

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



Parish Priest: Rev. David Mills

Permanent Deacon: Rev. John Andrews

Parish Administrator: Michael Burnell

Liturgy this Week Advent Week 1

Sunday, 30th November

*First Sunday
of Advent*

Liturgical Year A

9:30am
Family Mass
Holy Souls
11:15am
Solemn Sung Mass
Holy Souls
5:00pm
Holy Souls

Monday, 1st December
*Memorial of St Alexander Briant,
Martyr*

9:30am
Julie McPartland RIP

Tuesday, 2nd December
Weekday of Advent

9:30am
Nan Cameron RIP

Wednesday, 3rd December
*Memorial of St Francis Xavier,
Priest*

No Mass
Church Closed for Maintenance

Thursday, 4th December
*Memorial of St Osmund,
Bishop*

No Mass
Church Closed for Maintenance

Friday, 5th December
Weekday of Advent

9:30am
John Jo Flood RIP

Saturday, 6th December
Weekday of Advent

9:30am
Khalid & Madelaine Ayar RIP

Sunday, 7th December
*Second Sunday
of Advent*

*Collection: Poor Missions of the
Diocese*

9:30am
Family Mass
Bridget Garvey RIP
11:15am
Solemn Sung Mass
Cynthia Orji RIP
5:00pm
Jane & Sarah Murray RIP

Our Sanctuary lamps this week are burning in memory of:

Sanctuary: Fr David McDonald RIP

Lady Chapel: Deceased family & friends of the Teesdale family



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.

Would you like to receive a copy of the parish newsletter by email? Register your email address via the link on the home page of the parish website.

The production of this newsletter is kindly sponsored by:

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Second Collection – Poor Missions

Next Sunday, a Second Collection will be taken at all Masses for the Poor Missions of the Diocese. This collection helps the Bishop provide financial assistance to parishes within our Diocese that face economic challenges. It serves as a reminder of the mutual support and encouragement we share as a Diocesan family and reflects our responsibility to care for the wider community across the Diocese.

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 is the end of November.***

Click here to sign up: [Confirmation 2026](#)

Advent Series: Exploring Laudato Si'

Beginning **Monday 1 December**, join us for a four-week evening series at the Old Priory, running from **7:00pm to 8:30pm**. This mini-series offers an introduction to the Catholic Church's teaching on Laudato Si': ***On Care for Our Common Home***.

Together, we'll reflect on key questions:

- *What is happening to our planet?*
- *How does Catholic Social Teaching guide our response?*
- *What is ecological conversion?*
- *How can we live out our faith through action?*

To learn more or to register, please contact cheltlaudatosicircle@gmail.com or call 01242 244182. Facilitated by Martin Davis, Laudato Si' Coordinator.

Newman Association Talk

Join us on **Tuesday, 2 December at 2:30pm in the lounge at Sacred Hearts' Hall**, Charlton Kings, for an engaging presentation by Dr Margaret Cooling. Dr Cooling is an accomplished author and trainer who specializes in communicating Christianity through creative arts. Her work spans collaborations with major publishers, including the BBC and the National Gallery, and she regularly delivers talks on the intersection of art and faith. This session, titled: ***"The Nativity in Art: Focusing on Jesus, Mary, and Joseph"*** will explore how artists across different eras and cultures have portrayed the meaning of the Nativity. All are welcome, Admission £3.00 (members & Students Free) Enquiries: S Jamison 01242 539810

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.

Handmade Christmas Card Sale

We welcome back Rachel of Carousel Cards who will be selling handmade Christmas cards after the morning Masses on **Sunday, 30 November**. Rachel kindly donates to the Jericho Appeal with the proceeds of the sale.

RCIA: Journey in Faith

This Sunday, we joyfully welcome those who have spent the autumn exploring the Catholic faith as they take the next step on their journey. They will become catechumens—making a firm commitment to learn more about the Catholic Church and deepen their relationship with God. This important moment will be marked by the **Rite of Acceptance** during this Sunday's 9:30am Mass, when we, as a parish, will pray for them. ***All parishioners are warmly invited to join our RCIA sessions every Thursday at 6:30pm.*** Upcoming topics include:

- **4th December:** The Family
- **11th December:** Mary
- **18th December:** Building a Prayer Life

Advent Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Join us for a beautiful service of Nine Lessons and Carols at **7:00pm on 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

Clothing Collection

The Faithful Fellowship Youth group are collecting and sorting good quality clothing (especially young men's, children's clothes, and toys) for local distribution to the SVP, and to Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees. **Please bring items in bags and leave them in the Narthex after Sunday Masses on 30 November or Sunday, 7 December at the latest.**

Church Closure this week

Please note that the church will be **CLOSED** on **Wednesday and Thursday** this week due to maintenance work on the Church floor.

CYAN – Young Adults Social 18–35yrs

Are you between 18 and 35? CYAN invites you to connect, share, and deepen your faith with fellow young adults. After a short pause, we're excited to kick off the new Liturgical Year with a relaxed social lunch. Join us on **Sunday, 7 December 2025 after the 11:15am Mass**. We'll gather in The Old Priory and then head together to a nearby café for good food and great conversation. To help us book ahead, please let us know by 30th November if you'd like to come along. We'd love to see you there! You can RSVP by emailing cyan_goucestershire@gmail.com or sending us a DM on Instagram: @cyan_glos.

Mary's Yes – Advent Day of Reflection

Join us on Saturday, **6 December at the Apostle Room, Clifton Cathedral** for a day of prayer and reflection on Mary's response to God. Starts 10:15am (after 9:30am Mass) and ends 3:30pm. Please bring a packed lunch; refreshments provided. There are limited places available so please email to book: adult.education@cliftondiocese.com

Mass Intentions 2026

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

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!

Christmas Flowers

Help us make the church beautiful for Christmas! A retiring collection will be taken at all Masses on **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.

Of your charity, pray for the soul of Paul Jones who has recently died. May he rest in Peace

Remember in your prayers those whose Anniversaries occur this week: Freda Hughes, Julia Sanders, Bridie Ruck, Keith McIntosh, Mary Mitchell, Margaret McIntosh, Bridie Bourke and Kenya Ffield.

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, 30 November 2025

1st Sunday of Advent (A)

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Collect

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom. 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 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Sion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 122(121)

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R**

Jerusalem is built as a city
bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. **R**

For the sake of my family and friends,
let me say, 'Peace upon you.'
For the sake of the house of the Lord, our God,
I will seek good things for you. **R**

Second reading

Romans 13:11-14a

Brothers and sisters: You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Prayer after Communion

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord.

Solemn Blessing

May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing. **Amen.**

As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity. **Amen.**

So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**