

St Gregory's Bulletin

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| Saturday 7 March | 6pm | |
| Sunday 8 March <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> | 8.30am | Pauline McGeady RIP (McCabe) |
| | 10.30am | Frankie Plant RIP (The Choir) |
| Monday 9 March <i>St Frances of Rome</i> | 10am | Frankie & John Plant RIP (PK & SR) |
| Tuesday 10 March <i>St John Ogilvie</i> | 10am | Pat McManus RIP |
| Wednesday 11 March | 10am | Mass in the Presbytery James Edwards RIP (Coward) |
| Thursday 12 March | 10am | Private Intentions (Funnell) |
| Friday 13 March | 11:30am 12 noon | Stations of the Cross |
| Saturday 14 March | 6pm | |
| Sunday 15 March <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> | 8.30am | |
| | 10.30am | |

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Please leave a text message on 07842 774551 and Father Tony will call you back

Lenten Fast

We can talk about fat burning diets; raw food diets; low carb diets all of which have one goal in mind, namely, to make you slimmer or to achieve a slimmer version of yourself. The people of Israel had a goal for their dieting as well – they wanted God to hear and answer their prayers.

Fasting for the Christian is not like dieting where we reduce or control to get results but more importantly, it is an invitation to strip off 'distractions' and make more room for God. Fasting is the greatest blessing God gives us during Lent.

We have many distractions but when we eliminate one or more of them, we open up space for God. We move beyond the thing we are giving up and embrace the gift God has for us. Maybe it is a word of Scripture or an insight about someone we love or have a softer heart towards a difficult person. Fasting can open the door to these gifts because we have more time to recognize.

Another blessing of fasting is that the space we give God is also a gift we give ourselves. Ask God to be more present to us.



FASTING

For Your Diaries

13-15 Mar Friday-Sunday

Parish weekend of faith, fun, friendship and food

4th-5th July Marriage Encounter Weekend at Savio House



UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

1. **THERE WILL BE NO INVITATION TO EXCHANGE THE SIGN OF PEACE**
2. **COMMUNION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED UNDER ONE KIND ONLY**



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Parish News



Parish weekend 13-15 March



If you haven't signed up for our Parish Weekend, here are 3 reasons why you might consider taking the plunge!

Pope. Pope Francis has asked us to take a day each year to focus on Scripture. He says that we need God's Word so that we can hear, amidst the thousands of other words in our daily lives, that **one Word** that speaks to us, not about things but about life.

Peaks. As in mountain peaks/tops. We all know there are many examples in the Bible where people go to mountain tops to meet God, like Moses and Elijah, and of course Peter, James and John witnessed Jesus' Transfiguration on a mountain top. This Parish Weekend is designed to be a **'Mountain Top experience.'** So let's welcome **this** opportunity to encounter God on our own mountain peak up here at St. Gregory's. Let's face it, coming up here is like climbing a mountain at the best of times!

Posh Nosh. Something this parish is really good at. Food is a focus for celebrations both at home and in the church. The Parish Weekend presents lots of opportunities to eat good food and to grow in faith and friendship together.

Let's open ourselves to a mountain peak encounter with God and see what He does for us.

Don't miss out on what promises to be a weekend packed with opportunities to share food and friendship, enlightening workshops, or just spend time in gentle contemplation in the Church.

Friday March 13, 7.30 pm:

Get the weekend started with a whistle-stop tour through the Bible. *Bar open!*

Saturday March 14, 7.30 pm:

Enjoy good company and great food, while the Catholic Bible School team leads us through the Parable of the Sower. *Dinner provided. Bar open!*

Sunday March 15, 12 noon:

Wrap up the weekend at this informal, family-friendly session, including a dramatic story-telling of Peter walking on the water. *Lunch provided.*

The team has been working hard behind the scenes to make the weekend a success.

It would be lovely to see you there!



At Easter approaches, it is our custom to decorate the church with lillies which parishioners have donated in remembrance of their deceased relatives and friends.

If you would like to donate a lily, please place the name of the person you wish to be remembered together with £2 in one of the envelopes at the back of the church and give it to Fr Tony or Frances Barnes.



CONGRATUATIONS to the children who received First Forgiveness on Saturday

Scarlett Abbott; Samson Alexander; Isabel Bergin; Martha Brassington; Gabriel Connick; Emma Coppack; Spencer Ellis; William Ellis; Seb Goford; Ben Gray; Megan Grundy; Riley Hulme; Freddie Morris; Elouisa Oldfield; Evelyn Place; Amelia Ryan; Seb Tidman

Please pray for them and their families as they journey towards their First Communion

Offeratory collection

Thank you for your generous offerings of £871.69