

St Gregory's Newsletter - December 2023

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Advent 2023.

This year we have the shortest possible Advent Season; the 4th Sunday of Advent is Christmas Eve, so it is important to make the most of this special time of preparation, from day one - today!

In his Pastoral Letter for the 1st Sunday of Advent, entitled, 'Prayer Comes First', Bishop Mark invites us to use this Advent Season to pray. How will you take up this challenge and invitation? When can you pray during Advent? Where can you pray? How can you pray? Advent is such a precious time of preparation for the great Feast of Christmas. Amid all the necessary preparations of gifts and greetings, of food and celebrations, will we be ready to celebrate the Birth of Jesus through prayer?



There are 4 key themes during Advent:

Hope Peace Joy Love

Let's all try to focus on **prayer** this Advent.

Preparing for Christmas 2023.

Thursday 7th December: 11.15 am

Advent talk at St Oswald's Church. The speaker will be Mary Hardiman, a former high school teacher, counsellor and writer who also volunteers for a charity which supports Death Row Prisoners in the USA. All welcome!

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December

There will be the opportunity to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** at all weekend Masses. Our children in the sacramental programme will celebrate their First Forgiveness at 10.30 Mass.

Sunday 10th December: after 10.30 Mass

There will be a Christmas Social Gathering in the hall with tea, coffee, refreshments and games for the children AND the draw for the Christmas Raffle! There are great prizes, so please buy your tickets early!

Sunday 17th December: 6.30 pm

We will celebrate our Christmas Carol Service, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the hall.

All welcome!

To help with catering, please sign the attendance sheet at the back of church.

Celebrating Christmas 2023.

Mass times at St Gregory's at Christmas:

Saturday 23rd December:

6.00 pm: Vigil Mass - 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday 24th December:

8.30 am: Mass - 4th Sunday of Advent

10.30 am: Mass - 4th Sunday of Advent

4.30 pm: Family Christmas Mass

10.30 pm: Christmas Mass with Carols

Monday 25th December:

10.30 am: Mass of Christmas Day

Tuesday 26th onwards:

Normal Mass times.

*Fr Martin and the Community
at Savio House wish you a very*



and a blessed New Year 2024!

Helping Others at Christmas

Silklife Foodbank

Thank you for all your generous donations to the Silklife Foodbank during November. They will make a real difference to many local families.

"Reaching out to ROAR this Christmas!"

The Christmas box for donations is at the back of church in the porch now, if you'd like to give something. Appropriate gifts are hats, gloves, scarves, men's socks, slippers, toiletries, boxes of chocolates or biscuits.

Many thanks, Cynthia. 07711570161
cynthia.crewe@virginmedia.com

CAFOD

There are 2 ways to support CAFOD this Christmas: pick up a World Gift Catalogue from the back of church and purchase a gift to make a difference to someone's life in the world.

Support the CAFOD Fun Run on Wednesday 27th December. As in previous years St Gregory's will host the event by allowing runners and organisers to use the Hall, but we also hope to have a runner or two (!) who will be looking for sponsorship. Please keep an eye on the church noticeboard to sponsor them.

Looking forward to 2024! Some advance notice and dates for your diaries:

Confirmation: Young people in Year 8 and above who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2024 are asked to contact: Francesca Edwards on 07899 785925

Thursday 18th January 2024: 7.30 – 8.30pm: There will be an Ecumenical Service to start the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Christopher's Pott Shrigley. All welcome!

Sunday 28th January 2024: Hall after 10.30 Mass: An anticipated Don Bosco's Day Celebration.