



St Gregory the Great Catholic Church

A parish in the Catholic Diocese of Clifton

10 St James' Square, Cheltenham, GL50 3PR

☎ 01242 523737

✉ cheltenham.stgregorythegreat@cliftondiocese.com

The parish office is open Monday to Friday, 9:00am till 1:00pm

Visit our website: stgregorys.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/ParishStGregoryCheltenham

Parish Priest: Rev. Canon David Mills *vr*

Permanent Deacon: Rev. John Andrews

Parish Administrator: Michael Burnell

Liturgy this Week

Lent – Week 6

Sunday, 29th March

*Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord*

Collection: Easter Flowers

*Clocks go forward one hour
as British Summertime
starts*

9:30am

Family Mass

Deceased of the Cody Family

11:15am

Solemn Sung Mass

Mary Moore RIP

5:00pm

The O'Hanlon Family

Monday, 30th March

Monday of Holy Week

9:30am

Dr Francisco Ramos Jnr. RIP

Tuesday, 31st March

Tuesday of Holy Week

9:30am

Peter Burnard RIP

Wednesday, 1st April

Wednesday of Holy Week

No Morning Mass

11:00am

Chrism Mass at Clifton Cathedral

7:00pm

Tenebrae Service

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

Thursday, 2nd April

Holy Thursday

No Morning Mass

7:00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

The Sanctity of Life

9:00pm - Compline

Friday, 3rd April

Good Friday

Day of Fasting and Abstinence

11:30am

Family Stations of the Cross

3:00pm – The Celebration of the

Passion of The Lord

Saturday, 4th April

Holy Saturday

8:00pm – The Great Easter Vigil

Private Intention

Sunday, 5th April

*Sunday of the
Resurrection*

9:30am

Family Mass

Deceased of the Cody Family

11:15am

Solemn Sung Mass

Lee-Ann Lloyd RIP

No Evening Mass



Donate Here

Scan the code to support our parish. If you can add gift aid your donation it can mean more to us at no cost to you

Parish Office - Easter Closure

The parish office will be closed from **1:00pm Tuesday, 31 March** and will reopen at **9:00am on Tuesday, 7 April**.

Our clergy and parish staff wish you a very and your families a happy and blessed Easter.

Arranging a Baptism

Congratulations on the birth of your baby.

In the first instance you will need to speak with Canon Mills after Mass. Parents need to attend a preparation session prior to the Baptism.

Arranging a Wedding

Congratulations on your engagement.

To arrange a wedding speak with Canon Mills after Mass. Couples need to give at least six months' notice of their intention to get married.

Safeguarding

Our parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance, and both National and Diocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Owen Holbrook** and, can be contacted at: psr.cheltenham.stgregorythegreat@cliftondiocese.com.

St Gregory's is a *drive simply* Parish

Newsletter Sponsor
Mason & Stokes
FUNERAL SERVICE

Retiring Collection - Easter Flowers

Help us make the church beautiful for Easter!

A retiring collection will be taken at all Masses **today Sunday, 29 March** towards the Easter flowers. Thank you for your generosity in helping us create a joyful and welcoming space for everyone this Easter season.

Special Collection – Holy Places

There will be a special collection taken at the Liturgy of the Passion on Good **Friday, 3 April**. This annual collection contributes towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Christian Shrines of the Holy Land. It also offers financial support to the Christian communities living in the Holy Land at times when they are experiencing opposition and suffering.

Holy Week & Easter Triduum

Bishop Bosco has stressed that one of the priorities for the Diocese is the passing on the faith and catechesis. Holy Week and the Triduum provide just the opportunity to consider one of the most important aspects of the Catholic faith. To this end the homilies over this period will deal with the following:

- **Palm Sunday:** Jerusalem and the Passover; setting the scene.
- **Holy Thursday:** The Passover and the Last Supper
- **Good Friday:** The Passover sacrifice and Christ's death on the Cross.
- **Easter:** The Eucharist and the resurrection.

