Holy Week Liturgy at St Gregory’s & St Thomas More

20th Sunday
5.00pm (Sat)  St Thomas More  John Coyle RIP
9.30am  St Gregory  Deceased members of the Diamond & McKinley Families
11.15am  St Gregory  People of the Parish/Sue Ball RIP
6.00pm  St Gregory  John & Phil Durkin RIP

21st Monday
9.30am  St Gregory  Mary Murphy RIP

22nd Tuesday
10.00am  St Gregory  Requiem Mass for Jenny Dabrowska RIP
2.00pm  St Thomas More School Lenten Mass

23rd Wednesday
1.30pm  St Gregory  Requiem Mass for Margaret Welch RIP
7.00pm (with Confessions)  St Gregory  Kevin Dunne RIP

24th Thursday
7.00pm  St Thomas More Polish Mass
8.00pm  St Gregory  Mass of The Lord’s Supper

25th Friday
11.30am  St Gregory  Family Stations of the Cross
12-2pm  St Gregory  CAFOD Soup Lunch in the Old Priory
3.00pm  St Gregory  Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord
5.30pm  St Thomas More Liturgy of the Passion (in Polish)

26th Saturday
9.30am  St Gregory  Office of Readings
1.45-2.20pm  St Thomas More Blessing of Food: Święconka
8.00pm  St Gregory  Easter Vigil with Mass of the Resurrection
8.00pm  St Thomas More Easter Vigil (Polish)

For Mass Times & Confessions at Sacred Hearts, Charlton Kings, please see www.sacredhearts.org.uk

EASTER OFFERING
Traditionally the Easter Collection, along with that at Christmas, are the only collections given to the Priest during the year and is an important way in which the parishes support the unsalaried priests of the diocese. Envelopes into which offerings may be placed, are attached to this edition of the newsletter (27th March) and are available over the Triduum at the back of the Church. Thank you.

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursday & Saturday: 10.00am. 11.00am. Sacred Hearts: 1st Friday of the month, 9.15am-12.30pm. Sacrament of Reconciliation: St Gregory’s Saturdays 10.00am; St Thomas More 4.30-4.45pm. 1st Thursday at STM 5pm Confessions in Polish. Sacred Hearts Thursdays 7.30pm and Saturdays 10.30am. Also by arrangement with the priests.

Baptisms: By arrangement with the Parish Office.

Cheltenham Young Catholic Adults: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 8-9pm in the Old Priory. Contact Margaret 07515 805015 or Damian 07908 105787.

Youth Group (PROTEEN): Alternate Sundays, in the Old Priory at 7pm Age 14-18 years. Next Meeting: 17th April.

Legion of Mary: Mondays at 5.30pm in the Old Priory. Library. For info. ring Lucy Costelloe on 261441 or Mick Slevin on 513453.

55 Club: After 9.30am Mass, Old Priory (alternate Thursdays). Next meeting: 31st March. Talk by Mr Maurice Heritage “Wanderings around Snowshill Manor”.

Choir Practice: In Church, Fridays at 7.00pm. New members welcome. Contact John on 07769 675323

Music Group Practice: In the Old Priory or at St Thomas More, every other Saturday at 10.00am. New members welcome. Contact John on 07403 697251.

EASTER OFFERING Traditionally the Easter Collection, along with that at Christmas, are the only collections given to the Priest during the year and is an important way in which the parishes support the unsalaried priests of the diocese. Envelopes into which offerings may be placed, are attached to this edition of the newsletter (27th March) and are available over the Triduum at the back of the Church. Thank you.
Finance

Last week’s offertory collection came to £1,097.81 (SG); £304.02 (STM). Bingo £286.00 (STM). Last week’s collection for Easter flowers raised £417.62 (SG) & £120.99 (STM). Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

2016/2017 Offertory Envelopes

The gift aid and non gift aid envelopes for 2016/2017 are ready for collection at the back of SG Church and STM Hall. Thank you to all of you who give your offertory donations by gift aid, the tax relief we receive makes a huge difference to our parish finances. For every £1 donated we receive .25P back from Inland Revenue and last year we received a total of £16,113 (SG) and £3,596 (STM) – a real gift from the Exchequer! If you are a UK tax payer and do not already give your offertory donations by gift aid, please consider doing so and take one of the gift aid declaration forms available at the back of SG Church or STM Hall.

World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Poland

We would like to thank Fr Frank and the parishioners of St Thomas More for a tremendous response to our Fundraising for the World Youth Day pilgrimage to Poland. We raised £191.87 from the “Cake and Candles” sale and received a tremendous donation to assist our pilgrims fundraising. A very big thank you from us all.

Train

There will be a sale of goods after the Masses this Sunday, 20th March. New Spring catalogues available to browse. Please come along and support.

Holy Places

On Good Friday there will be a retiring collection for the Holy Places after the Liturgy of the Passion. This collection contributes towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Shrines of the Holy Land and offers financial support to the Christian communities. On this day we unite with the whole Church throughout the world in prayer and fasting.

Easter Triduum

‘Triduum’ comes from two Latin words ‘tres’ and ‘dies’ meaning ‘three days’. This three day commemoration comprises three twenty-four hour periods which takes in four feast days; Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. We look at the Easter Triduum as one single celebration over three days, so if you can, try to make it to all the liturgies.

