



ST. GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Priest in Charge: Rev. Fr. John Mark Agulefo

St. Clare's Church: Tel: 01772 719604

Deacon: Rev. Jim Maguire

Saturday 7th/Sunday 8th December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent - Year C



THE WORD OF GOD WILL COME WITHIN US.

We have come to know a threefold coming of the Lord. The third coming takes place between the other two. They are

clearly manifest but the third is not. In the first coming the Lord was seen on earth and lived among men in the days when, as he himself bears witness, they saw him and hated him. In his last coming 'all flesh shall see the salvation of our God', and 'they shall look on him whom they have pierced.' The other coming is hidden. In it, only the chosen see Him within themselves and their souls are saved. In brief, his first coming was in the flesh and in weakness; this intermediary coming is in the spirit and power; the last coming will be in glory and majesty. This intermediary coming is like a road leading from the first to the last coming. In the first coming Christ was our redemption; in the last he will appear as our life; in this intermediary coming he is our rest and consolation.

Do not imagine that what we are saying about the intermediary coming is simply our own fabrication. Listen to Christ himself, 'If a man loves me he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.' I have read elsewhere, 'The man who fears the Lord will do good,' but it is my opinion that more was said of the one who loves, namely that he will keep the words. Where, then, are they to be kept? Without any doubt they are to be kept in the heart, as the prophet says, 'I have kept your words in my heart, lest I sin against you.' Keep the word of God in that way for 'blessed are they who keep it.' Let it pierce deep into your inmost soul and penetrate your feelings and actions.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In the first reading the prophet Baruch proclaims a message of hope and freedom to the people of Israel living in exile. In the second reading Paul exhorts his Christian community of Philippi to intensify mutual love and grow in the knowledge of Christ so as to become pure and blameless on the Day of Christ. In the Gospel reading we hear the voice of John the Baptist inviting us to prepare the way for the Lord's coming.

AGAIN, WE APOLOGISE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MASSES THIS WEEKEND.

PLEASE PRAY FOR DEACON JIM WHO HAS BEEN ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL RECENTLY.

AT THE MOMENT WE HAVE NO UPDATES TO PASS ON TO YOU REGARDING THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH AND WE WILL INFORM YOU AS SOON AS WE HAVE ANY FURTHER NEWS. PLEASE PRAY FOR A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION SOON.

ON WEDNESDAY THERE WILL BE A PARISH MASS AT 10.15 A.M. ATTENDED BY CHILDREN FROM OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL.

ON FRIDAY THERE WILL BE EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FROM 10.15 A.M. TO 11.15 A.M. FIVE DECADES OF THE ROSARY WILL ALSO BE SAID FOR DEACON JIM AND THE SICK OF THE PARISH.

THERE WILL BE AN ADVENT SERVICE IN THE SCHOOL HALL WITH YEAR 4 ON THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER AT 2.30 P.M.

ON THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER THERE WILL BE A TAIZE SERVICE IN THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY ROOM AT 7.00 P.M. PLEASE ENTER VIA THE BACK DOOR OF THE CHURCH.

ON SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER THERE WILL BE A CAROL SERVICE IN CHURCH AT 2.00 P.M. PLEASE ENTER VIA THE MAIN DOORS.

PLEASE LET US KNOW of anyone who is ill or housebound and cannot get to Mass at this present time so that we can make arrangements to have Holy Communion taken to them. Contact Fr. John Mark.

OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

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.

FEASTS NEXT WEEK

Thursday 12th December Our Lady of Guadalupe
Friday 13th December St. Lucy
Saturday 14th December St. John of the Cross

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, give your loved ones something exceptional and life changing. Buying CAFOD's virtual World Gifts makes a real difference for our sisters and brothers facing the injustice of poverty around the world. Choose from a range of beautifully illustrated cards, each representing a gift of hope, inspired by real people and real needs. Cards can be sent by post, as an e-Card, or printed at home. Purchase World Gifts and other gifts such as Advent calendars and jute bags at worldgifts.cafod.org.uk.

POSTAGE STAMPS

CAFOD thanks us for all the used stamps we have sent to support their fundraising; they are, however, no longer accepting them.

If you wish to continue saving used stamps we can give them to Age UK. Please remember to leave a 1 cm. edge around the whole stamp. The box is still at the back of church.

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Monday	Isaiah 35 vv 1-10	Luke 5 vv 17-26
Tuesday	Isaiah 40 vv 1-11	Matthew 18 vv 12-14
Wednesday	Isaiah 40 vv 25-31	Matthew 11 vv 28-30
Thursday	Isaiah 41 vv 13-20	Matthew 11 vv 11-15
Friday	Isaiah 48 vv 17-19	Matthew 11 vv 16-19
Saturday	Ecclesiasticus 48 vv 1-4, 9-11	Matthew 17 vv 10-13

Sunday 15th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent Year C
Zephaniah 3 vv 14-18 Paul/Philippians 4 vv 4-7
Luke 3 vv 10-18



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 Sharrocks, Harry Oulton, Jon 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 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.



FROM OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL

It is that special time of year again when we join together as a school and parish community to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. We would like to invite the parishioners of St. Gregory's

to our Advent Reflections performed by children from years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The remaining services will be as follows:

Year 4: Thursday 12th December at 2.30 p.m.

Year 5: Monday 16th December at 2.30 p.m.

Year 6: Wednesday 18th December at 2.30 p.m.

We hope you can join us to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and be part of our special preparations.

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 plus 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.