

The Roman Catholic Parishes of



**St Gregory, Longton.
St Maria Goretti, Bentilee.
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Fenton.**

Parish Clergy Parish Priest: Canon John Gilbert. VF

Parish Office: c/o St Gregory's Presbytery, Heathcote Road, Longton, Stoke on Trent.

ST3 2JU

☎ 01782.313796

✉ priest@longtoncatholic.org.uk

office@longtoncatholic.org.uk

Also: **The Polish Mission** with Fr Jacek Jablonski: based at 43 Watkin Street, Fenton,

Stoke on Trent ST4 4PF. ☎: 01782.411195 ✉: jacek1984@poczta.onet.eu

Church Locations:

St Gregory's

8 Heathcote Road

Longton

ST3 2JU

St Maria Goretti's

137 Aylesbury Road

Bentilee




ST2 0LU

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Masterson Street

Fenton

ST4 3QB

 Access available.  Loop system  facilities in Longton & Fenton

 see the Facebook page: St Gregory's Catholic Church

Parish website: www.longtoncatholic.org.uk

Deanery Website: www.northstaffsdeanery.org.uk Diocesan Website: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

Primary Schools serving our Parishes:

St Gregory's Catholic Academy, Spring Garden Road Longton ST3 2QN Tel: 235340

St Maria Goretti's Catholic Academy, Aylesbury Rd, Bentilee, ST2 0LY Tel: 234737

Our Lady's Catholic Academy, Watkin Street, Fenton ST4 4 NP Tel: 235385

Head:

Mrs M Yates

Mrs Z Cooper

Mrs K Oakley

Secondary School:

St Thomas More Catholic Academy, Longton Hall Rd, Longton ST3 2NJ Tel: 882900 Mr M Rayner

The Parish Newsletter for the weekend of
Third Sunday of Advent- Year C 16th December 2018

Welcome: We wish you a warm welcome to our parishes. If you are a visitor for the day we wish you well, if you are new to the area – please make yourself known to one of the many helpers in our churches who will be pleased to welcome you to our community.

It is a sad fact of life that we also have to remind you to take care of your valuables and purses whilst in church – unfortunately not everyone comes here for the right and correct reasons.

Liturgy This Week: LONGTON

Day		Time	Intention	Services
Sat	15 th	5.45 pm	Alfred Young	
Sun	16 th	10 am	Fred Toplass	
Mon	17 th	9.30 am		<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
Tues	18 th	9.30 am		<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
Wed	19 th	10 am	Sydney Phillips	School End of Term mass
Thur	20 th	7 pm	Teresa Quigley	
Fri	21 st	9.30 am	David Lowe	
Sat	22 nd	9.30 am	Etheldreda Hales	
		5.45 pm	Olive Brombroff	
Sun	23 rd	10am	Darrell Smith	

Liturgy This Week: BENTILEE

Day		Time	Intention	Services
Sun	16 th	10.30am	Mr F Higginson	
Mon	17 th	9.30 am		<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
Thur	20 th	9.30 am	Rose Cowphtwaite	<i>School Mass</i>
Fri	21 st	9.30 am		<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
Sun	23 rd	10.30am	Cath Rockey	

Liturgy This Week: FENTON

Day		Time	Intention	Services
Sun	16 th	9 am	Norma & Bill Lyons	
Sun		11am 2pm 7pm		Polish Masses
		<i>The Polish community will celebrate Mass each day this week – for the times please check their newsletter</i>		
Tues	18 th	10am	Requiem Mass Peggy Taaffe	
		1.30pm	Irene Dewsnap	<i>School Mass</i>
Sat	22 nd	9 am	Peter Broadhurst	
Sun	23 rd	9 am	Doris Coady	
		11am 2pm 7pm		Polish Masses

The Saturday morning Mass at Fenton will be at 9am and will be a joint English/Polish Mass by Fr Jacek. On the Third Saturday of each month this will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10.15am.

Parish Finance:

Longton: Total £491.58 (GA £127.48, PG £111.00).

Bentilee: Total £197.84 (GA £130.00PG £43.25).

Fenton: Total £221.65 (GA £106.70PG £50.70).

2nd Collection Poor Parishes of the diocese STG £ 274.61.

SMG £38.70 OLPS £78.47

Our Sunday Scriptures:

1st Reading: (Zephaniah 3:14-18) Jerusalem is urged to rejoice because her salvation is at hand. God himself stands in her midst, the king and protector of his people. We too should take heart from this message of hope.

2nd Reading: (Philippians 4:4-7) This urges us to rejoice in the Lord, to be free of anxiety and to live in a spirit of prayer and thanksgiving.

Gospel: (Luke 3:10-18) John the Baptist tells various groups of people the works of justice and charity they must do in order to prepare for the Lord's coming and to escape his searching judgement.

Prayers: Please remember in your prayers all those who are sick or ill, those who are housebound and those who care for them. Also remember those who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries are about this time. Eternal rest, unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

0121 230 6240

Or independent of the Church the NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Parish Safeguarding**Co-ordinators:**

Longton: Tessa Taylor

Fenton: Christine Bagnall

Bentilee: Susan Lyons

Feast Days This Week:

Sun: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sun: 4th Sunday of Advent

Bentilee:**Sanctuary Lamp:**

Ann Steven Kondratiuk

Fenton:**Blue Lamp:****Exposition of the Blessed**

Sacrament: St Gregory's Longton: Saturday 10.30-11.30am

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual

Succour at Fenton on Saturday Mornings after the morning Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Longton: Saturday 10.30-11.30am & after the Vigil Mass

Bentilee: after Mass on Sundays

Fenton: 8.30 am Sunday Mornings

The Royal Stoke University Hospital. Ring the Chaplaincy Office on 01782 676400 and leave a name & ward number. **When someone is ill...** If you, or someone you know, becomes ill and is no longer able to get to Mass PLEASE inform the presbytery. We can arrange a visit via the SVP, or a Minister to bring Holy Communion to them at home.

