



Catholic Church of Mary Immaculate and St Gregory the Great



'CALLED TO BE SENT (FAITH & MISSION)'

Community in Double Jubilee of 175 Years of Parish Community
and 100 years in Heaven of St Allamano

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Sat 29: Beheading of St John the Baptist

5-5.45pm: Confessions (Church)

6.00pm: Francesco Costantino RIP

Sunday 30 Aug - 22nd in Ordinary Time

8.30am: Pro Populo (ints)

10.30am: Peace in the Middle East

6.00pm: Anahita (thanksgiving)

Monday 31st:

9.30am Morning Prayer

6.00pm: Blessings on House in Goa

Tuesday 1st September 2026:

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am: Maurice Cahill RIP

Holy Rosary after Mass

Wednesday 2nd:

6.00pm: Liam McElligott RIP

Thurs 3rd: St Gregory the Great

9.30am Morning Prayer

10.00am: Martin Soosay ann RIP

Holy Rosary after Mass

10.30am Tea & Coffee in JPIL Room

6pm Adoration & Confessions (Church)

Friday 4th: St Cuthbert

9.30am Morning Prayer

10.00am: Bill Crossman RIP

11.00am: Mass at Cedar Home

Holy Rosary after Mass

1.00pm: Christian Meditation in Church

Saturday 5th: St Teresa of Calcutta

5-5.45pm: Confessions (Church)

6.00pm: Kathleen Humberstone RIP

Sunday 6th: Feast of St Gregory

Please note no 8.30am Mass

10.30am: Julia Baylan RIP followed by
shared lunch Celebrations in the hall

6.30pm: Anita Fernandes (thanksgiving)

When suffering escapes our understanding

Readings: 1st: Jer 20, 7-9; Ps 63; 2nd: Rom 12, 1-2; Gos: Mt 16, 21-27

Today's Gospel passage follows the one we read last Sunday, which, as you remember, recounted the great moment when Saint Peter affirmed that Jesus was "the Son of the living God." Jesus responded to Peter, declared him to be the rock, and promised him the keys of the Kingdom. Today's Gospel reading is different and even shocking. Jesus tells his disciples that he will undergo suffering, a reality to which Peter responds negatively. Jesus then tells him, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's."

Perhaps this is the major obstacle in our Christian faith: the real meaning of suffering. Why is there so much suffering in the world? Why so much violence? Why so much oppression? Why so much suppression of freedom? Why are there so many people suffering from sickness, so many illnesses for which there seem to be no answers, and so many deaths? The truthful answer to these questions is that we do not know why. The reason—and there must be one—escapes our understanding. It is a humiliating experience for us to have to admit our ignorance of the real answer. Perhaps this is the reason itself: a forceful reminder of the limitations placed on our created intelligence by our Creator.

If we do not admit our ignorance, we may be driven to seek all kinds of false explanations, explanations which, in the end, can only increase our frustration. The least worthy of them all is the idea that through suffering God punishes us. We recognise that, in some cases, human beings themselves are responsible for their suffering—for example, for the consequences of unjust wars that are taking place even at this very moment. But ultimately, when faced with so much suffering, we have to confess: we do not know why.

If we turn to today's second reading, Saint Paul responds to our objections: "I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the modern world around you...". In this modern world, especially with the widespread use of social media, we must remember that reality is not always what we watch or hear. We should not accept everything simply because it is presented to us as true. As we sometimes say, we should take things "with a pinch of salt."

A modern confessor and mystic whom you know, Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, expressed this puzzling reality in these words: "I don't love suffering by itself. I ask God for it; I desire it because of the fruits which it gives to me: it gives glory to God, saves my fellow brothers in this exile, and frees souls from the fire of Purgatory. What else can I desire?"

May God, in his goodness, enlighten our consciences and give us a measure of his Holy Spirit, so that we may accept and face the most significant and mysterious of all our questions: the reality of suffering.

Parish Priest: Fr Godfrey Msumange IMC

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A warm welcome to new parishioners and our visitors during this holiday season. Please say hello to our Priest after Mass.

As we continue to celebrate our Double Jubilee, we pray for all the priests and curates who have ministered to our parish community at Mary Immaculate & St Gregory the Great. Each week, we remember in prayer the priests and curates who served our parish and give thanks for their ministry. In this week, we remember Fr Francis Donovan, Parish Priest from 1957 to 1964. We also remember the curates who served during this period: Fathers John Greene, John Gill and Anthony Wheaton,

Registration for Next Pastoral Year's Sacraments are now available in the porch and on our website: Programmes and forms are available for children & adults who would like to receive to receive sacrament initiation for the year 2026/2027: -

- Sacrament of Baptism for under 7s
- Children aged over 7 (catechetical age) not yet Baptised.
- Sacrament of Holy Communion for Year 3
- Sacrament of Confirmation for Year 10.
- RCIA (Adults) for those who wish to be accepted in the catholic church or adults not yet baptised and/or confirmed.

The deadline to submit the forms for the Sacraments (except Baptism for under 7s), is the 15th September 2026.

Visit to the Sick/Hospital/Housebound: if you know of anyone who is sick and would like a visit, please contact the parish priest/parish office on 020 8449 3338.

First Friday Mass: 4th September. 7.30pm with Praise & Worship, Adoration, Reconciliation. All welcome!

Receiving Holy Communion allows us to welcome Jesus, truly present in His Body and Blood, into our hearts. Practising Catholics who are free from grave sin may receive Holy Communion, on the tongue or in the hand, with reverence. When receiving in the hand, place one hand flat on top of the other, forming a throne for Our Eucharistic Lord. The Host must be consumed immediately in the presence of the Minister. If you are not Catholic, you are warmly welcome to join the queue and receive a blessing instead. Please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest. If you are gluten intolerant, please speak to a Minister in the sacristy before Mass to request a gluten free host.

Catechists Day of Formation: Inviting all Catechists to attend a morning of Formation on Saturday 5th September from 9.30am to 12.30pm in the Parish Hall.

Altar Servers: Please can all altar servers attend special training on the 1st and 2nd September from 4.30 to 6.00pm in the JPll room.



Patronal Feast of Saint Gregory the Great

Novena starts 28 August
after each Mass

Sunday 6th September
(Please note there is no 8.30am Mass)

10.30am Mass

Followed by lunch in the hall afterwards

Can you help please?

There is a food list in the porch.
Can you kindly provide a dish or two on the day - thank you.
Food can be delivered to the hall from 9am on the 6th.



Please remember in your prayers the sick, their families and all who care for them: Rosemary Chester, Catherine Evans, Janine Kelly, Louie Sheehy, Stephen Mealy, Martin Harrison, Victor Annan, Mary Spearman, Alice Power, Carlotta Brunelli, Linda Quilter, Clare Buckmire, Martin Quilter, Margaret Kelly, Angela Manzi and Mary Quigley, Karen Sanchez

Contact Information: Parish Office: barnet@rcdow.org.uk Telephone: 020 8449 3338

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 10.30am-12 noon AND 4.00pm-5.30pm
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & WEEKENDS: CLOSED

SAFEGUARDING: Karen Fernandes barnetsg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk