

St Gregory the Great Catholic Church



A parish in the Catholic Diocese of Clifton

10 St James' Square, Cheltenham, GL50 3PR

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✉ cheltenham.stgregorythegreat@cliftondiocese.com

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

Visit our website: stgregorys.org.uk

Parish Priest: Rev. David Mills

Permanent Deacon: Rev. John Andrews

Parish Administrator: Michael Burnell

Liturgy this Week Ordinary Time - Week 1

Sunday, 11th January <i>The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</i>	9:30am – <i>Children's Mass</i> <i>Family Mass</i> <i>Tony Barrett RIP</i> 11:15am <i>Solemn Sung Mass</i> <i>Intentions of Helen Smith</i> 5:00pm <i>Cynthia Orji RIP</i>
Monday, 12th January <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am <i>Carol Winston-Jones</i>
Tuesday, 13th January <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am <i>Private Intention</i>
Wednesday, 14th January <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am <i>Morning prayer & exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction</i>
Thursday, 15th January <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am <i>Our priests and Vocations</i>
Friday, 16th January <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	10:30am <i>Funeral Service for Audrey Tomaney</i>
Saturday, 17th January <i>Memorial of St Anthony, Abbot</i>	9:30am <i>Jaroslav Pastorczyk – Birthday Intention</i>
Sunday, 18th January <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am <i>Family Mass</i> <i>Krystyna Maria Oleszek RIP</i> 11:15am <i>Solemn Sung Mass</i> <i>For Unarmed and Disarming Peace</i> 5:00pm <i>Brendan & Kathleen Barrett RIP</i>
Our Sanctuary lamps this week are burning in memory of: Sanctuary: Deceased family & friends of the Teesdale family. Our Lady Chapel: Vanda Fiorillo RIP	



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Holy Rosary

The holy rosary is prayed in Church each Friday evening at 5:00pm

Confessions & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Each Saturday morning after Mass from 10:00 - 10:30am

Arranging a Baptism

Congratulations on the birth of your baby.

In the first instance you will need to speak with Fr David 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 Fr David 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.

No Parking: Please note that the church grounds will be closed to the parking of vehicles on **Wednesday, 17 January**.

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Congratulations Fr David!

We are pleased to share that Fr David will be installed as a Canon of the Clifton Cathedral Chapter on **Wednesday, 11 February 2026, at 7:00 pm at the Cathedral**. Everyone is warmly invited to attend, and the parish will provide a coach for travel to and from the Cathedral. If you would like to reserve a seat on the coach, please contact the parish office as soon as possible. ***Seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis – there will be no charge for your seat!***

Volunteer Thank you Event

We thank all those who volunteer their time and gifts to the parish and we welcome you to a celebration on **Sunday, 15 February at 12:30pm** in The Old Priory. This will also be an opportunity to celebrate Fr David's installation as a Canon of the Cathedral chapter.

CYAN – Young Adults Social (Ages 18-35)

If you're between 18 and 35, we'd love to welcome you to CYAN (Catholic Young Adults Nourished) — a space to meet new people and grow together in faith. Our January social will be a Curry Night on **Saturday, 31 January from 7:00 pm** onwards at St Thomas More, Princess Elizabeth Way. Come along for a delicious home-cooked meal and faith-centred conversation with fellow young Catholics. On-site parking is available. To help us plan catering, please let us know you are able to come sending us a DM on Instagram at @cyan_glos or by email at: **cyangloucestershire@gmail.com**

Encounter Revive Day – Clifton Cathedral

Begin 2026 in the fire of the Holy Spirit by joining us for a Day of Encounter at the Cathedral on **Saturday, 17 January 2026**, with guest speaker Ros Powell. Let us start the New Year "awake and alert" 1 Thess 5:6. This is a day to renew heart, hope and mission. For more information about the day, email Encounter@cliftondiocese.com or contact Ann on 07815 751556. All welcome.

Bring and Share 'Peace meal'

The Cheltenham Laudato Si' Circle warmly invites parishioners to a bring-and-share gathering, followed by a discussion on Pope Leo's call for us to journey "towards an unarmed and disarming peace." The event will take place in the Old Priory at 7:00pm on **Monday, 26 January**. For more information, please contact Martin Davis on 01242 244182 or email cheltlaudatosicircle@gmail.com.

Mass Intentions 2026

A reminder that it is best to book any Mass intentions for a specific date as soon as possible. The suggested offering remains at £15.00 per Mass.

