



BENEFICE BULLETIN

Church News for
Bedale, Burrill, Leeming and Thornton Watlass

4th September 2022

St Gregory the Great

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Bel Newman, John Hall, Lesley Hall, Jenny, Marge Craddock Delma Bode,
Christine Isbister, Olive Robinson, Barbara Jaques, Sandra Lowe, Lynne Riddlestone,
Harry Scorer and David Disney.

RIP

*Tommy Shevels, Aaron Bell, Louis Banks, Brian Bulmer,
Rupert Blagg and Leonard Lishman.*

Collect for St Gregory the Great

Almighty and merciful God, you raised up Gregory of Rome to be a servant of the servants of God, and inspired him to send missionaries to preach the Gospel to the English people: Preserve your church in the catholic and apostolic faith, that your people, being fruitful in every good work, may receive the crown of glory that never fades away; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading - — 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5-7

Brothers and sisters: Since we have this ministry through the mercy shown us, we are not discouraged. Rather, we have renounced shameful, hidden things; not acting deceitfully or falsifying the word of God, but by the open declaration of the truth we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. For we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for the sake of Jesus. For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ. But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us.

Second Reading - Psalm 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8, 10

R.\ Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations.

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

R.\ Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations.

Announce his salvation day after day. Tell God's glory among the nations; among all peoples, God's marvellous deeds.

R.\ Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations.

Give to the LORD, you families of nations, give to the LORD glory and might; give to the LORD the glory due his name! Bring gifts and enter his courts;

R.\ Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations.

Say among the nations: The LORD is king. The world will surely stand fast, never to be moved. God rules the peoples with fairness.

R.\ Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations.

Gospel Reading - Luke 22:24-30

An argument broke out among the disciples about which of them should be regarded as the greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them and those in authority over them are addressed as 'Benefactors'; but among you it shall not be so. Rather, let the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as the servant. For who is greater: the one seated at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one seated at table? I am among you as the one who serves. It is you who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my

Post Communion Prayer

God of all mercy, in this Eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

The **Gospel** reading is from Luke's account of the Last Supper. Jesus has just taken the cup and then the bread, which he said was his body, and distributed them among his disciples, telling them to repeat the ritual in his memory. He then goes on to say that he is going to be betrayed by one of those who are sharing the cup. This saying causes some consternation among them.

Then an argument broke out among them as to which of them was the greatest. Were they doing this because of what Jesus had told them about his coming death? Without Jesus, who would be in charge of the group? Right on the very eve of their Master's death they are squabbling about status.

Jesus then interrupts them by pointing out that in the pagan world, it is those in positions of authority, like kings and governors, who like to exert their power over those who are under them. With the followers of Jesus, however, the situation is to be very different. Those who are really the great ones in the group should behave like the most junior and the one who is the leader stands out by his desire to serve those for whom he is responsible.

That is how Jesus himself is behaving with them, 'Who is greater?' he asks. Is it the one seated at table or the one who serves? Yet Jesus is among them as one who serves. That is shown dramatically in John's gospel when Jesus gets up from the table and kneels down to wash his disciples' feet, an act which Peter found very disturbing because it went against all his instincts. Greatness in Jesus' world, in the Kingdom, does not consist in exerting authority and power but on the level of what is being done for the benefit of others. Service is not demeaning or

lowering oneself. Rather, it is love in action. It is what Jesus' life was about; he came to serve and not to be served. For that, he becomes a model for our lives.

The reading relates very much to Pope Gregory. In spite of his high position and responsibilities in directing the Church, he saw himself at the service of the Church. He called himself 'the servant of the servants of God'. He had no time for senior clerics who liked to be addressed by exalted titles and demand other privileges. We live in a world where status symbols of all kinds are greatly prized but the true Christian is totally indifferent to such things.

In the **First Reading** from the Second Letter to the Corinthians, Paul tells the Christians of Corinth that he is not preaching himself but Jesus Christ as his Lord and himself as their slave and servant for the sake of Jesus. Paul's role is to be a transparent medium through whom Jesus and his message are clearly seen. The God who said "Let light shine out of darkness" shines in our hearts so that the glory of God can be seen in the face of Jesus. As Cardinal Newman prayed, "Let them look up and see, no longer me, but only Jesus." Again, this passage applies to Gregory who wrote much, not to glorify himself, but to present the mystery of Jesus to people hungry for knowledge of their Lord.

We, too, are called to be the visible presence of Christ in our world. Together we form the Body of the Risen Christ. "Who sees you, sees me" is what he told his disciples. Our task as followers of Christ is not just to care for our own spiritual well-being but to be aware of our responsibility to make Jesus and his Gospel known to the world around us. What are we doing to make that happen?

1

**Th'apostle to the English lands
Who now among the angels stands,
Make haste, St. Gregory, relieve
And help the people who believe.**

2

**From riches and from wealth you turned.
The glory of the world you spurned,
That you might follow, being poor,
Christ Jesus, who was poor before.**

3

**As church's leader you decreed
That we would take Christ Jesus' lead,
And learn St. Peter's steps to tread:
The rule of all called in his stead.**

4

**You wondrously solved riddles deep:
The mystic secrets Scriptures keep,
For Truth Himself has taught you these:
The lofty sacred mysteries.**

5

**O holy one a leader bright,
The Church's honour and its light,
Through dangers let them all be brought,
The ones you carefully have taught.**

6

**The unborn Father let us praise,
And to His Son like glory raise,
And to their Equal, majesty.
All glory to the Trinity. .**



Pastoral Principles Study Group

This course will take place on five consecutive Tuesdays in the Old Grammar School, depending on numbers, beginning on 13th September. There will be input, discussion and worship over the session beginning each evening at 7pm - Please contact the office or the Rector if you are interested.

Using scripture and video clips we will look at relationships and interaction, how we grow in Christ and what can hinder that growth, both on a personal & spiritual level.

Service Times and Venues

Thursdays 10:30am BCP communion at St Gregory's

| | <i>Morning Services - St Gregory's, Bedale</i> | <i>Morning Services - St Mary's, St John's and Burrill</i> | <i>18.30—Evensong conference call</i> |
|-----------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 4th Sept | 8am St Gregory's # | 10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass # | St Gregory's, Bedale * |
| | 9.15am St Gregory's #*F | 11am St John's, Leeming #* | |
| 11th Sept | 9:15am St Gregory's #*F | 10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #* | Burrill Church * |
| 18th Sept | 9:15am St Gregory's #*F | 10:45 St Mary's Thornton Watlass #* | St Mary's Thornton Watlass * |
| | | 11am St John's, Leeming | |

Communion * conference call F Facebook

Floodlighting: Floodlighting of the tower will recommence at the end of this month. To sponsor the floodlighting in memory of someone then please get in touch with Sarah in the office on 07949 006681 or admin@bedale.church



As a Benefice of Churches we sponsor a child through Compassion. Previously we sponsored Henrique, but he has now moved and left the compassion programme. Let me introduce you to Edwin, our new sponsor child. Edwin is an 8 year old boy who lives in Bolivia with his parents and 3 siblings. He is about to start year 4 at school, his favourite subjects being art and literature. Outside of school he loves playing marbles and running. I will be putting Edwin's details and information on the area he lives, on the noticeboard at the back of St Gregory's Church. We would like to get a photo of the congregation as well to send to Edwin.

Children in the compassion projects love receiving letters, please do contact me if you are able to send a short letter to Edwin. All replies will be put on the board at the back of St Gregory's. Thank you. Sarah Ryder.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation Classes are beginning in the Old Grammar School, next to St Gregory's Church, from Mon 5 August at 7pm and will be running most Mondays through to the service on 23Oct.

Even if you have already been confirmed, please feel free to come along and share something of your story with the candidates already wanting to journey towards confirmation.

Please contact the office or the Rector if you are interested.