



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 Advent Week 4	
Sunday, 21st December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	9:30am <i>Family Mass</i> <i>For the intentions of the McKenna and Mooney Family</i> 11:15am <i>Solemn Sung Mass</i> <i>James, Bridget & Eugene Sherry RIP</i> 5:00pm <i>Roger de Hillerin RIP</i>
Monday, 22nd December <i>Weekday of Advent II</i> O Rex Gentium	9:30am <i>Marie Astrid de Megille RIP</i>
Tuesday, 23rd December <i>Weekday of Advent II</i> O Emmanuel	9:30am <i>Mr Prost RIP</i>
Wednesday, 24th December Christmas Eve <i>Solemnity of the Nativity of The Lord</i>	5:00pm -First Mass of Christmas <i>Children's Mass</i> <i>Phillip Sheridan RIP</i> 8:00pm -Mass of the Nativity <i>Deceased members of the Cody family</i>
Thursday, 25th December Christmas Day <i>Solemnity of the Nativity of The Lord</i> Holy Day of Obligation	9:30am <i>Family Mass</i> <i>Lukasz Szymanek - in thanksgiving</i> 11:15am <i>Solemn Sung Mass</i> <i>Patrick Connor RIP</i>
Friday, 26th December <i>Feast of St Stephen, The First Martyr</i>	No Mass
Saturday, 27 December <i>Feast of St John, Apostle, Evangelist</i>	9:30am <i>Intentions of Dr Francisco Ramos, Junior</i>
Sunday, 28th December <i>Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Jospeh</i>	9:30am <i>Family Mass</i> <i>Anton & Margrit Walliman RIP</i> 11:15am <i>Solemn Sung Mass</i> <i>Mary Costello, Peggy Wiggall & the Murphy Family</i> 5:00pm <i>Kath Collett RIP</i>



Donate Here

Scan the code to support our parish. If you can add gift aid your donation it can mean more to us

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

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Christmas Eve Family Mass

Our first Mass of Christmas will take place at **5:00 pm on Christmas Eve** and will be a special Family Mass. Children are warmly invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity—Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, the innkeeper, animals, stars, Roman soldiers, or even the Three Kings! If any child or young person would like to take part by helping with the Offertory, welcoming, or reading during the Mass, please email josephandvyvian@hotmail.co.uk.

Carol Singing at Waitrose – Join us!

We're looking for enthusiastic singers to spread festive cheer at **Waitrose on Monday, 22nd December from 10:15 am to 11:15 am**. All donations will support Transformation Through Education, helping fund a new science block at the PIZZ School in Zambia. **Where to meet:** Inside the front entrance of Waitrose. **What to bring:** Colourful hats, scarves, gloves—and your voices and smiles! Carol sheets will be provided. Even if you can only stay for 15 minutes, your presence will make a difference. For more details, contact Stella Kinmond on 07824 427400.

The 'O' Antiphons

For centuries, during the final days leading up to Christmas, the beautiful 'O' Antiphons have been sung as part of the Church's evening prayer. This year let's join together—whether at home, at work, alone, or with family—by praying them daily at 6:00 pm. These continue to be updated on the parish website and our Facebook page.

Meet and Eat

A monthly social group for teenagers (13–18yrs) in The Old Priory. Join us for games, conversation, and pizza—and make new friends! Our next group meet is **Saturday, 10 January from 6:30pm – 8:00pm**. *All welcome—bring a friend!*

Confirmation 2026

The Confirmation programme is for those at Secondary school, who wish to explore their faith and who may want to go on to formally accept their baptismal promises in the Sacrament of Confirmation with the Bishop visiting us on Saturday, 23 May 2026 at 11:00am. The group will meet on Sundays after 9:30am Mass beginning in January. ***The deadline for signing up for the Confirmation programme has been extended to Sunday, 4 January 2026. To sign up, click the link below:***
[Confirmation 2026](#)

Our Sanctuary lamps this week are burning in memory of : Sanctuary: Jane Donnelly RIP Our Lady Chapel: Deceased family & friends of the Teesdale family.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Traditionally the Christmas collection, along with that at Easter, 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 for your gift are available on the tables at the back of the church, and donations can also be made using the Dona machines.

