

## 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](mailto: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, Jocelyn Southall, 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, Phyllis Kernahan, Andy Stenson.

**Church Cleaning:** St Gregory's: the Catenians

**Recent Collections.**

Weekend 16/17th December 2017. Loose: £552 Gift Aid: £696 Boxes: £166

Flowers for the Churches: £504 Poor Parishes: £524

Thank you for your generosity.

**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.**

<b>30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> December, The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph (Year B)</b>		
<b>Saturday 30th</b>	<b>5.30 pm.</b>	<b>Mass.</b> St.Gregory's twinned SVP conference in Kerala
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	<b>11.15 am.</b>	<b>Mass.</b> People of the Parish
	<b>1.00 pm.</b>	<b>Polish Mass</b>
<b>Monday 1st</b>	<b>1.00 pm</b>	<b>New Year's Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday 2nd</b>	<b>9.30 am.</b>	<b>Mass.</b> Maria & Jan Kowalezyk (Christine Valentino)
<b>Wednesday 3rd</b>	<b>9.30 am.</b>	<b>Mass.</b> Margarite Allard (Rosie Allard)
<b>Thursday 4th</b>	<b>9.30 am.</b>	<b>Mass.</b> Maria Naldi (Anne Connor)
<b>Friday 5th</b>	<b>2.30 pm</b>	<b>Requiem Mass Andy Stenson</b>
<b>Saturday 6th</b>	<b>5.30 pm.</b>	<b>Mass.</b>
<b>Sunday 7th</b>	<b>11.15 am.</b>	<b>Mass.</b> People of the Parish. Baptisms: Molly Gillam and Mia Gillam
<b>Confessions Saturday 10.30am – 11.30am</b>		

**Our Lady of Peace, Shottonery.**

<b>30/31<sup>st</sup> December, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Year B ) December,</b>		
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	<b>9.30 am.</b>	<b>Mass.</b> Giuseppe Cuscito (RIP) (Gladys Cuscito) <b>Baptism.</b> Mia and Molly Gillam
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30 am.</b>	<b>Mass.</b> Steven John Lawrence (RIP) Mark Lawrence

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

**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.*

- **Requiem Mass for Andy Stenson Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2.30pm St Gregory's Church.**
- **SVP Dates:** January 15<sup>th</sup> (none on 1<sup>st</sup>), February 5<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, April (none on 2<sup>nd</sup>) 16<sup>th</sup>
- **First Holy Communion. On 21<sup>st</sup> January** at Our Lady of Peace, after the end of Mass there will be a meeting with all the parents and children attending non Catholic schools to talk about this year's catechism to prepare for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion. For further information contact Giulia on 07717 327073 or giulia.tranquilli@gmail.com
- **CRIB OFFERINGS** will be given to The Children of Bethlehem charity again this year.
- **CWL:** Next meeting Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at 2pm in the Parish hall. Subs due!
- **OLP.** No Fair Trade Tea & Coffee after Mass Christmas Eve. Next available date 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- **LUNCH CLUB.** next meeting dates are 29<sup>th</sup> January & 26<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **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 (21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> Aug) and the Adoremus: Eucharistic Pilgrimage & Congress (7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Sept) 2018. For more information contact Paul Northam at [fieldevang@maryvale.ac.uk](mailto:fieldevang@maryvale.ac.uk) or Sr Gillian Murphy [parishesmv@maryvale.ac.uk](mailto:parishesmv@maryvale.ac.uk) Worcester 20<sup>th</sup> Jan., Christ the King, Coventry 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb., Our Lady of Lourdes Hednesford 24<sup>th</sup> Feb., Maryvale Institute Birmingham 24<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> January & Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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**, 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 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, 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Shotton, 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](http://www.warwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk)
- **BEREAVEMENT TEAM:** parishioners can contact a member of the team on 07592572978 or email [stgregorysbt@gmail.com](mailto:stgregorysbt@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](mailto: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.