

Catholic Community in Cheltenham

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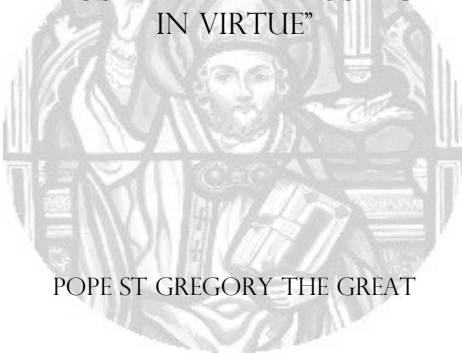
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Cycle B Office Week 3

19th February 2012

'The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins' (Mark 2:1-12)

"THE ONLY TRUE RICHES ARE
THOSE THAT MAKE US RICH
IN VIRTUE"



POPE ST GREGORY THE GREAT

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

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
All Saints Academy, Blaisdon Way, Cheltenham GL51 0WH

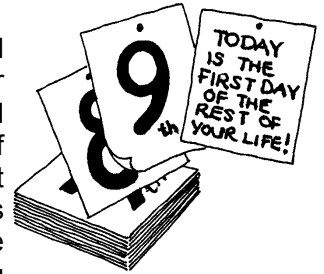
Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Moorend Road, Charlton Kings, GL53 9AU ☎01242 524932

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

Mass Times This Week		
19th Sunday	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Day of Prayer for the Unemployed
5.00pm (Sat)	St Gregory	St Thomas More: People of the Parish
5.30pm (Sat)	Sacred Hearts	Private Intention
8.15am	Sacred Hearts	People of the Parish
9.30am	St Gregory	Thanksgiving - 40th W/A Dilys & Chris Barrell
10.30am	Sacred Hearts	Reginald Garman RIP & Nicholas Walford RIP
11.15am	St Gregory	People of the Parish
4.00pm	Sacred Hearts	Mass in Polish
6.00pm	St Gregory	Private Intention
20th Monday	Weekday in Ordinary Time	
9.30am	St Gregory	Ellen Power RIP
21st Tuesday	Weekday in Ordinary Time	
10.00am	Sacred Hearts	Harry Smith RIP
7.00pm	St Gregory	George Henry John RIP
22nd Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	
9.15am	STM School	Mass in School Hall
9.30am	St Gregory	Margaret Thorn RIP
10.00am	Sacred Hearts	Maureen McCabe RIP
1.00pm	Sacred Hearts	Requiem Mass for Patrick O'Sullivan RIP
7.00pm	St Gregory	People of the Parish
7.00pm	Sacred Hearts	People of the Parish
23rd Thursday	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	
9.30am	St Gregory	Sue Ball
7.00pm	Sacred Hearts	Betty Davies RIP
24th Friday	Friday after Ash Wednesday	
9.15am	Sacred Hearts	Marjorie Towner RIP
9.30am	St Gregory	In Thanksgiving
25th Saturday	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	
9.30am	St Gregory	Jack & Delia Kirwan RIP

THE QUALITY OF MERCY

Why do we find it so hard to forgive? Why are our newspapers quick to label people as demons of society and suggest that they be locked away as long as possible? Why are politicians sure of getting votes if they talk tough? Inside each one of us there's that little child that comes into the room and says, 'Mummy, Mary's broken a cup.' The implication is that she should be punished. It's only as we get older that we are able to see ourselves in Mary's place and to realise that we too are not perfect. We too can break cups as well as hearts.



Awareness of our own faults and failings makes us more sympathetic to other people. There but for the grace of God (and sometimes even despite it) go I. And it is this growing awareness of our own fragility that makes us able in adulthood to be more feeling towards others who stray. This feeling is what Christians call mercy.

Without mercy and forgiveness we would be left only with cold and unfeeling justice. We would never have any room for manoeuvre because we would live in a tit-for-tat society that would create a mountain of revenge, resentment and unfinished business. Justice might be functional but mercy and forgiveness are humanising; they proclaim a love greater than sin.

Christians believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness is at the heart of Jesus's message, so much so that his cure of the paralytic is linked to the deepest cure of all: the forgiveness of his sins. And when people refuse to forgive it means that they are not prepared to accept their own fallibility, for if they really knew how much God had forgiven them in their lives they would be unable to withhold forgiveness from others. That is the nub of it. When I forgive someone else I am not being noble or magnanimous. Forgiveness is a never-ending gift that God has given me, and I am simply handing on the gift. Whenever I need it again, it will be there.

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at St Gregory's: Saturday 10.00am to 11.00am; Thursday 10.00am to 3.00pm ending with Benediction; Sacred Hearts: Friday, 9.00am-12.30pm.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: St Gregory's Saturdays 10.00am and from 4.15-4.45pm. Sacred Hearts Thursdays 7.30pm and Saturdays 10.30am (no confessions at SH this Saturday, 25th February). Also by arrangement with the priests.

RCIA Journey in Faith: Thursdays 7.00pm-9.00pm in the Presbytery

Baptisms: By arrangement with the Parish Office.

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

55 Club: After 9.30am Mass in the Old Priory. Next meeting: 1st March. Mr Martyn Davis: 'Old Diary of a Young Farmer'.

Choir Practice: In Church, Thursdays at 7.00pm. New members welcome. Contact John on: 07769 675323.

Finance

Last week's offertory collection came to: £1143.65 (SG) £370.09(STM) Bingo £85.00 (STM). Many thanks to everyone for your support and generosity.

St Gregory's Jericho Appeal 300 Club

Winners of the January draw of the 300 Club, held Sunday 5th February are – 1st Mrs Georgina Phillips; 2nd Mrs M.E. Francis; 3rd Mr D A. Dean. Thank you everyone for your support.