St Maria Goretti Advent Service

At St Maria Goretti Church Aylesbury Road, Bentilee

Sunday 16th December 4pm

Diary Date: 17th December – Reconciliation (confessions) at St Augustine's Meir 7pm.

Ladies Guild: Tuesday 18th December 7.30pm in the meeting room – Christmas stories, poems, drinks and nibbles. All Welcome.

Stoke on Trent Foodbank. All three of our churches are still collecting your kind donations to the local Foodbank. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

The Homeless this Christmas. For a number of years now we have aimed to help those who are homeless and on the streets at this time. We have been given a list of items needed:

Any Clothes especially SMALL size:- Ladies size 6,8,10, Men's Small and possible medium 32,34.

Underwear for both men and women, Winter Hats, scarf gloves and socks.

Warm winter boots and shoes. Sleeping bags, Flasks for hot drinks, toiletries & Haversacks or Rucksacks.

Parish Pilgrimages: NOW is the time to start and plan for the next two years. In 2019 we are aiming to travel to the Holy Land in October half-term. A leaflet about the Holy Land is now available – Booking Forms now available.

Wonderful Traditions: Today (3rd Sunday of Advent) is the day that Various traditions from around the world begin and prepare for Christmas. In Italy (and especially in Rome) the children take to church the figures of the Christ Child (Bambinelli) from their crib. These are blessed and kept safe to be placed in the Crib on Christmas Eve Evening. The Children are encouraged to look after and pray to the child until then.



There's an old Mexican tradition called "**Posada**". A young man and a young woman from the parish are selected to dress up as Mary and Joseph and then spend the days of Advent travelling from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling their hosts about the imminent arrival of Jesus at Christmas.

Modern day "Posada" uses a statue of Mary and Joseph and the donkey instead of a young couple to travel from home to home as it's less of a safeguarding headache! But it still provides the same opportunity for hospitality and a sharing of our Christmas faith.

Parishioners will have the chance to sign up to host the statue for one evening in the days leading up to Christmas. As the statue makes its way around the parish, with one host family taking it to the next, there is the chance to pray together, perhaps share a cup of tea and a cake (or even a simple meal), and think about what we're looking forward to at Christmas.

Last year, in one parish I know, the statue of Mary and Joseph found its way to two care homes and a secondary school, where is featured not only in the morning's staff briefing, but also a Year 10 assembly and several lessons!!

So look out for the 'Posada' and why not sign up to be a host. You'll be given a small pack with suggested prayers and scripture readings for the 'hand-over'. It's up to you how you offer hospitality and then you just give the statue pride of place in your home for a night. To be real evangelists, why not invite round some neighbours or those non-church going members of your family?

Longton Rota

	This Week		Next Week	
	5.45	10 am	5.45	10am
Readers	J Reynolds	E O'Neill	J Clough	S Rushton
Offertory	J Clough J Davies	T Taylor C Thorley	F Mullett D Mullett	S Chadwick L Chadwick
Eucharistic Ministers	P Clough M Simpson	M Rowley C Thorley	C Simpson K Wass	A Middleton Hill D Ball
Cleaners	Team B		Team C	
Counters	Team 7		Team 8	

Bentilee Rota

Fenton Rota

	This Week	Next Week		This Week	Next Week
	10.30 am	10.30 am		9 am	9 am
Readers	M Toon S Firth	K Toon M Poole		P Bradley Rosie	A Bamford R Lewis
Eucharistic Ministers	Team F	Team G		A Comfort	P Bradley
Church Opening	M Toon K Toon	R Chadwick S Chadwick			

Christmas Timetable:

Reconciliation/ Confessions: St Augustine's Meir Monday 17th @7pm

STG Christmas Eve (24th) 5.15pm Carols, 5.45pm Christmas Vigil Mass,
Christmas Day (25th) 10am Christmas Day Mass

SMG Christmas Eve (24th) 6pm Christmas Vigil Mass,

OLPS Christmas Eve (24th) 4pm Christmas Vigil Mass,

Sadly there will be no Mass on Christmas Day at either St Maria Goretti or Our Lady's. Fr Kevin will be attending on Christmas Eve to celebrate the two Vigil Masses – but it is unreasonable to ask him to return on Christmas Day when the numbers have been much less than “normal”

A full list of Mass times for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for the whole deanery is available at the back of Church.

Contactless Payments for your collection.

This week we have eventually received our new Contactless Payment machine for use at St Gregory's. This means that you can make a donation (pay your collection) using a contactless debit or credit card. The machine has three "set" amounts. A default of £3, and options for £5 or £10. This is part of a Diocesan trial (only five parishes will be using the machines) and its results will be monitored closely by the Diocesan Treasurers Offices. If you would wish to use the machine –but are unsure please ask and we will assist you.

Our Regular Events:

St Vincent de Paul meets at St Gregory's on 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month 7.30pm

Ladies Guild meets at St Gregory's on 3rd Tuesday of each month

Union of Catholic Mothers meets at St Maria Goretti.

Journey in Faith course meets at St Gregory's – Thursdays of term time 7.30pm.

Tea Coffee Cakes and Social meets at St Gregory's after the 5.45pm Mass on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays also

On Wednesday mornings after the Morning Mass – all are welcome.

Tea Coffee and Social after Mass each Sunday at St Maria Goretti