

Catholic Community in Cheltenham

Served by the Diocese of Clifton Registered Charity Number 233977

Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday Cycle C Office: Week 3

7th March 2010

I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground? (Luke 13:7)

*"MEN OF TRUTH,
...OF LOVE,
...OF GOD"*

POPE BENEDICT XVI
CHRISM MASS, 9TH APRIL 2009

A YEAR FOR PRIESTS

19TH JUNE 2009—19TH JUNE 2010

St Gregory the Great 10 St James Square, GL50 3PR ☎01242 523737
St Thomas More Princess Elizabeth Way, GL51 7RA ☎01242 523737

Parish Priest: Canon Bosco MacDonald VF

Assistant Priest: Fr Tom Smith

Deacons: Rev. David McDonald, Rev. Robin Littlewood, Rev. Frank Wainwright

Parish Websites: www.stgregorys.org.uk, www.stthomasmorechurch.org.uk

Schools: St Gregory's RC Primary School, St James Square GL50 3QG
St Thomas More RC Primary School, Lewis Road, Hesters Way GL51 0HZ
Christ College, Arle Road, GL51 8LE

Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Moorend Road, Charlton Kings, GL53 9AU ☎01242 524932

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Brandon **Parish Website:** www.sacredhearts.org.uk

Mass Times This Week

7th	Sunday	Third Sunday of Lent	
	5.00pm (Sat.)	St Thomas More	People of the Parish
	5.30pm (Sat.)	Sacred Hearts	Gloria Smyth
	8.00am	Holy Name Hall	Bernard Anderson RIP
	8.15am	Sacred Hearts	People of the Parish
	9.30am	St Gregory	Dec. members of the Rotundo family
	10.30am	Sacred Hearts	Kevin Mannix
	11.15am	St Gregory	Private Intention
	2.30pm	Sacred Hearts	Stations of the Cross
	4.00pm	Sacred Hearts	Mass in Polish
	5.00pm	St Gregory	Stations of the Cross
	6.00pm	St Gregory	Private Intention
8th	Monday	Weekday of Lent	
	9.30am	St Gregory	Anthony Cava RIP
9th	Tuesday	Weekday of Lent	
	10.00am	Sacred Hearts	Harold Prosser RIP
	7.00pm	St Gregory	Sarah Mooney RIP
10th	Wednesday	Weekday of Lent	
	9.30am	St Gregory	George Welsh RIP
	10.00am	Sacred Hearts	Private Intention
11th	Thursday	Weekday of Lent	
	9.30am	St Gregory	Malcolm Vicary RIP
	3.30pm	St Gregory	Stations of the Cross
	7.00pm	Sacred Hearts	Thomas Sheridan RIP
12th	Friday	Weekday of Lent	
	9.15am	Sacred Hearts	Frank Drummond-Henderson RIP
	9.30am	St Gregory	Jesusa Tano RIP
	1.00pm	St Gregory	Funeral of Bernard Anderson RIP
13th	Saturday	Weekday of Lent	
	9.15am	Sacred Hearts	Private Intention
	9.30am	St Gregory	Esther & Bill Lidbury RIP



BANKING ON TIME?

Imagine you had a bank account. Not just any old bank account. Every day this bank account is filled by an anonymous donor who deposits £86,400 in your name. But there's a snag. At midnight every day the account is emptied. You can't save the money until tomorrow. You have to use it today or else it's gone. So you can't save it up. Still not bad? You can do a lot with £86,400 a day. It may surprise you to know that you do have such an account. The only thing is: it's not pounds but seconds that are given to you. There are 86,400 seconds in every 24 hours. When midnight strikes they are gone

and you have to start a new day.

In today's gospel Jesus warns about thinking that there's always a tomorrow, about putting things off. He reminds his audience of two recent disasters: some people who were butchered by Pilate and some others who died when a building collapsed on them unexpectedly. And then he said, "Unless you repent you will all perish as they did."

There's no evidence that Jesus was trying to frighten people into believing. He was simply pointing out the reality of life: it doesn't last for ever. Yet we can become complacent about our relationship with God. Perhaps we do just enough to stay a card-carrying Christian without ever getting as involved as we know we should? Or do we keep putting off something that we ought to get round to? Maybe we are aware that we are slipping up in areas that are causing us to drift from God?

Our Christian faith is not like a diet that we can start at the beginning of next month or after Easter, or in time for the summer holidays. Our 86,400 seconds are given to us to be lived now to the full. Today is the day that God wants to save us. Today is the day that we are offered the chance to reorganise our lifestyles, to return to the basics that we may have let go of. Lent asks us to look at our priorities and to make sure that we don't keep putting things off, to open ourselves to God's action in order to bear fruit. Of course we can't bank time. But we can bank on time. And in Lent we have 3,456,000 seconds. It would be a pity to waste any of them.

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at St Gregory's: Thursday 10.00am to 3.00pm ending with Benediction; Saturday 10.00am to 11.00am ending with Benediction; Sacred Hearts: 1st Friday of the month 9.45am to 6.00pm.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: St Gregory's Saturdays 10.00am; St Thomas More 4.15pm; Sacred Hearts Thursday 7.30pm and Saturdays 11.00am; also by arrangement with the priests.

Baptisms: By arrangement with the Parish Office.

Marriages: By arrangement with the Parish Office. *NB At least 6 months' notice usually required.*

Cheltenham Catholic Adults: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Contact Margaret 07515 805015 or Damian 07908 105787.

55 Club: After 9.30am Mass, Thursday 18th March, Ms Joanne Moston, 'Jerusalem Update', in The Old Priory.

Theological Reading Group: 7.00pm in the presbytery, 22nd March

RCIA Journey in Faith - Thursdays, 7.30pm, upstairs in the Old Priory.