The parish office will be closed from: Tuesday, 23 December and will reopen on Monday, 5 January 2026.

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**.

CYAN- Young Adults (18-35yrs)

Are you aged 18-35? Come and join CYAN (Catholic Young Adults Nourished) as we meet others and grow in faith. Our Christmas Bring and Share is back for another year! Join us on Monday, 22 December at 6:45pm, St Thomas More. Bring a dish, wear your favourite Christmas jumper and join us for some festive cheer and carols. For further details either email us at cyangloucestershire@gmail.com or DM us on our Instagram page: [cyan_glos](#).

Sunday Morning Refreshments

Thank you to everyone who helps with tea, coffee, and cakes on Sundays. In 2025, we raised £1,300 supporting parish projects, CAFOD, the Old Priory Roof Appeal, Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees, and St Gregory's School Foodbank. New volunteers are always welcome—whether for the 9.30am or 11.15am Mass rotas or occasional help with washing up. If interested, please contact the parish office.

RCIA: Journey in Faith

The RCIA programme continues for all who are preparing to join the Catholic church next year. The sessions are open to all parishioners who are looking to deepen their faith. Join us in **The Old Priory every Thursday at 6:30pm**. Upcoming topics include:

- **8 January:** The Enquiring Catholic



Fr David, Deacon John, and all the parish staff,
wish you and your loved ones a blessed and
joyful Christmas. May the coming year bring
you health, happiness, and the continued
presence of God's grace in your lives.

Jericho 300 Club

Congratulations to the winners of the recent prize draws for the 300 Club! **October:** 1st Prize £100 Smith (81), 2nd Prize £50 Aldred (2) & 3rd Prize £25 Almeida. **November:** 1st Prize £100 Hext, 2nd Prize £50 Jamison (33) & 3rd Prize £25 Brennan (75). Your prize cheques are on their way to you.

The Book Club

The club meets on the first Monday evening each month for Lectio Divina and on the third Monday for study of the writings of the Popes, in the Old Priory at 7:00pm. Our next meet will be on **Monday, 5 January 2026** where we will be reading **Matthew 2:1-12**. On Monday 26 January we will be reading 'Mater Populi Fidelis' which the text is available [here](#). **All are welcome!**

Crib Offerings

Donations which are received for the Crib offerings this year will be sent to ***The Friends of the Holy Land***. Please place your donations in the marked wall box by the main church entrance.

Laudato Si' – Mini Advent Series

Join us for the last evening in our four-week introduction to Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home on **Monday 22 December from 7:00pm-8:30pm in The Old Priory**. Together we'll reflect on: "How can we live out our faith through action?" All welcome—even if it's your first time. Contact Martin Davis at cheltlaudatosicircle@gmail.com or by phone 01242 244182.

Retrouvaille Marriage Support

Retrouvaille offers support for marriages, bringing renewed hope and healing to couples in need. The next date **12 February 2026**. For more information: www.retrouvaille.org.uk or call: 07887 296983

Of your Charity, pray for the souls of Silvana Sansone and Barbara Hirsz who have recently died. ***May they rest in peace.***

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

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!

What is Prayer?

The diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' are offering an online session entitled 'What is Prayer?' on **Friday 9 January 2026, 7pm-8pm**. For this session we will discover what prayer is, how to pray, and why it is important to pray. To sign up, please click on the Zoom link: [here](https://www.lightoftruth.uk/join). More information on other courses & sessions run by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph can be found on the following link: <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/join>

Remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur this week: John O'Halloran, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Mary Wixey, Patrick Kemple, Moira Boor, Brian Mahon, Anthony Walliman, Margrit Walliman and Jane Mowbray.

Sunday, 21 December 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

In those days: The Lord spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24 (23)

R: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things.

Blessings from the Lord shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Second reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means, God with us. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' which means, God with us. When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

Prayer over the Offerings

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

