

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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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 3

Sunday, 14th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday</i> <i>Collection: Christmas Flowers</i>	9:30am <i>Family Mass (Children's Mass)</i> <i>Pat & Mae Wallace RIP</i> 11:15am <i>Solemn Sung Mass</i> <i>Anne, Stan & John Bevan RIP</i> 5:00pm <i>Tim & Dinah Horan RIP</i>
Monday, 15th December <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	9:30am <i>Special Intention</i>
Tuesday, 16th December <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	9:30am <i>Damien Jordan RIP</i>
Wednesday, 17th December <i>Weekday of Advent II O Sapientia</i>	9:30am <i>Deceased members of the Diamond family</i> 5:00pm <i>St Gregory's School Carol Concert</i>
Thursday, 18th December <i>Weekday of Advent II O Adonai</i>	9:30am <i>Our priests and new vocations</i>
Friday, 19th December <i>Weekday of Advent II O Radix</i>	9:30am - Whole School Mass <i>In thanksgiving for a successful operation</i> 7:00pm <i>Advent Service of Nine Lessons & Carols</i>
Saturday, 20th December <i>Weekday of Advent II O Clavis David</i>	9:30am <i>Deceased members of the 55 Club</i>
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>



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

The production of this newsletter is kindly sponsored by:

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FUNERAL SERVICE

Retiring Collection - Christmas Flowers

Help us make the church beautiful for Christmas!

A retiring collection will be taken at all Masses today **Sunday, 14 December** to provide festive flowers. Thank you for your generosity in helping us create a joyful and welcoming space for everyone this Christmas season.

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.

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. Each day's text will be posted on the parish website and updated by midday from December 17 onwards.

Advent Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Join us for a beautiful service of Nine Lessons and Carols at **7:00pm this Friday, 19 December**. This cherished tradition offers a chance to reflect on the Advent season through Scripture readings, beloved carols, and inspiring music from the choir and organ—a perfect way to prepare for Christmas. Refreshments afterwards in The Old Priory.

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:** Deceased family & friends of the Teesdale family. **Our Lady Chapel:** Margaret McDonald RIP

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.

Parish Office Christmas Closure

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

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.

55 Club Carol Service and Bring & Share Lunch

Join us for a joyful Advent Carol Service in The Old Priory at **10:00 am on Thursday, 18 December**. The service will feature a beautiful mix of readings, prayers, poems, and carols to celebrate the season. Afterwards, stay for our Bring & Share Lunch—a lovely opportunity for fellowship and festive cheer. ***All are warmly welcome!*** For more details, please contact Stella on 07824 427400.

CYAN- Young Adults (18-35yrs)

Are you aged 18-35? Come and join CYAN as we meet others and grow in faith. Our Christmas Bring and Share is back for another year! Join us on in **on Monday, 22 December at 6:45pm** - bring a dish, wear your favourite Christmas jumper and join us for some festive cheer and carols.

For further details, please either email us: cyangloucestershire@gmail.com or DM us on our Instagram page: [cyan_glos](#). Look forward to seeing you all there!

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:

- **18 December:** Catholic Family Life
- **8 January:** The Enquiring Catholic

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!**

Sanctuary Christmas Trees

The Christmas trees that adorn the Sanctuary this year have been generously donated in loving memory of Laurence and Joyce Fletcher. **May they rest in eternal peace.**

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.

Clothing Collection

The Faithful Fellowship youth group would like to thank all those who kindly donated toys and clothing in response to their appeal. This has all been sorted and is being distributed to refugees and others in need in Cheltenham.

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!

Remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur this week: Doris Lyons, Prudence Sales, Laurence Hayes, Ann Hawley, Jennifer Pope, Martin Ward and Mary Stanton.

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



CHRISTMAS 2025
AT ST GREGORY'S

Friday, 19 December
7:00pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Monday, 22 December
9:30am Daily Mass

Tuesday, 23 December
9:30am Daily Mass

Wednesday, 24 December
Christmas Eve
5:00pm First Mass of Christmas - Children's Mass
8:00pm Mass of the Nativity

Thursday, 25 December
Christmas Day
9:30am Family Mass
11:15am Solemn Sung Mass

Friday, 26 December
Boxing Day
No Mass

Sunday, 14 December 2025
Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Collect

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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 35:1-6a, 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who have an anxious heart,
'Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Sion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146(145)

***R. Blessed are the poor in spirit;
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord who sets prisoners free. **R**

The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,
the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord who protects the stranger. **R**

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age. **R**

Second reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you."

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Prayer over the Offerings

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Prayer after Communion

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.