raggett, Betty Whiteside, Eric Grimes, Jackie Lyons, Maureen Hetko, Maria Butterworth, Fred Griffiths, Bernadette

Benson, Donald & Ingrid Whiles, Michelle Riley, Rainie Tallon, Hughie Gaille, Joan Muir, Susan Lavelle, Mary Gallagher, Fiona Turnbull, Teresa Flanagan, May Eccles, Marian Roberts, Jim Durnian, Mary Randall and for 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 all 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): £669.97
SPECIAL COLLECTION: Diocesan Poor Missions: £114.15
SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY: Parish Buildings' Fund
SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: Rwanda Group Trust
PARISH BUILDINGS' FUND TOTAL TO DATE: £11,285.76
MASS ATTENDANCES: Saturday 6.30 p.m. = 89 Sunday 10.00 a.m. = 139

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Monday	Isaiah 35 vv 1-10	Luke 5 vv 17-26
Tuesday	Isaiah 40 vv 1-11	Mathew 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
Sunday 16 th December - 3 rd Sunday of Advent Year C		
	Zephaniah 3 vv 14-18	Philippians 4 vv 4-7
	Luke 3 vv 10-18	

FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Thursday 13 th December	St. Lucy
Friday 14 th December	St. John of the Cross



MANY THANKS to all who recently emptied their "Red Boxes". A total of £276 has been sent to the A.P.F. Missions.

ST. GREGORY'S PARISH DRAW

Would you like to be in our monthly draw for cash prizes?
 Don't miss out - take a leaflet from the back of church.
 May we remind people who pay annually that their money for Jan.-Dec. 2019 (£26 per person) is now due.
 Please make any cheques payable to "St Gregory's 300 Club". Thank you.
 Next draw today after the 10.00 a.m. Mass

PRESTON'S PEER SUPPORT GROUPS for anyone

facing depression or a related mental health condition now run weekly, every Thursday, at The Intact Centre, 49 Whitby Avenue, Ingol, Preston, PR2 3YP at 10.45 a.m. and at Central Methodist Church, Lune Street, Preston, PR1 2NL at 7.30 p.m. They are free and there is no need to book or be referred. For more information visit our website:

www.peertalk.org.uk/index.php/support-groups.

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.