

# St Gregory's Bulletin

## 'Rebuild my Church .... Rebuild the Community'

Mass intentions: Fr Martin will be saying mass each day for our intentions. Please phone or text a message leaving your mass intentions to Fr Martin on 07754 057074

Saturday 26 March <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	6pm	
Sunday 27 March <i>4th Sunday of Lent Mothers Day</i>	8:30am	People of the Parish
	10:30am	Joe Sweeney RIP (Pat and Mike Fannon)
Monday 28 March	10am	
Tuesday 29 March	10am	Intentions of Catherine Horsley
Wednesday 30 March	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday 31 March	10am	Michelle McCabe and family
Friday 1 April	12 noon	Jennifer Coward
Saturday 2 April <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	6pm	
Sunday 3 April <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	8:30am	
	10:30am	

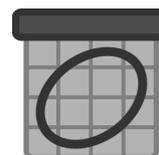
### Act of Consecration

On Friday 25 March, the Church demonstrates her spiritual closeness to those directly affected by the conflict in Ukraine by consecrating Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate heart of Mary.

*'This Act of Consecration is meant to be a gesture of the universal Church, which in this dramatic moment lifts up to God, through his mother and ours, the cry of pain of all those who suffer and implore an end to the violence, and to entrust the future of our human family to the Queen of Peace.'*  
Pope Francis

We are all encouraged to continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, especially be praying the rosary.

### Dates for your diary



**Tuesdays in Lent:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.30am in the Parish Hall

**Fridays during Lent:** Stations of the Cross at 11.30am in the Hall

**Tuesday 29 March**  
Parish Council Meeting

**2 and 3 April:** Sacrament of Reconciliation during weekend Masses

**7 April after 10am Mass:**  
Parish walk, more details to follow



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## Reflection from Fr Martin

### The Prodigal Son, The Forgiving Father, The Jealous / Unforgiving Brother

Today's Gospel is so familiar that we could almost re-tell it word for word; the challenge is to reflect on it anew and to let God's Word speak to our hearts today. This parable is a shocking story from start to finish:

In asking for his inheritance, the younger son is as good as wishing his father dead

When he has spent all the money, he feeds the pigs; in other words, he is working for the Gentiles, he has turned his back, not just on his family, but on his faith and cultural community

But his generous father has not given up on him, he sees him 'a long way off', and welcomes him home, lavishly, and forgives him

The older brother is jealous of the love the father is showing and refuses to forgive and to reconcile; in a sense it is now him who turns his back on the family

None of these elements would have been lost on the audience of Jesus or the readers of the Gospel of Luke and shouldn't be lost on us too. Jesus tells this parable in response to the Pharisees and Scribes who complained about him welcoming sinners.

Jesus welcomed all people, especially sinners; the father welcomed both his sons, especially the younger son who had strayed and sinned; we are challenged to welcome all people and to forgive, just as we have been forgiven.

Next week at all the weekend Masses we will have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation; to come back to our loving and forgiving father, to confess our sins, to receive absolution and to prepare well for the great feat of Easter. Let's prepare well this week for that opportunity.

## Emergency appeal: Help for Ukraine

*Thank you for your generosity so far; the appeal remains open to raise funds to help.*

Salesians are working on the ground in Ukraine, hosting refugees and looking after vulnerable young people. They are also working to support refugees who have arrived in Poland with little or nothing.

If you would like to contribute directly to this work please either:

**Send a cheque** to Mrs. N. Howell at the Provincial Office, Sharples Park, Bolton, Lancashire, BL1 6PQ clearly marked UKRAINE. All cheques should be made out to SDB Trustees.

Access the **Salesian Just Giving page** and make a contribution online, using the link : <https://www.justgiving.com/SalesianGBRProvince>.

JustGiving sends your donation straight to Salesians of Don Bosco UK and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

Please also keep the Ukrainian people and our Salesian brothers, who are remaining with the people they serve, in your prayers.

Thank you for your support! *Salesians of Don Bosco UK - GBR Province*



## Parish walk: Thurs 7 April

Join fellow parishioners for a brief walk around Bollington – on track, towpath and Middlewood Way.

We will leave the St Gregory's carpark after Mass, circa 10.30am and return there by midday. There is no need to enrol. Just wear sensible shoes and weather-worthy clothes. Feel free to bring along well-behaved dogs and friends.

## Easter flowers

As Easter approaches if you would like to give a donation towards the flowers, there will be a collection box at the back of church over the next few weeks.



## Building work update

The work is progressing well, both inside and outside.

Weekday Masses will be celebrated in the Hall with access up the steps and around the back of the house.

Weekend Masses will be continuing in church with access via the door next to the presbytery. **Parking** space is limited and difficult, but I would advise **not parking two abreast** on the wide pavement outside the car park; this is inconsiderate to pedestrians as it blocks the pavement and is illegal if it blocks the access at each corner – I don't want you to get a parking ticket!

## Covid 19

Please do not attend church if you are feeling unwell.

Please sanitise hands on entry/exit. Parishioners may wish to continue to wear face coverings and please be sensitive to the needs of others who may feel more vulnerable.

## Offertory collection

Many thanks to all for your continued support.