



ST. GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Priest in Charge: Rev. Fr. John Mark Agulefo

Deacon: Rev. Jim Maguire - Tel: 01772 860980

Saturday 8th/ Sunday 9th February 2025

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C



TODAY'S FIRST READING tells of the call of Isaiah to the ministry of prophesy. In a vision in the temple, God reveals Himself to Isaiah as the all-holy one. The vision evokes in Isaiah a sense of his own selfishness and then, cleansed of his sins, he responds to God without hesitation.

This prepares us for the Gospel which deals with the call of the first disciples. Here again, we see that it is God who takes the initiative and also the total response He requires.

The miraculous catch of fish convinces Peter of the holiness of Jesus. This evokes in him a sense of his own sinfulness and unworthiness, so much so that he asks Jesus to depart from him. Peter has not yet *grasped* the fact that it was to call sinners that Jesus came; to call them away from sin to a new way of life. Nevertheless, at the word of Jesus, Peter and his disciples leave everything and follow Him.

By our baptism, we too are called to follow Christ and to offer His words of truth and love to all we meet. The Lord asks us to concentrate on His love, mercy and strength, working in us and through us. Together with Him we can be God's apostles; God's messengers. Together with God, we too can do great things.

TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Patron of our Diocese and is also the World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2025

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

THIS NEXT WEEK we welcome Fr. John Mark back from his holidays.

Let us pray that, in the near future, Bishop Paul will meet with Fr. John Mark to resolve the ongoing situation in our parish and that we can return and welcome everybody back to our Sunday celebration of Mass.

On Monday 10th February there will be a Funeral Service at 1.00 p.m. for Anne Johnstone.

The church is still open for Baptisms and Funerals. Whilst Fr. John Mark is away on holiday please contact Deacon Jim.

MASS INTENTIONS FROM CHRISTMAS

Mark McGrath, Cynthia Maguire, Martin Joseph Haythornthwaite, 56th Wedding Anniversary, Richard Michael & Kathleen Haythornthwaite, Ellen McKeever, Thanksgiving for Safe Arrival of a Grandchild and Martin Joseph Haythornthwaite.

Mass Intentions are still being accepted and the Masses will be said as soon as possible. Please email requests to marianvaughn362@gmail.com, leave them at the Parish House or contact Deacon Jim.

Can we please remember Kath Riley in our prayers; for the success of an operation which she will undergo this week?

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 (but not pasta and cereals). Also welcome are 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.

OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

Christmas Eve Collection **£487.57**

Collection from Envelopes handed in during the church closure **£1,380.00**

Anonymous Donations to Building Fund
£180.00 and £100.00

Sincere Thanks.

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.

PLEASE LET US KNOW of anyone who is in hospital or a nursing/care home so that arrangements may be made to visit them. Likewise, if you know of anyone ill or housebound who cannot get to church; ask them if they would like Communion at home, then let us know.

POSTAGE STAMPS COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who has collected used stamps. They have been sent to Age UK. Please continue to save them, with a 1 c.m. border around the stamp. Thank you.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 23RD TO 30TH JULY

We have been issued with an invitation to join Bishop Paul Swarbrick in this centenary year. The Pilgrimage covers a full itinerary and the cost is £949 per pilgrim sharing. Single rooms are an extra £40 per day. If there are any youth interested the cost is £795 with a reduction of £100 if booked before 11th February.

If you require further details then please contact Deacon Jim or Sandra McGrath.

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Monday	Genesis 1 vv 1-19	Mark 6 vv 53-56
Tuesday	Our Lady of Lourdes Isaiah 66 vv 10-14	John 2 vv 1-11
Wednesday	Genesis 2 vv 4-9, 15-17	Mark 7 vv 14-23
Thursday	Genesis 2 vv 18-25	Mark 7 vv 24-30
Friday	Genesis 3 vv 1-8	Mark 7 vv 31-37
Saturday	Genesis 3 vv 9-24	Mark 8 vv 1-10
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C		
	Jeremiah 17 vv 5-8	Paul/Corinthians 15 vv 12, 16-20
	Luke 6 vv 17, 20-26	



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, John Allen. Maureen Sharrock, Harry Oulton, John Monty Black, Martin Gee, Margaret Nuttall, Agnes Partington, Teresa Durnian, Bill Hughes, Deacon Bill Adams, Teresa Southworth, Danny Vickers, Aiden Crogan 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.

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

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

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

RWANDA GROUP TRUST

- The Rwanda Group Newsletter for January is now available. If you have not received it on-line there are copies in church or email marianvaughn362@gmail.com for one.
- There will be a table-top sale on Saturday 12th April in St. Anthony's Annexe. Contact Bernadette Roberts (07734 972897) to book a table.

FEASTS NEXT WEEK

Monday 10 th February	St. Scholasticus
Tuesday 11 th February	Our Lady of Lourdes
Friday 14 th February	SS. Cyril & Methodius

BAPTISMS

If you have a child who requires the Sacrament of Baptism, please speak to Fr. John Mark or Deacon Jim for an initial meeting before being registered for Baptism.

ST. GREGORY'S SOCIAL CENTRE

Our Parish Centre is available to hire for private functions. Bookings can be made by contacting the stewardess on 01772 798836.

Why not visit our friendly club with a fine selection of beers, wines and spirits?