

St Gregory's Newsletter - February 2024

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Don't 'give up' for Lent

Traditionally during Lent we are encouraged to 'give up' through prayer, fasting and almsgiving; to give up some time to pray, to give up something we like – usually some food or drink, to give up some of our resources to others less fortunate. And this is all good, but the danger is that we sometimes just 'give up' not **for** Lent, but 'give up' **on** Lent. So, how about, 'Doing something positive for Lent'?

There are many opportunities, some listed here and others will appear on the church noticeboard, to help us be positive and stay positive for Lent:

Pray: Set a time each day or week to sit and pray, or choose a weekday to come to Mass.

Stations of the Cross at 11.30 am each Friday.

Attend **Clean Hands, Pure Heart**, a Lenten Talk by Mary Hardiman, on Thursday 29th February after the 10am Mass.

Attend the St Joseph's, Stockport Parish Mission, 3 days of Healing: 4th-6th March. See poster on church noticeboard.

Fast: Join in the CAFOD Family Fast Day on Friday 23rd February, and then donating to Cafod's Lenten Envelope Appeal focussed this year on fishermen in Liberia, West Africa.

But have you thought of 'fasting' from screentime or time spent on social media?

And then using that time in a positive way to phone or visit a relative, friend or lonely neighbour?

Almsgiving: How about joining CAFOD's Big Lent Walk? CAFOD AND SCIAF are teaming up to bring the Big Lent Walk to Great Britain.

The challenge is to walk 200km in 40 days (5km per day) to help fight global poverty.

The walk can be done alone, with friends or as part of a community or parish where each person in the group contributes by walking some of the total distance. So, for busy parents or people who cannot walk every day of Lent this is an ideal opportunity to get involved.

The 200km challenge is a sponsored event with the monies raised going to the poorest in our world.

Knitters needed!

Francis House Children's Hospice have asked for help in producing their famous Easter chicks and bunnies which are filled with a creme egg and sold throughout the region in shops, schools, and businesses. Last year's appeal raised £50,500.

Knitting and crochet patterns can be downloaded from the website franchishouse.org.uk and a few paper copies are available at the back of church.

There will be a box at the back of church for completed items which will be taken direct to Francis House **by 26th February.**

If you're not into craft but would like to contribute to the appeal, donations of Cadbury's creme eggs are also very welcome.

2023 Parish Statistics

The 2023 statistics for the parish are:

14	Baptisms
1	Reception into the Catholic church
5	First Holy Communions
2	Confirmations
7	Funerals
160	Average weekend Mass attendance

Support for a Defibrillator at Savio House

Please support with your blue tokens at the Bollington and all Macclesfield TESCO stores till Easter. Thanks.

Parish House Renovation Update

The Parish House Renovation Project is going out to tender in February. We will empty the house ready for the project to begin. More details and timescale when they are known.

Fire Safety and Health and Safety

In the autumn we had both a Fire Safety and a Health and Safety Inspection. Both reports highlighted a number of actions which we need to undertake to improve our Fire and Health and Safety and to comply with all the legal requirements for public buildings.

We are advised/required to have 'stewards' at each Mass, who would be responsible for raising the alarm and assisting the congregation, should there be a fire or other need to evacuate the building. This could be combined with welcoming parishioners or taking up the collection etc.

If you think you could be available to be a steward, please let Fr Martin know. We need a good number for each weekend Mass so that we are always covered. Maybe a rota could start after Easter.

Diary dates in February 2024:

Friday 2 nd :	6 – 8.30pm St Gregory's Youth at Savio House
Sunday 11 th :	World Day of Prayer for the Sick, and for the Unemployed
Wed 14 th :	Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Mass at 10.00am and 7.00pm
Friday 23 rd :	Family Fast Day and special day of prayer for the Needy and Hungry of the world 6 – 8.30pm St Gregory's Youth at Savio House
Thursday 29 th :	10.50am – Ecumenical Lenten Talk in St Gregory's Hall by Mary Hardiman. 'Clean Hands, Pure Heart' will be a prayerful reflection on Scripture. All welcome!
14 th -28 th Feb:	Fr Martin will be away on holiday. Fr Joe and Fr Roman will cover masses in the parish

Looking ahead to March:

Friday 1 st :	St David, Patron of Wales
Sat 2 nd – Th 7 th :	Visitation of Fr Gerry Briody, Salesian Provincial to Savio and St Gregory's.
Sunday 3 rd :	10.30am Mass - All Hallows at St Gregory's
Sunday 10 th	Mothers' Day
Sunday 17 th :	St Patrick, Patron of Ireland

Tuesday 19th: Solemnity of St Joseph

Sunday 24th Palm Sunday

Sunday 31st: Easter Sunday