Good Friday: Day of Fast and Abstinence

On this day we unite with the whole Church throughout the World in prayer and fasting.

CAFOD Soup Lunch - 12-2pm

Please come to the Good Friday soup lunch after the children’s Stations of the Cross at 11.30am, in the Old Priory. All donations received will be given to CAFOD.

The Easter Vigil: 8.00pm

Please pray for those to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. During the Easter Vigil we will bless the new Easter water and renew our baptismal promises along with the candidates. Then follows the rites for reception into the Catholic Church and the sacrament of Confirmation. With Holy Communion this completes their initiation into full membership of the Church; we extend to each of them a very warm welcome.

Pilgrimage to Downside Abbey: Filipino Rosary Circle

One day pilgrimage on Sunday, 10th April. Will leave Royal Well Bus Station at 7.30am; and a further pick-up in Cirencester. Arrival 9.30am, for 10.00am Mass in the Abbey followed by Rosary Prayer at 11.00am. Lunch 12-1pm, followed by Stations of the Cross. 2.30-4.30pm a guided tour inside the Abbey or leisure time in the town centre. Depart for Cheltenham at 5pm. Cost - £16 per adult & £10 per child. Bring a packed lunch. Contact Libby on 07401 468268 or 01242 677246. Coach fare to be in by the 28th March.

Crying Room

Children are most welcome at every celebration of Holy Mass. During the 11.15am and 6.00pm Masses on Sundays, the Old Priory, next to the Narthex (the area behind the glass doors at the back of the Church), is however available for parents whose young children become restless. These children must be supervised by their parents at all times. Alternatively, the Narthex is available for parents to use during all Sunday Masses.

Easter Break

I wish all our Students, Teachers and support staff, a good Easter break as we prepare for Holy Week. Please keep them in your prayers.

Clocks “Spring” Forward

A gentle reminder to adjust your clocks next Saturday night, 26th March to GMT time, 1 hour forward.

55 Club

Snowshill Manor is an ancient house in Worcestershire with many mysteries and a history going back centuries. Due to its last owner, their collections of objects are a wonder to see along with its lovely gardens and landscape. Now in the ownership of the National Trust, it is open to the public. On the 31st March, Mr Heritage who has worked at the Manor for about 30 years, will give an illustrated talk on the property and its collection of items, some of which are irreplaceable. Meeting at 10am.

Marian Event at St Gregory’s - Saturday, 9th April

A presentation on Fatima by Donal Foley, the Secretary of the World Apostolate of Fatima, England and Wales, will start at 12.15pm in the Old Priory and finish by 2pm. It will include a DVD and a PowerPoint presentation, as well as time for refreshments and questions and answers. Books, booklets and DVDs will be available for sale. The focus of the presentation is the importance of the Rosary and the Five First Saturdays devotion, and how they can revitalise our own spiritual lives, the parish, and the Church generally. This event is organised by Cheltenham YCA and the World Apostolate of Fatima and is for ALL AGES. There is a suggested donation of £5 – please bring a packed lunch.

Breakfast Club

Prayer breakfast will next meet on Saturday, 2nd April, 9.30-11.00am, at St Thomas More Church Hall. All are welcome to listen to Rev. Dr Nigel Scotland (Historian, Author & Theologian) Graham Legder.

Curry Evening

A curry evening is being held at St Thomas More Church Hall on Saturday, 23rd April. Food served at 7pm. £10 for curry and a pudding. Bring your own drinks. Proceeds to go to St Thomas More Development Fund.

Request for Assistance

St Gregory’s and St Thomas More have recently been subject to a Fire Risk Assessment. One of the recommendations is that we require wardens who are “fire safety aware”. This is not an onerous task and a short briefing on evacuation procedures, location of appliances, etc will be more than sufficient. May I request that any volunteers contact me on 01242 523737, option 4 or email me on mike.raftree@cliftondiocese.com Thank you in advance. Mike Raftere.

Children’s Summer Camps

The Diocese is holding two Living Your Faith Residential Weeks in August. Week One 1st-5th August (Age 7-11) and Week Two 8-12th August (Age 12-16). These weeks are intended to encourage children and young people to engage in their faith through fun, games and spiritual input. They take place in the beautiful surroundings of the Marist Convent in Nympsfield. For more details contact Stephen Spurrnell on 07860 849460 or at livingyourfaith@hotmail.co.uk

APF Red Boxes

The recent count totalled £514.83 for St Gregory’s and £121.68 for STM. Many thanks to all contributors.

Anniversaries: Our Prayers are asked for:

Sick: Claire Young, Maurice Power, Helen Dorothy Gorry, Lawrence William Gorry, Patricia Hamilton, Denise Arthur, Lisa Patridge, Dan Perry, Simon & Eliot Wilkinson, Teresa Patterson, Mary Costello, Christopher Browne, Ellen Linehan, Aileen Mounsworth, Baby Ezra Cooper, Barbara Sims, Kitz Cordery.

Deceased: Jagoda Janisievska & Danny Mcgee RIP.

Anniversaries: Frank O’Loughlin, Daphne Keeling, Nora Fitzgerald, Marta Wegryn, Bridget Steger, Sarah McKenna.