



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 29th/Sunday 30th March 2025
4th Sunday of Lent - Year C - Laetare Sunday



Today we say a special "thank you" to all Mothers as we celebrate Mothers' Day. "Mothers' Day" owes its origin to Mother Church so today let us give all Mothers the recognition and celebration that is their due as we wish all Mothers a very joyful day.

The story of the Prodigal Son in today's Gospel is probably the best known and best loved of all Jesus' parables. It could also be known as the "Forgiving Father".

God's forgiveness is not a cold, half-hearted forgiveness but a warm and generous one. God doesn't just forgive us. He loves us and lets us know it. The story doesn't give a licence to sin but it does show that if, through human weakness or wickedness we do sin, then we can come back. Our past can be overcome. We can make a fresh start. This is the great lesson of this parable.

"Lord God, You reveal Your power most of all in Your forgiveness and compassion. Fill us with Your grace so that we may walk with joy in the way of Your commandments."

JUBILEE ICON

From Tuesday 25th March to Tuesday 1st April the Jubilee Icon visits Lancaster Diocese and will be on display in the Lady Chapel at the Cathedral. CAFOD will be hosting a short prayer and reflection time with the icon after 12.15 p.m. weekday Mass on Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th, Monday 31st March and Tuesday 1st April. All welcome to join us.

Lenten Schedule

Throughout Lent the church will be open for private prayer:
10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon Monday to Friday
9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon Sunday

- Wednesday 2nd April: Our Parish Mass will be at 10.15 a.m. and will be said for Frank and Ellen McKeever.
- Thursday 10th April: a 'Taizé Evening of Prayer and Music' at 7.00 p.m. in the Liturgy Room.
- Friday 11th April: the last of our Lenten Stations of the Cross in church at 12.00 noon followed by a Soup Lunch in the Parish House - all donations to CAFOD.

Fr. John Mark will meet, on 3rd April, with Bishop Paul, Deacon Jim and Ged McKeivitt, Chair of our Parish Council, to discuss a return to Sunday Mass. Please pray for a successful solution for the benefit of the Parish.

MASS INTENTIONS TO BE SAID

Mark McGrath, Cynthia Maguire, Martin Joseph Haythornthwaite, Thanksgiving for Safe Arrival of a Grandchild, Martin Joseph Haythornthwaite (Anniversary), Deacon Michael Dolan, Teresa (Terry) Southworth. Mark McGrath and Maureen Ramshead. 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.

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. Boxes at the back of church.

OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

Sincere Thanks to all who have continued with their Standing Orders throughout the closure of our church for Sunday Mass and to all who have continued to hand in their Gift Aid envelopes at the Parish House or to other churches which they have attended. These have been passed on to us.

Christmas Offerings - £448.84 (Christmas Eve Mass)
January - £1,380.00 February - £970.00

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.

THE CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION will take place on Sunday 22nd June beginning at 2.00 p.m. at St. Walburge's church and ending there, following the Procession, with Benediction.

This year is also the 100th Anniversary of our Diocese and Holy Year, so we are asked to spread the word so that we can make this an extra specially large Procession in honour of Our Lord.

RWANDA GROUP TRUST - LENTEN ALMSGIVING

The Group, now under the patronage of Bishop Paul, is seeking to raise funds for the poorest of the poor in Rwanda. There are many who need our help; please help us to help them. We have no paid employees or overheads. For Further information or to make a donation contact Michael Donlan (Trustee):

Tel: 07864 990941.

E-mail: rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com

Website: www.rwandagrouptrust.org

Bank Account: Rwanda Group Trust

Sort Code 09 01 29 Account No. 08478395

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Monday	Isaiah 65vv 17-21	John 4 vv 43-54
Tuesday	Ezekiel 47 vv 1-9, 12	John 5 vv 1-3, 5-16
Wednesday	Isaiah 49 vv 8-15	John 5 vv 17-30
Thursday	Exodus 32 vv 7-14	John 5 vv 31-47
Friday	Wisdom 2 vv 1, 12-22	John 7 vv 1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday	Jeremiah 11 vv 18-20	John 7 vv 40-52

5th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43 vv 16-21 Paul/Philippians 3 vv 8-14
John 8 vv 1-11



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, 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 Maureen Ramshead 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.

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.

THANK YOU:

- Church cleaning - to everyone who helped clean church and litter picked on Monday. Many hands made light work!
- To everyone who has donated in any way to the Family Fast Day appeal and Big Lent Walk. £289.00 was sent to CAFOD from St Gregory.

CASTLERIGG NEWS

- Easter Retreat: 17th to 20th April - open to anyone in Year 7 or above, with separate streams for teens and young adults. Cost is £85, but anyone struggling is invited to get in touch.
- Young Adults' Retreat: 9th to 11th May - open to anyone aged 18-30. Our theme will be 'What do Catholics believe?'; a basic grounding in Catholic Church teaching; with guest speakers, karaoke, an afternoon out.
- Discount to self-led groups on these weekends:
2nd to 4th May; 16th to 18th May