Children's Society (CCS Adoption)

After the Masses this weekend, there will be an appeal on behalf of the Clifton Children's Society and a retiring collection. They are a small independent Adoption Agency offering long term support to adoptive families. For more information about adoption, or the work of the Society, please call 08451 220077, or visit www.ccsadoption.org.

RCIA Journey in Faith — Rite of Election

We continue to pray for those you are preparing to become full Members of the Church: Dan Perry, Lauren Hopkins, Calvin Haley, Sue Holbrook, Vicky Jones, Jenny Murphy. Next Saturday, Bishop Declan will meet all those from throughout our Diocese who are to be received at Easter. The Rite of Election, a very special milestone in their preparation, will take place at Clifton Cathedral, and we wish our candidates every joy and blessing.

Ash Wednesday

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent. Children from St Gregory's school will be joining parishioners at the 9.30am Mass at St Gregory's. Mass will also be celebrated at St Thomas More School at 9.15am and parishioners are very welcome to attend. Evening Mass at St Gregory's is at 7.00pm, and the blessing and distribution of ashes will take place at all these Masses.

Fairtrade Fortnight

The Traidcraft team would like to invite you to a 'Big Brew' after the 9.30am Mass on the 4th March. There will also be home baked products using Traidcraft ingredients; a quiz with a chance to win some Traidcraft chocolate; balloons for the children as well as coffee and tea. We will also be launching our new ordering system, therefore please come and support this event.

APF Red Boxes

Please return your red box to St Gregory's Sacristy or Presbytery, by Sunday, 11th March. This applies also to St Thomas More Red Box holders.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Bishop Declan invites you to our Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes from Friday, 24th-31st August 2012. Further information may be obtained from Deacon David Wakefield, Pilgrimage Director on 07711 834800 or email: Lourdes@cliftondiocese.com.

'Welcome the Spring' - Charity Show

Come and join YSVP/Proteen for an evening of music and fun on Saturday, 3rd March at 7.30pm. This will include a guest performance by Fr Bosco! In aid of Egalite Absolue. Bar and refreshments available. Tickets £2 on the door, or phone 01242 525592.

Egalite Absolue

A Ceilidh and Ploughman's Supper with barn dance band "Peterfolk" will perform on Saturday, 10th March 7.30pm-1.00pm, at Sacred Hearts Hall (Licensed bar). Tickets are available from egaliteabsolue@aspig.freeseve.co.uk cost: £15.

St Edward's School Open Day

Parents are warmly invited to look around the School, on Friday, 2nd March, 9.30am-3.00pm to meet the Headmaster, and the various subject teachers in their departments, during a normal day. If you cannot make this Open Day, please contact the Registrar, Mrs Philippa Gammond to make an appointment on 01242 538600, or Email headmaster@stedwards.co.uk.

Musica Vera Concert

Will perform at St Gregory's Church on Saturday, 24th March at 7.30pm to perform *Mass in G* (Schubert) and music by Mozart. Conductor: Oliver Mason. Tickets £9.00 at the door or from Cheltenham Tourist Information Centre. Free Admission to children under 16. Proceeds to The Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. Please do come along and be entertained and support.

Clifton Diocese Youth Service

"Born for This" is a unique and prayerful musical, performed by young people, that brings the Stations of the Cross to life. Admission free, and all are welcome, on Friday, 2nd March at St John's, Wingfield Road, Trowbridge, and Saturday, 3rd March at Clifton Cathedral. Both performances commence at 7.30pm. For information, visit cliftondiocese.com/born-for-this.

Flame Congress 2012

On Saturday 24th March, the CYMFed Flame congress is taking place in Wembley Arena. This will be the largest gathering of Catholic young people since the visit of Pope Benedict XVI in 2010. For your chance to be involved, download the forms from cliftondiocese.com/cymfed-flame This event is open to school age year 9+ and the total cost of the day is £30, including travel to and from different points in the diocese. Tickets are going quickly, so act fast to secure your place!

Life in the Spirit

Reinvigorate your Christian life this Lent! Life in the Spirit Seminars at St Peter's Catholic Church, London Road, Gloucester, each Thursday until March 29th, 7.30-9.30pm. Speakers include Charles & Sue Whitehead, Jenny Baker, Derek Williams. Turn up or email litspiritgloucester@hotmail.co.uk. Information leaflets available in Church.

Diocesan Summer Camps 2011

"Living Your Faith" Summer Camps are once again taking place at Our Lady's Homestead, Nympsfield between 13th-17th August (age 7-11) and 20th-24th August (age12-16). These camps are designed to give Catholic children and young adults the opportunity to explore their faith in an atmosphere of support and fun. Please contact Stephen Spurrell on: 07847 915415 or email: livingyourfaith@hotmail.co.uk.

Our Prayers Are Asked For:

Sick: Sheila Pitt, Liz Sawaf, Sue Ball, Stella Kavanagh, Peter Martin, Claire Young, Fr Tom Lane, June Edwards, Teresa Kelly, Sean Murphy, Helen Stanbury, Brian Taylor, Kathleen Butler, Brian Duffy, Peter Haslop, Peter von Walter, Patrick Caul, Amelia Reed, Nigel Benator, Deirdre Brady, Josefina Vittalicio, Dennis Sullivan.

Anniversaries: Reginald Garmen, Jean Sherry, Shirley Fildes, George John, Maureen McCabe, Kathleen Evans, Andrzej Dabrowski, Betty Etheredge, Rosa Bugeja, Esther Lidbury, Ginettia & Aldo Bondioii, Margaret Gibbons, Eileen Gibbs.