Proteen - 14th March 7pm.

Fish Food/ Confirmation - 10th March, 7pm upstairs in The Old Priory.

Finance

Last week's offertory collection came to: £1325.63 (St Gregory's) £333.70 (St Thomas More). Bingo £158.50. CAFOD Lenten Fast Day raised £1493.14 (St Gregory's) and £205.88 (St Thomas More) of which £840 was given by Gift Aid. Thank you for your generosity.

Change in Mass Times

Please note that this week there will be a change to our weekday Mass times. Monday and Friday Masses will now be celebrated at 9.30am instead of 1.00pm. Funerals may be arranged for Wednesdays or Fridays at the slightly earlier time of 12.00noon.

Lenten Scrutinies

Part of the Rite of Christian Initiation is the celebration of the Lenten Scrutinies on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent. These are special moments of prayer with those who are preparing to be received as full members of the Church at Easter. Please keep our candidates in your prayers during these important days of preparation for the Easter Vigil. The Scrutinies will take place at the 9.30am Mass on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent. In accordance with the Rite, the readings for these Masses will be taken from Year A.

Cheltenham Churches - United at Easter

On Friday 2nd April at 12 noon there will be a 'Silent Walk of Witness' from Imperial Gardens to St Mary's Churchyard, via the Promenade and Upper High Street. The walk will take approximately 30 minutes with readings and prayers along the way. Refreshments will be served afterwards in St Mary's Churchyard.

Papal Preparations

With the prospect of Pope Benedict XVI visiting this country later in the year, our award-winning website www.cliftondiocese.com is looking for your memories and photographs of the last Papal visit back in 1982. As we look forward to welcoming the Holy Father to the UK, you are invited tell your story by emailing webeditor@cliftondiocese.com and share your thoughts and experiences of the momentous occasion.

Parish Pastoral Council

The PPC will be meeting on Sunday evening (7th March). As always, if there is any parish matter that you would like to raise with us then please email the parish office or contact any of the PPC members. The current members of the PPC are Deacon Robin Littlewood, James Bryant, John Kyffin, Sarah Roberts, Lindsay Read, John Andrews, Tony Thorn, Jo Johnston, Bill Flynn, Dominic Whyte, Mary Flood, Pat Cassidy. We should be identifiable by our PPC badges after Mass.

A Morning with Bishop Lang

Saturday 13th March, 10.30 – 12.30. Come and join Bishop Declan at Alexander House and hear the Director of the Department for Schools and Colleges, Mr Ian McNiff, talk about the opportunities and challenges of working in our

Catholic schools today. To reserve a place please telephone Jenny Fitzgerald on 0117 902 5593 or email: Jenny.fitzgerald@cliftondiocese.com. Please see notice in church porch for further details.

FairTrade Shop

St Gregory' Fair Trade Shop. We are looking for a parishioner willing to take over the running of our Fair Trade Shop, which is open once a month in the Old Priory after Sunday morning Masses. If interested please contact David Andrews. (Tel. 522372).

Refreshments after 11.15am Mass on Sundays

As we have been unsuccessful in recruiting more helpers to serve tea and coffee after the 11.15am Sunday Mass, we will, regretfully, not be able to provide refreshments from Palm Sunday onwards. Hopefully regular service will soon be resumed if a rota of helpers can be formed. Please speak to Dave or Joanna (behind the bar) or leave a message at the Parish Office.

World Youth Day 2011

There will be a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Madrid in August 2011. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful adventure and will be between 16 and 30 years old in August 2011 then please contact Fr Kevin Hennessey for more information. 01452 713254.

A Pilgrimage to Taize

July 17th to July 2010. How about meeting 5000 young people from across the world, sharing stories and making new friends? Taize gives you an opportunity to do all this and helps you discover more about God. For more information please contact Fr Kevin Hennessey on 01452 713254.

Greenery for Easter

We will be asking for any greenery, especially Variegated/Gold for Easter. Please leave in the bucket at the back of the church. Thank you.

Skittles, Pie and Peas Evening

A Skittles Night with pie and peas being served is being held in St Thomas More's Hall on Friday 12th March at 7.30pm. Tickets £5. Bring your own drinks.

Parents Coffee and Prayer Morning

There will be a Parents Coffee and Prayer morning on Friday 12th March in the After School Club room between 9.00 and 9.30am.

Our Prayers Are Asked For:

Sick: April Salcombr, Andrea Barrett, Jenny Boag, Peter Martin, Mary Vaughan, Stella Kavanagh, Rose Green, Dominic Fairclough, Amy Elliott, Norma Greener, Tom Carr, Jayne Murphy, Baby Sebastian, Claire Young (née Badger), Sue Ball, Mark Power, Nora Fitzgerald, Helen Stanbury, Marie Donaldson, John Foley, Doreen Keating, Gladys Austin, Peter Martin, Helen Biggs, Walid Cotta, Nora & Paddy Walsh, Liz Sawaf, Tom Doherty, Kathy Lawrence.

Deceased: Wanda Reynolds, Bernard Anderson, Fr Lesley Roberts OFM.

Anniversaries: Joseph Doran, Joan Wilkinson, Thomas Hurley, Bernard Chambers, Johnny Keenan, Ruby Coles, Elliott Blenkinsopp, Teresa Deighton, John Brearton, Ernie Betteridge, Hannah Prangle, Frances Jones, Mary Castleton, Malcolm Vicary, Jerry Badger, Peter Allen, Edward Higgs, Noel McHugh, Margaret Christopherson, Maureen Williams, Chris Temple.