

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-

Sunday, 7th September <i>Twenty- Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am <i>Family Mass</i> <i>Newton & Julie Britto RIP</i> 11:15am <i>Solemn Sung Mass</i> <i>Frederick & Elizabeth O'Hanlon RIP</i> 5:00pm <i>Khalid & Madelaine Ayar RIP</i>
Monday, 8th September <i>Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9:30am <i>Morning Prayer</i>
Tuesday, 9th September <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am <i>Fr Thomas Hayes OSB RIP</i>
Wednesday, 10th September <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am <i>Morning Prayer, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction</i>
Thursday, 11th September <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am <i>Liturgy of the Word and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction</i>
Friday, 12th September <i>Weekday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am <i>Michael Macfarlane RIP</i>
Saturday, 13th September <i>Memorial of St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</i>	9:30am <i>Angela Savage RIP</i>
Sunday, 14th September <i>Feast of the Exultation of The Holy Cross</i> <i>Education Sunday</i>	9:30am (Children's Mass) <i>Family Mass</i> <i>Arthur Campbell RIP</i> 11:15am <i>Solemn Sung Mass</i> <i>Cynthia Orji RIP</i> 5:00pm <i>People of the Parish</i>

Our Sanctuary lamps this week are burning in memory of:

Sanctuary: Ben 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.

The production of this newsletter is kindly sponsored by:

Mason & Stokes

FUNERAL SERVICE

Second Collection – Education Sunday

A second collection will be taken at all Masses next **Sunday, 14 September** for the Catholic Education Service in England & Wales (CESEW) which supports our Catholic schools in so many ways. CESEW negotiates on behalf of our bishops with governments and other national bodies on legal, administrative, and religious education matters to promote and safeguard Catholic interests in education, and contributes to Christian perspectives within educational debate at national level.

Parish Office Closure

Please be advised that the parish office will be **closed on Tuesday, 9 September**. It will be open as usual on all other days during the week.

First Holy Communion Programme 2025-2026

Children in school year 3 or above who wish to make their First Holy Communion in June 2025 are invited to join the parish preparation programme starting in early November 2025. The parent information meeting will be on **Tuesday, 21 October at 6:00pm at St Gregory's School**. Parents/guardian are invited to register their child using the online form available on the parish website. For further information about the programme email:

pastoral.cheltenham.stgregorythegreat@cliftondiocese.com

Annual Education Mass

The Diocesan annual Education Mass will be celebrated this year on Education Sunday. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bosco at **SS Peter & Paul Cathedral, Bristol, at 6.00pm on Sunday 14 September**. The singing will be led by the pupils of Downside School. Everyone is welcome to attend this special Mass, particularly teachers, pupils, governors & anyone else who is involved in our schools & colleges in any way. Catholic education is a wonderful achievement – and so should be celebrated!

Ride+Stride 2025

Although our parish is not formally participating in this year's Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust Ride+Stride event— having already held our own pilgrimage and with the Stations of Creation walks ongoing — individual parishioners are warmly encouraged to take part if they wish. This year's event takes place on **Saturday, 13 September 2025**. For details on how to get involved, please visit: <https://ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>. We also want to ensure our church is open on the day to welcome Riders and Striders from other churches. If you're able to volunteer as a welcomer for an hour or so, please contact **Martin Davis** on **07748 643749**.

Cheltenham Half Marathon – Travel Reminder

The annual Cheltenham Half Marathon takes place this year on **Sunday, 21 September**. Please be aware that road closures and traffic delays are expected throughout the morning. We kindly ask all parishioners to plan your journey to Mass accordingly to avoid any disruption.

SVP Coffee Morning Invitation

We warmly invite you to join us for a coffee morning hosted by the St Vincent de Paul Society on **Thursday, 25 September at 10:00am**. Come along for a friendly cup of tea or coffee and discover more about the work we do and the support we offer within the community. It's a great opportunity to meet others, ask questions, and learn how you can get involved. We will also have Christmas cards available for purchase, so please bring some cash if you'd like to support us in this way. We look forward to welcoming you!

Cheltenham Laudato Si Circle

Where is Africa on care for creation?'

Cheltenham Laudato Si' Circle Zoom meeting on **Monday, 15 September at 8pm** with guest Gabriel Dinda from Kenya, open to all. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86006435477?pwd=R0Z5a3BsZkxMVFN0NUUyNzV0QzZ2UT09> Meeting ID: 860 0643 5477 Passcode: 518210.

Upcoming Event- Organ Recital

The next in the series of organ recitals by our organist Dr August Guan will be at 2pm on **Saturday 20 September**. He will be playing both organs. The recital entitled "Classical Favourites" will feature - **Dandrieu**: Variations on O filii et filiae on the Blank; **JSB**: Chaconne from Violin Partita in D minor, BWV 1004 (arr. W T Best) on the Blank; **Wagner**: Siegfried-Idyll (arr. Lemare) on the Willis; and **Widor**: Toccata from Symphony 5 on the Willis. **As usual entry is free with a retiring collection.**

Headteacher Vacancy - St Gregory's School

Little Way Catholic Educational Trust are currently recruiting for Headteacher for St Gregory's Primary School, Cheltenham. Details of the vacancy can be found by using the following link: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/150345/EDV-2025-CSSGG-25881>. Any queries should be directed to c.blanch@lwcet.co.uk. Applications are welcomed from practising Catholics who have experience of school leadership - please share with those you know who fit these criteria.

Do you have questions about practising your Faith in a secular culture?

Those recently confirmed up to university or working age are warmly invited to join a monthly gathering in the Old Priory on the third Sunday of each month after the 5pm Mass. **Upcoming dates: 21 September, 19 October, 16 November and 21 December.** This group offers an informal and stimulating space to explore ideas, Catholicism, and personal development with catechists. There's also time to relax and connect over refreshments. For more information email:

pastoral.cheltenham.stgregorythegreat@cliftondiocese.com

Marriage Preparation Weekend – January 2026

Are you engaged and preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage?

The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst offers a Residential Marriage Preparation Weekend each January, designed for couples who are committed to their faith and eager to explore the Church's vision for marriage. Rooted in Scripture and Tradition, this enriching weekend includes thoughtful reflection and learning, time for prayer and spiritual growth, opportunities to connect with other like-minded couples, and a peaceful retreat setting to deepen your relationship. More information is here:

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/marriage-preparation>

Stay Connected with our Parish on Facebook

Looking for an easy way to stay up to date with parish news, events, and community life? Then follow our official St Gregory's Facebook page!

Why follow us? Get reminders for Mass times and special services, see photos and updates from parish events, learn about upcoming organ recitals, events and more! Join us online and be part of our growing digital community! *Just search for Parish of St Gregory the Great, Cheltenham on Facebook and click "Follow."* Let's stay connected—both in spirit and online!

Of your charity, pray for repose of the soul of **George Joseph Martin** who has recently died. **May he rest in peace.**

Remember in your prayers those whose Anniversaries occur this week: *Francis Joseph Pinto, HM Queen Elizabeth II, Jospehine McAlary, Catherine Mair, Eric Swain, Lilian Palmer, Margaret Wiggall and Jerry Royce.*

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.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down
from heaven, **(bow)** and **by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen

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.

This Sunday's Readings

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Collect

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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

Wisdom 9:13-18b

What human being can learn the counsel of God? Or who can discern what the Lord wills? For the reasoning of mortals is worthless, and our designs are likely to fail, for a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthly tent burdens the mind full of thoughts. We can hardly guess at what is on earth, and what is at hand we find with labour; but who has traced out what is in the heavens? Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus the paths of those on earth were set right, and people were taught what pleases you.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14, 17

R: O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

You turn man back to dust,
and say, 'Return, O children of Adam.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night. **R**

You sweep them away like a dream,
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;
by evening it withers and fades. **R**

Then teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O Lord! How long?
Show pity to your servants. **R**

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands. **R**

Second reading

Philemon 9b-10, 12-17

Beloved: I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus — I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been

glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother — especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 119(118):135

Alleluia, alleluia. Let your face shine forth on your servant, and teach me your decrees. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Or:

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Prayer after Communion

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.