It would be good if everybody tries to be in Church for all of the most important days in the Church's calendar and thus consider the Eucharist in its liturgical context.

Chrism Mass 2026

A coach has been booked for the Annual Chrism Mass at Clifton Cathedral on **Wednesday, 1 April**. The cost will be just £10 per seat. To add your name to the list and make your payment contact either Sacred Hearts' or St Gregory's parish office. The coach will depart from **Sacred Hearts at 9:15am, St Gregory the Great at 9:30am and St Thomas More at 9:45am** and then proceed to the Cathedral for Mass at 11:00am. The coach will return after the Mass. If you have not yet paid for your seat, this can be done on the coach on the day.

Tenebrae Service

This special office (literally meaning 'shadows') will be sung on this **Wednesday at 7pm**. The service, about an hour's duration, is a meditation on the betrayal, arrest and crucifixion of Christ, with the gradual extinguishing of candles marking darkness's incursion into the world, darkness which is finally conquered by the Light which darkness could not overpower.

Easter Offering

Traditionally the Easter collection, along with that at Christmas, are the only collections given to the priest during the year and is an important way in which the parishes support the unsalaried priests of the Diocese. Envelopes, into which offerings may be placed, are on the tables at the back of church. Donations can also be made via the Dona machines.

Confessions

Please be reminded that Confessions are not heard during the Sacred Paschal Triduum. Confessions will resume on **Saturday, 11 April**.

Lent Study - "We Dare to Ask"

We continue during Lent to study and pray together using the wonderful new resource book *We Dare to Ask*. The group meets in the Old Priory at **7.00pm each Monday**. *"The rediscovery of the value of one's baptism is the basis of the missionary commitment of every Christian... those who let themselves be fascinated by Christ cannot do so without witnessing the joy of following in His footsteps."* — **Benedict XVI**

CAFOD Good Friday Soup Lunch

Parishioners are warmly invited to join us for a simple soup lunch on **Good Friday, from 12 noon till 1:30pm** in the Old Priory. All donations will go to CAFOD, supporting their vital work with communities around the world. You can learn more about their mission here:

<https://www.cafod.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do>

Newman Association

There will be a talk on **Tuesday 7 April at 2.30pm** in the lounge of Sacred Hearts' Hall. For the past 20 years, Chris Barrell has volunteered at the Intensive Care Unit at Monze Mission in Zambia. facility he helped to build. He returns annually and has formed many lasting friendships within the local community. Chris will be giving a talk entitled: **Stories from Zambia**. Everyone is welcome. Admission: £3 in cash (members and students free) Enquiries: Stephanie Jamison — 01242 539810

Divine Mercy Sunday

Everybody is invited to come and pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on **Sunday, 12 April at 3:00pm**; *"At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners... This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world... In this hour I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion"* (Diary St Faustina, entry 1320).

A Gentle Reminder

Particularly at the 11:15am Mass, if your little ones become unsettled or need a moment to calm, and to avoid the disturbance of others, please feel free to take them to the Narthex at the back of the church, where you can still follow the Mass in comfort. The 9:30am Mass is the ideal Mass for young children.

Diocesan Day - The Joy of Love

Bishop Bosco warmly invites everyone to join him on **Saturday 4 July** for our Diocesan Day celebration, *The Joy of Love*, at Downside School & Abbey. Our keynote speaker will be Patti Boulaye OBE, and there will also be a full programme for children and young people. Arrivals and refreshments begin from 10am. A hot lunch will be provided (with lunch boxes for children). The celebration of Mass will take place in the Abbey Church at 3.30pm, and the day will conclude around 4.30pm. Attendance is limited to 400 tickets. Booking is essential for catering and safeguarding purposes. The closing date for tickets is 24 June, unless capacity is reached earlier. To take part, please register for your free ticket via Eventbrite: <https://joyoflove.eventbrite.co.uk>

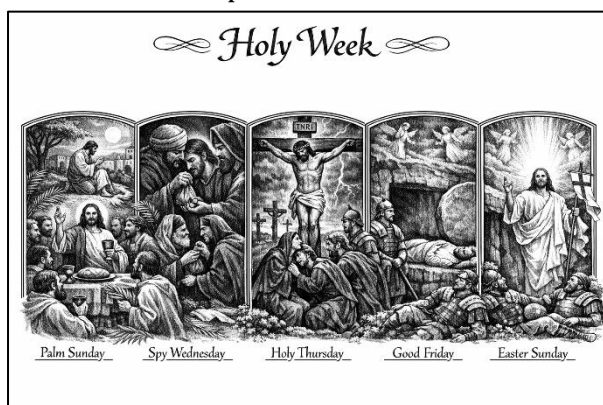
Clifton Diocese - Safeguarding Officer Vacancy

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Clifton is seeking an experienced professional to join the Safeguarding Team at Alexander House, Bristol. The Safeguarding Officer will support the development of safeguarding practice across the Diocese and assist with case management. This role is part-time (21 hours per week from Wednesday to Friday). Applicants should have strong safeguarding knowledge and a background in Policing, Social Work, Health, or Probation. For more information, contact Janice Pearson or Tracey Holford on 0117 954 0993 or visit the link:

www.cliftondiocese.com/Diocese/working-for-us. Closing date: Friday 10 April 2026

Weekly Gift Aid Envelopes 2026/2027

For those parishioners who give by weekly envelope, these are now available for the tax year 2026/2027 at the back of the church for collection. If you are a taxpayer and would like to donate by weekly envelope or set up a regular standing order, then please contact the parish office.



THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God
the Father almighty
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
***(Bow) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,***
suffered under Pontius Pilot,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen

New to our Parish?

If you are new to our parish - Welcome! Join us for tea and coffee in The Old Priory after the morning masses each Sunday. Please remember to complete a new parishioner registration form at the back of the church and hand it in to the parish office.

Gift Aid

Many of our parishioners give generously to support the parish and, those who are able, Gift Aid their donations so that we can claim an extra 25% from the Government at no extra cost to the donor. However, Gift Aid claims are only available to those who pay income and/or capital gains tax. Your donations qualify as long as they are not more than 4 times what you have paid in the tax year. For those who already Gift Aid, please review your tax position to make sure that you continue to be eligible; for those who don't, please consider adding Gift Aid if your tax position allows for it. ***Please contact the office with any queries or to set up a new Gift Aid donation.***

Of your Charity, pray for the repose of the soul of Raymond Palmer who has recently died. May he rest in peace.

Remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur this week: Harry Holbrook, Terence White, John Morgan, Joan Hawtin, Pope St John Paul II, Robert Dowd, Sandra Harfoot, Lawrence Byrne and Mary Kavanagh

Sunday, 29 March 2026

Palm Sunday (A)

Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord needs them", and he will send them at once.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Say to the daughter of Sion, "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.'

First reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backwards. I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 130(129)

℟: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

All who see me deride me; they curl their lips, they toss their heads: 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him, for in him he delights.' ℟

For dogs have surrounded me; a band of the wicked besets me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet; I can count every one of my bones. ℟

They divide my clothing among them, they cast lots for my robe. But you, O Lord, do not stay afar off; my strength, make haste to help me! ℟

I will tell of your name to my kin, and praise you in the midst of the assembly; 'You who fear the Lord, give him praise; all descendants of Jacob, give him glory; revere him, all you descendants of Israel.' ℟

Second reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name. Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Gospel

Matthew 27:11-54

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You have said so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' And he said, 'Why? What evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' And all the people answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, "I am the Son of God." ' And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, 'This man is calling Elijah.' And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ***All kneel for a short period of Silence***

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'