Faithful Fellowship

Our next meeting will be **Sunday 18 January**, following the 5:00pm Mass. Sixth-form, college, and university students are warmly invited to join us for fellowship, faith conversations, and Catholic social action.

Stitch & Pray

Join us in The Old Priory on **Saturday, 17 January**, from **1:00 pm to 4:00 pm** for an afternoon of creativity and calm. Whether you enjoy stitching or simply want to share quiet conversation and peaceful prayer. **All are warmly welcome.**

Rite of Election 2026

The Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated by Bishop Bosco in **Clifton Cathedral** on the first Saturday of Lent, **Saturday 21 February, at 11.00am**. Please keep all of our candidates in your prayers.

Primary School Admissions

If you have a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, then **now** is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from **September 2026** onwards. You must complete an application form that is available from the school admissions team of Gloucestershire County Council. If your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of **15th January 2026**.

Advance Notice: Confessions 17 & 24 January

The children who will be celebrating their First Holy Communion this year will be making their first confessions on the Saturday 17 and Saturday 24 January. ***Please note the children will receive the Sacrament of Confession before other parishioners in the Church.*** Thank you for your understanding and continue to keep the children in your prayers.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026

Enabling Adventure invites parishioners to join our pilgrimage/holiday to Lourdes from **10–19 September 2026**. Guests needing assistance, those wishing to travel with a group, and healthcare workers willing to volunteer as helpers are warmly encouraged to get in touch. Please contact maryclare.23@icloud.com by **31 January 2026**.

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.

RCIA – A journey in Faith

Our first RCIA session of the new year will be held on **Thursday, 15 January** in **The Old Priory**.

The session starts at 7:00pm and topic for discussion will be: **“Authority in the Church: The Hierarchy of Truth.”** If you are curious about the Catholic faith or would like to deepen your understanding, you are warmly invited to join us for any of our RCIA sessions.

Marriage Mass – February 2026

Join Bishop Bosco at the Cathedral on **Saturday, 14 February at 12 noon** for a special Mass celebrating family life and honouring couples with significant anniversaries in **2026**. If you or someone you know will celebrate a milestone anniversary next year, please email **adult.education@cliftondiocese.com** with names, address, and years married so a personal invitation can be sent. All are warmly welcome to this joyful diocesan celebration!

Book Club

Please be advised that the Book club will not take place this month. Future dates will be communicated via the newsletter in due course.

Gift Aid- Make your Giving Go Further

Many of our parishioners give generously to support the life and mission of our parish. If you are a UK taxpayer, you can make your donation go even further—at **no extra cost to you**—by signing up for Gift Aid. Through Gift Aid, we can claim an additional **25p for every £1** you donate from the Government. However, Gift Aid is only available to those who pay income tax and/or capital gains tax. Your donations will qualify as long as they are not more than four times the amount of tax you’ve paid in the tax year.

- If you already Gift Aid your donations, please review your tax status to ensure you remain eligible.
- If you don’t currently Gift Aid, please consider doing so if your circumstances allow.

For more information or to set up a new Gift Aid declaration, please contact the parish office.

Of your Charity, pray for the repose of the souls of Tony Barrett, Maragret Askew, Audrey Tomaney and Jean Pearce who have recently died. May they rest in peace.

Remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur this week: Mary Kent, Norma Capaldi, Margaret Hambi, Margaret Ellis, Nancy O’Connor, Irene Rose Nash, Wanda Woulfe. Gordon Hackwell, Bridget Boardman, Philip McAlary and Tania Johnson.

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people
of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Priest: Do you reject Satan?

All: I do.

Priest: And all his works?

All: I do.

Priest: And all his empty promises?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you 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?

All: I do.

Priest: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Sunday, 11 January 2026
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (A)

Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the Lord:

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.

‘I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.’

Responsorial Psalm

PS 29(28)

℟: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly powers,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
bow down before the Lord, majestic in holiness. **℟**

The voice of the Lord upon the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord full of power;
the voice of the Lord full of splendour. **℟**

The God of glory thunders;
in his temple they all cry, ‘Glory!’
The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **℟**

Second reading

Acts 10:34-38

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all — you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.’

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: ‘This is my beloved Son; listen to him’. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the offerings we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son, so that the oblation of your faithful may be transformed into the sacrifice of him who willed in his compassion to wash away the sins of the world. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Communion Antiphon

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord.