

ST. GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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St. Clare's Church: Tel: 01772 719604

Priest in Charge: Rev. Fr. John Mark Agulefo

Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr. Stephen Talbutt

Deacon: Rev. Jim Maguire - Tel: 01772 860980

Saturday 26th/Sunday 27th August 2023

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A



TODAY'S GOSPEL shows that the primacy of Peter was not something that was invented by the Church later on. It went right back to the beginning. Yes, to the mind and will of Christ Himself.

Peter is one of the most interesting people in the Gospels. It is clear that he has leadership qualities but it is also clear that he has glaring weaknesses. In the Gospels we see his "ups and downs". Sometimes he is very brave and at other times he is very cowardly. Sometimes he is like "a rock" whilst at other times he is like "a piece of jelly". He is almost too human; certainly not our idea of a saint or even a person to head Christ's Church.

It is, however, interesting to see how Jesus deals with Peter; how He helps him grow into the man who was ready to lay down his life for Jesus - which he eventually did. This growth was a gradual thing and there were some regressions but this is how growth happens. To live is to change and to be perfect is to change often.

"Lord, You chose Peter as the Head of the Church. Though Peter had great strengths he also had weaknesses. We too have weaknesses so we ask You: Lord, strengthen us when we are weak, raise us up when we fall and guide us in times of doubt so that we may grow to love and praise You daily more and more."

FEASTS NEXT WEEK

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| Monday 28 th August | St. Augustine |
| Tuesday 29 th | The Passion of St. John the Baptist |
| Wednesday 30 th | SS. Margaret Ward, Anne Line & Margaret Clitherow (Martyrs) |
| Friday 1 st September | Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation |

LADIES' GROUP

the Ladies' Group will meet in the Club on Tuesday next the 29TH August at 2.00 p.m. All welcome.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy will resume at the 10.00 a.m. Mass next Sunday, 3rd September following the summer break. We look forward to seeing you all again.

MASSES NEXT WEEK

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Mass at 10.15 a.m.

Saturday - Mass at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday - Mass at 10.00 a.m.

MASSES WILL BE SAID AS FOLLOWS

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| Monday 28 th August | Ken & Peggy Flowers 70 th Wedding Anniversary |
| Wednesday 30 th | Michael Briggs |
| Friday 1 st September | Sick & Housebound of the Parish |
| Saturday 2 nd | Michael Briggs |
| Sunday 3 rd | The Parishioners |

MASS INTENTIONS

Michael Briggs and Sheila Miller

If anyone wishes to have Masses said for any particular intentions, can they please pass them on to Fr. John Mark, Fr. Stephen or Deacon Jim or put them through the letter box of the Parish House. If you want the Masses said on any special day please put the date and, if possible, the Mass will be said then.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions will be heard each Saturday from 6.00 p.m. to 6.25 p.m. and anytime on request.

Please let us know of anyone who is in hospital or a nursing/care home so that arrangements may be made to visit them and take the Sacraments to them.

FOOD BANK APPEAL

Please continue to bring in items for the Salvation Army Food Bank. Anything you can give will be taken to them. They are desperate for tinned and dried food plus tea, coffee, sugar, UHT long life milk and meals in a tin e.g. meat - also, anything for homeless people with no cooking facilities. They are not, however, allowed to accept alcoholic drinks. There are boxes at the back of church.

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| MASS | Saturday | 6.30 p.m. | 55 |
| ATTENDANCES | Sunday | 10.00 a.m. | 86 |
| COLLECTIONS | Offertory | £412.05 | |
| | Feast of Assumption | £37.50 | |
| | Buildings' Fund | £200.00 | |

The **Special Collection** Today is for the **Catholic Trust of England and Wales**. This collection is a levied collection and the charge to the Parish is **£929.93**.

SINCERE THANKS for donations to the Buildings' Fund:

- £100 in memory of Sheila Miller. May she Rest in Peace. Amen.
- £100 from Cyprian and Paulina for preparation for their wedding in Romania.

If you prefer to sign a Standing Order or undertake a Bank Transfer, please use the following details:

A/c Name: Parish of St. Gregory, Preston

A/c No: 81335332

Sort Code: 40-27-02

Please make sure you add your name to the payment, especially if you are a Gift Aider in order that we can claim back the tax.

SALE OF HOMEMADE CAKES/PARISH DRAW

The next Cake Sale will be on Sunday 3rd September, the Feast of St Gregory the Great, after the 10.00 a.m. Mass. Proceeds to Parish funds. There will also be tea and coffee available and the Parish Draw for August will take place.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LADYEWELL

The annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ladyewell takes place on Saturday 2nd September. This will begin with a Pontifical Holy Mass by Bishop Paul Swarbrick at St. Mary's Church, Fernyhalgh at 11:00 am, followed by a Rosary/Blessed Sacrament procession down the lanes to Ladyewell for Benediction.

READINGS NEXT WEEK

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| Monday | Thessalonians 1 vv 1-5, 8-10 | Matthew 23 vv 13-22 |
| Tuesday | Thessalonians 2 vv 1-8 | Matthew 23 vv 23-26 |
| Wednesday | Thessalonians 2 vv 9-13 | Matthew 23 vv 27-32 |
| Thursday | Thessalonians 3 vv 7-13 | Matthew 24 vv 42-51 |
| Friday | Thessalonians 4 vv 1-8 | Matthew 25 vv 1-13 |
| Saturday | Thessalonians 4 vv 9-11 | Matthew 25 vv 14-30 |

Next Sunday - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20 vv 1-9 Paul/Romans 12 vv 1-2
. Matthew 16 vv 21-27



YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

for Sam Dowd, Jackie Lyons, Donald & Ingrid Whiles, Michelle Riley, Raine Tallon, Gerard Renaudin, Rudolph Carlisle, Members of the Wood and

Madden Families, Robert Swan, John Allen. Maureen Sharrock, Harry Oulton, John Monty Black, Martin Gee, Cynthia Maguire, Margaret Nuttall, David Parker, Agnes Partington, Teresa Durnian and all who are sick.

For the housebound and those in hospital.

For carers and all who are anxious for the health of their loved ones.

For the relief, comfort and solace of all refugees and the homeless.

For missionaries and for all victims of strife and terrorism.

For peace in all the troubled areas of our world.

For our clergy and all our parishioners.

For all who are battling the Coronavirus and those risking their own lives and safety to care for them.

Our Lady, our Mother, comfort of the afflicted, pray for them.

For all who have died recently, especially Michael Briggs; for all whose anniversaries occur about this time and for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

POPE FRANCIS

The Joy of the Gospel

Let us go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ. Here I repeat for the entire Church what I have often said to the priests and laity of Buenos Aires. I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the centre and which then ends up in a web of obsessions and procedures. If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them; without meaning and a goal in life. More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving - and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat."