



ST. GREGORYS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Priest in Charge: Rev. Fr. John Mark Agulefo

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The Nativity of the Lord - 24th/25th December



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR. JOHN MARK

Dear members of St. Gregory's Church,

The Nativity of the Lord is here with us again as we begin the celebration of Christmas on Tuesday of this week. I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas!

Each year, we faithfully celebrate at Christmas the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Christmas comes every year, even during moments of great difficulty. I know how difficult and distressing it has been for all of us during these past months. Not being able to gather and celebrate our weekend Masses as we used to do and not knowing how long this is going to last has inflicted some emotional and psychological wounds on some of us. We pray that whatever the final decision on our future will be, it will be for the greater glory of God and salvation of souls!

Just as Christmas may occur during times of distress, so too does it offer us each year a message of joy, healing, and hope. This hope is rooted not in human events of the day but in the eternal message of salvation. To be joyful even in the midst of so many troubling events does not diminish our solidarity with those who suffer, but rather speaks to the bright Christmas promise of the Angels, "Do not be afraid...for a saviour has been born for us who is Christ the Lord." Be joyful because God has come down to earth to encounter each one of us and to embrace us as His beloved disciples.

I would like to thank you all for your commitment to our parish throughout this year. The giving of your time, talent and treasure to the Lord continues to bear fruit for the kingdom of God. I would also like to thank all the volunteers of our parish and all those who offer us their support in many different ways. My prayer is that you, your family and homes be filled with the blessings of peace, joy and love. At the same, I thank you all for your thoughtful prayers, Christmas cards and gifts. May you all be overshadowed with the mighty and powerful blessings of the Baby Jesus. Amen. Wishing you all, your family and friends a joyful and faith-filled Christmas!



**FR. JOHN MARK
and DEACON JIM**

wish you all a Happy, Holy
and Peaceful Christmas
and every Blessing for the
New Year

**BY KIND PERMISSION OF BISHOP PAUL THERE
WILL BE MASS IN CHURCH AT 4.30 P.M. ON
CHRISTMAS EVE, TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER. THIS
WILL BE PRECEDED BY CAROLS AT 4.00 P.M. THE
MASS WILL BE SAID FOR THE WHOLE PARISH.**

**THE CAROL SERVICE ON SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER
WILL NOW BE AT 2.00 P.M.**

**DEACON JIM WISHES TO THANK EVERYONE FOR
THEIR PRAYERS AND BEST WISHES DURING HIS
RECENT ILLNESS.**

**PLEASE PRAY THAT WE WILL SOON HAVE A
SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION TO THE FUTURE OF OUR
PARISH.**

**ON FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER THERE WILL BE
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FROM
10.15 A.M. TO 10.45 A.M. FIVE DECADES OF THE
ROSARY WILL ALSO BE SAID FOR THE SICK OF THE
PARISH.**

**THE CHURCH IS STILL OPEN FOR BAPTISMS AND
FUNERALS BY APPOINTMENT WITH
FR. JOHN MARK OR DEACON JIM.**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In the first reading we hear of the promise of the Lord that the one who is to rule Israel will come from Bethlehem, the least of the clans of Judah. In the second reading we hear of the priestly sacrifice of Christ: by offering himself once and for all he made us holy. In the Gospel reading we hear about Mary's visit to Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

MASS INTENTIONS

Cynthia Maguire, Martin Joseph Haythornthwaite, Wedding Anniversary, Richard Michael & Kathleen Haythornthwaite and Ellen McKeever.

Mass Intentions are still being accepted and the Masses will be said as soon as possible. Please email any requests to marianvaughn362@gmail.com

OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

Many thanks for two anonymous donations of £180.00 and £100.00 received for the Parish.

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.



YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

For Sam Dowd, Jackie Lyons, Donald & Ingrid Whiles, Michelle Riley, Raine Tallon, Gerrard 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 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 Kathleen Haythornthwaite and all others 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.

READINGS THROUGHOUT CHRISTMAS TIME

Thursday 26 th	St. Stephen Acts/Apostles 6 vv 8-10 and 7 vv 54-59	Matthew 10 vv 17-22
Friday 27 th	St. John the Evangelist John 1 v 1-4	John 20 vv 2-8
Saturday 28 th	The Holy Innocents John 1 v 5 and 2 v 2	Matthew 2 vv 13-18
Monday 30 th	St. Thomas Becket Paul/Timothy 2 vv 8-13 and 3 vv 10-12	Matthew 16 vv 24-27
Wednesday 1 st	Mary, Mother of God Numbers 6 vv 22-27	Luke 2 vv 16-21
Thursday 2 nd	John 2 vv 22-28	John 1 vv 19-25
Friday 3 rd	John 2 v 29 and 3 v 6	John 1 vv 29-34
Saturday 4 th	John 3 vv 7-10	John 1 vv 35-42
Tuesday/Wednesday 24 th /25 th December	The Nativity of the Lord	Isaiah 9 vv 1-7 Paul/Titus 12 vv 11-14 Luke 2 vv 1-14
Saturday/Sunday 29 th /30 th December	The Holy Family	Samuel 1 vv 20-22, 24-28 John 3 vv 1-2, 21-24 Luke 2 vv 41-52
Saturday/Sunday 4 th /5 th January	The Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60 vv 1-6 Paul/Ephesians 3 vv 2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2 vv 1-12
Sunday 12 th	The Baptism of the Lord Isaiah 40 vv 1-5, 9-11	Paul/Titus 2 vv 11-14 and 3 vv 4-7, Luke 3 vv 15-16, 21-22

FOOD BANK APPEAL

Please continue to bring in items for the Salvation Army Food Bank. 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 and anything for homeless people with no cooking facilities. They are not, however, allowed to accept alcoholic drinks. There is a box at the back of church.

POSTAGE STAMPS COLLECTON

CAFOD are no longer accepting used postage stamps. However, if you wish to continue saving them we can pass them on to Age UK. Please remember to leave a 1 cm. edge around the whole stamp. The box for them is still at the back of church.

OWING TO THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD the next Newsletter will be for the weekend of 11th/12th January. Items for inclusion should be submitted by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 3rd January either by posting them through the letter box of the Parish House or by e-mail to marianvaughn362@gmail.com.