

St Gregory the Great, Stratford upon Avon

This Parish is served by the Benedictine Monks of Douai Abbey.

Parish Priest:
Fr. Alex Austin (OSB)

Parish Office:
Open Tuesday,
Wednesday, Thursday
& Friday mornings



Address:
St Gregory's Church
Warwick Road,
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6UJ
stgregorysua@btconnect.com
Telephone: 01789 292439

Additional numbers for use in emergencies only: Alcester: 01789 762573, Bidford-upon-Avon: 01789 773291

Prayers for the Sick and Housebound: Cath Austin, Mary Barratt, Roy Baylis, Silver Beckham Bazira, Margaret Bullen, Vincent Coleman, Sophie Connor, Louise Cooke, Gladys Cuscito, Carol Denny, Gary Denstone, Roy Donnelly, Aubrey Dreyden, Gabrielle Edwardes, Patricia Elliot, Mary Foster, Barry Geedon, Maureen Harper, Brian Harrison, Anthony Hathaway, Mary Hedderman, Maureen Hunt, Adelina Cocozza, Bill Johnson, , Anne Kingland, Mike Lowe, Mildred Madden, Tom Mahon, Isabelle Mantella, Ted Martyn, Dominic Momcilovic, Helena Myczko, Don O'Donnell, Jean O'Neill, Tom O'Hare, Anne Parkinson, Reg Pillinger, Vera Roche, John Somers, Cynthia Thompson, Cristina Valentino, David & Frances Westcott, Suzie Weston Noel Wheatle, Margaret Young, Callie Barnett, and all the sick in our hospitals, nursing homes and known to us.

Anniversaries in December: Maureen Blackie, Theresa Fowler, Oliver Condon, June Fairbrother, Owen Jones, Teresa Dietrich, Enzo Buquet, Edward Carrick, Victor Burn, Edward Dempsey, Oliver Storer, Wyndham Perring, William Vale-Humphreys, Else Burdon, Kevin Ford, Karl Oulton.

Lately Dead: Raymond Allard, Joe Harris, Brian Fenn.

Church Cleaning: St Gregory's: the Catenians

Recent Collections.

Weekend 9/10th December 2017. Loose: £338.66 Gift Aid: £ 386.20 Boxes: £ ?

Poor Parishes: £ ?

Thank you for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

St. Gregory's: Saturday 23rd 5.30 pm Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent.
Our Lady of Peace, Shottonery. Sunday 24th 9.30 am Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent.
St. Gregory's Sunday 24th 11.15 am Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent.
Our Lady of Peace, Shottonery. Sunday 24th 6.00 pm Childrens' Christmas Mass.
St. Gregory's Sunday 24th 10.00 pm. Midnight Mass.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Our Lady of Peace, Shottonery. Monday 25th 9.30 am Family Christmas Mass.
St. Gregory's Monday 25th 11.15 am Christmas High Mass.

**We welcome to our congregation visitors to Stratford
and those who have recently moved into our Parish.
Do please make yourselves known to the Priest.**

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, and Douai Abbey Parishes Trust.
Registered Charity Number 1063237

www.stgregorys-stratford.org

16/17th December, Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)		
Saturday 16th	5.30 pm	Mass. People of the Parish
Sunday 17th	11.15 am	Mass. Thomas Keane (1 st anniversary) (R & L Keane)
	1.00 pm 4.00 pm	Polish Mass Carol Service
Monday 18th	9.30 am	Communion Service.
Tuesday 19th	9.00 am	Mass. Patrick Rugg (anniversary) (Rugg Family)
Wednesday 20th	9.30 am	Mass. Thomas Deevy (RIP) (Doreen Morris)
Thursday 21st	9.00 am.	Mass. Ayesha White- Mukumbira, Clare White (RIP) (G & G White)
	10.30 am	School Carol Concert in St. Gregory's Church
Friday 22nd	2.00pm	Marriage of Ryan Mahon & Hannah Watson
23/24/25th December, Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)		
Saturday 23rd	5.30 pm	Mass. Jean Laurens (RIP) (J.V.Laurens)
Sunday 24th	11.15 am.	Mass. People of the Parish
Sunday 24th	10.00 pm.	Midnight Mass
Monday 25th	11.15 am.	Mass. Terry Evans (Intentions) (Don Payne)
Confessions: Saturday 10.30-11.30am at St. Gregory's.		
Our Lady of Peace, Shottonery.		
16/17th December, Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)		
Sunday 17th	9.30 am	Mass. Giuseppe Cuscito (RIP) (Gladys Cuscito)
23/24/25th December, Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)		
Sunday 24th	9.30 am.	Mass. Pauline Lees (RIP) (Bailey)
Sunday 24th	6.00 pm.	Childrens' Christmas Mass
Monday 25th	9.30 am.	Mass. Harry Nicolls (RIP) (Catenians)

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FATHER ALEX

wishes everyone a very Happy and holy Christmas and a blessed New Year. He thanks all who have worked so hard for the parish over the past year. Also, many thanks for all of your cards, gifts and Christmas offerings. They are greatly appreciated.

- **SECOND COLLECTION** this weekend, 16/17th December, for Flowers for the Churches. Gift Aiders please use the appropriate dated envelope, cheques payable to St. Gregory's R.C. Parish. Thank-you.
- **CRIB OFFERINGS** will be given to The Children of Bethlehem charity again this year.
- **SVP:** Next meetings are 18th December.
- **CWL:** Next meeting Wednesday 3rd January 2018 at 2pm in Parish Hall-Subs due!
- **LUNCH CLUB.** next meeting dates are 29th January & 26th February 2018. If you have booked any lunch and then are unable to attend, contact Helen on 01789 550545, or Val on 01789 293267, giving as much notice as possible as is important for catering numbers.
- **SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER AT OLP.** Mince Pies, Mulled wine, Hot chocolate and Marshmallows, Tea and Coffee for sale after 9:30 Mass. All profits to Street Pastors Stratford (Caring for the vulnerable and rough sleepers in Stratford.) Please come along and support and share some fun and good cheer.
- **CAROL SERVICE AT ST. GREGORY'S:** 17th December at 4pm. Mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.
- **REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES THIS CHRISTMAS.** You are invited to bring a poinsettia plant to Our lady of Peace the weekend before Christmas with the names of those who you wish to pray for.
- **EUCHARIST & THE FAMILY** - New for November 17 and in preparation for two large events next year in the life of the Church: the World Meeting of Families (21st - 26th Aug) and the Adoremus: Eucharistic Pilgrimage & Congress (7th - 9th Sept) 2018. For more information contact Paul Northam at fieldevang@maryvale.ac.uk or Sr Gillian Murphy parishesmv@maryvale.ac.uk Worcester 20th Jan, Christ the King, Coventry 3rd Feb., Our Lady of Lourdes Hednesford 24th Feb., Maryleale Institute Birmingham 24th March.
- **MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE.** The next Marriage Preparation Course, for those getting married in our church next year, will be held over two days on Saturday 27th January & Saturday 10th February 2018. For further details please refer to the relevant page on our parish website.

<http://www.stgregorys-stratford.org/marriage-preparation-course.php>

- **PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**, 25th – 28th May 2018. Cost £530. If interested in visiting Lourdes and for enquiries, please contact Jane Chamberlain on 07790456026. There is a fund to assist those in need of financial help.
- **ADOREMUS** – National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress. Liverpool, 7th – 9th September 2018. "I am the Bread of Life". More details to follow. Please pray for the success of this major event.
- **WALK OF WITNESS**, Good Friday March 30th 2018: is being organised by St. Gregory's this time. We will need volunteers who are able to help in a variety of capacities, now in the planning stage, and on the day. If you can help, please sign clipboard in porch with your details. Thank you.
- **STRATFORD CHURCHES TOGETHER 2018 LENT COURSE:** "Apocalypse Now?" - An Exploration of the Book of Revelation with the Rev Canon Andrew Dow. Wednesdays 21,28 February; 7,14,21 March at St Andrew's Shottery, 7.30pm. Why not put the dates in your 2018 diaries now!
- **NO NEW CATHOLIC SCHOOLS?** New government legislation means we can only allocate 50% of places on the basis of faith, thus preventing the opening of new Catholic schools. Archbishop Bernard writes: "The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents (new) Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap>. Providing your details will automatically generate an email to the Secretary of State and your MP.
- **L.P.S. CAR PARK:** No charges from Saturday 5pm until Sunday 2.45pm. when it is reserved for church use.
- **HOLY HOUR:** 7.00pm on Thursdays. All are welcome.
- **BIBLE GROUP:** Tuesdays 7.30pm. The Bible Group meets every week to review the following Sunday's readings. All welcome.
- **WARWICK DEANERY WEBSITE:** this can now be found at www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk
- **BEREAVEMENT TEAM:** parishioners can contact a member of the team on 07592572978 or email stgregorysb@gmail.com. or complete a form available in the church porch.
- **GIFT AID:** If you are interested in joining the scheme please contact Clive Hamilton on 01789 488047 or by e-mail stgregorysgiftaid@aol.co.uk. If you are already in the scheme please contact him with any questions you may have or any changes of address or tax status.
- **PARISH OFFICE:** The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday mornings. Telephone 01789 292439. Please note: Monday is Fr. Alex's day off.