

St Gregory's Newsletter - January 2024

St Gregory's Church, Wellington Road, Bollington, Macclesfield. SK10 5RW.

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Thank you, thank you, thank you!

A very sincere thank you to everyone involved in preparing for and celebrating the Carol Service and Christmas 2023 at St Gregory's; many people commented on our wonderful and prayerful services.

But a sincere thanks to everyone involved in the parish life and ministry throughout the year; all your time and effort is very much appreciated:

Our choir and musicians, church cleaners and grave friends, flower providers and arrangers, welcomers, altar servers, readers and eucharistic ministers, junior church, first sacraments and confirmation catechists, collection counters and church laundry washers, tea/coffee makers, members of mothers' prayers and the faith development group, the parish council and finance committee, June in the church hall, Liz in the office and Alistair everywhere!

So many people to appreciate and thank.

On behalf of the Savio House Community, thank you to all for your cards and greetings, your gifts and generosity in the Carol Service and Christmas Collections.

And on a personal note; 'Thank You' for all your prayers and support for my sister Teresa who died on 21st December. I will be away from 2nd- 12th January for a Christmas break,

during which I will celebrate her funeral on 11th January.

Fr Martin.

January Calendar (More details overleaf)

Monday 1 st :	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Friday 5 th :	6 – 8.30pm St Gregory's Youth at Savio House
Sunday 7 th :	Solemnity of the Epiphany
Monday 8 th :	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Friday 12 th :	7 – 8pm 'Come and See' at St Alban's for Confirmation
Sunday 14 th :	Day of Prayer for World Peace
Thursday 18 th :	7 – 8pm Ecumenical Service at St Christopher's Pott Shrigley.
Thursday 18 th – 25 th :	Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity
Friday 19 th :	6 – 8.30pm St Gregory's Youth at Savio House
Sunday 21 st :	Day of Prayer for Openness to the Word of God
Wednesday 24 th :	Feast of St Francis de Sales
Sunday 28 th :	Day of Prayer for Racial Justice

Anticipated celebration of the Feast of St John Bosco, founder of the Salesians and Patron of Youth after 10.30 Mass with a 'Shared Table' lunch – see noticeboard for more details.

Wednesday 31st: Feast of St John Bosco

First Communion

Our First Communion Programme begins again on Sunday 14th January at 10.15 in the parish house and continues with sessions on:

28th January and 11th February

3rd and 17th March, and 21st and 28th April.

First Communion Day will be celebrated at 10.30 Mass on 12th May 2024.

Confirmation 2024

All young people, Year 8 and above, who wish to be confirmed this year are asked to register with our catechist, Francesca Edwards on 07899 785925.

There is a 'Come and See' session at 7 – 8pm at St Alban's Parish Centre on Friday 12th January. All are welcome!

St Gregory's Youth Group

This group, Year 9 and above, meet regularly at Savio House, on Fridays at 6 – 8.30pm. This term the dates are:

5th + 19th January, 2nd + 23rd February,

8th + 22nd March and 19th + 26th April.

Icon of St Gregory

With the very sad closure of St Gregory's Primary School, the parish has been gifted an icon of St Gregory, which was painted by Fr Albert Carrette SDB, a Salesian priest.

My intention is to bless the icon on Sunday 28th January and to hang it in the porch of the church in thanksgiving for, and in memory of, the many years of Catholic education and all that was achieved in St Gregory's Primary School on Albert Road.

Prayer for Peace

Sunday 14th January is a Special Day of Prayer for World Peace, so very needed at this time.

Pax Christi have published the following prayer, which will be available on a prayer card on the 14th:

God our creator and sustainer,

We thank you for the gifts of creativity you have given us, for the ability to explore science and understand your creation.

We ask your forgiveness for the times we have used science for evil and not for good, for war and not for peace.

Make us vigilant as we develop technology, that violence and discrimination may not take root, that injustice and inequality will not be fuelled, that the poor and vulnerable will not pay the cost.

May all that we create contribute to peace and justice. Amen.

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from Thursday 18th to Thursday 25th January.

On Thursday 18th there is an Ecumenical Prayer Service in St Christopher's Church, Pott Shrigley at 7.00 – 8.00 pm. All welcome!

Looking ahead to February 2024:

Sunday 11th February (Our Lady of Lourdes): World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

Wednesday 14th February (Valentine's Day):
Ash Wednesday and the beginning of LENT.