

12<sup>th</sup> March

## St Gregory the Great

Pope, Doctor, Apostle of England

*Gregory was born about 540 in one of the wealthiest families of the decaying city of Rome. After a successful career as Byzantine official and diplomat he was elected Pope in 590. He proved to be a very able administrator and great Benefactor of the Romans. In his numerous works he defended Catholic doctrine, most notably the papal primacy and the veneration of images. He made world history by being the first Pope to send missionaries abroad – to England. His pupil St Augustine arrived there in 597 and erected the first Metropolitan See in Canterbury. His Gospel Book (looted in the Reformation and currently in Corpus Christi College, Cambridge) may well have been a gift from St Gregory, and is a powerful sign of the age of the English Church and her loyalty to the Supreme Pontiff. In the Middle Ages, Gregory was regarded as a model Pope – he was also credited with the invention of plainchant and much of the Roman liturgy (which, however, is in many parts older). He is especially venerated as patron of the Souls in Purgatory. St Gregory died in 604.*

White

2 Cl. (Duplex)

INTROIT: *Jn. 21:15-17*

Si diligis me, Simon Petre, pasce agnos meos,  
pasce oves meas. *Ps. 29:1: Exaltabo te,*  
Domine, quoniam suscepisti me : nec delectasti  
inimicos meos super me. *℟. Gloria.*

*Simon Peter, if thou lovest me, feed my lambs, feed  
my sheep. Ps. 29:1: I will extol thee, O Lord, for  
thou hast upheld me : and hast not made mine ene-  
mies to rejoice over me. ℟. Glory.*

COLLECT

Deus, qui animæ famuli tui Gregorii æternæ  
beatitudinis præmia contulisti : concede propi-  
tius; ut qui peccatorum nostrorum pondere  
premur, ejus apud te precibus sublevemur.  
Per Dominum.

*O God, who hast bestowed upon the soul of thy ser-  
vant Gregory the rewards of everlasting happiness :  
grant in thy mercy that we, who are weighed down by  
the burden of our sins, may be raised up by his inter-  
cession with thee. Through our Lord.*

EPISTLE: *1 Pet. 5:1-4, 10-11*

Lectio Epistolæ beati Petri Apostoli.  
Carissimi : seniores, qui in vobis sunt, obsecro  
consenior et testis Christi passionum, qui et  
ejus, quæ in futuro revelanda est, gloriæ com-  
municator : pascite qui in vobis est gregem Dei,  
providentes non coacte, sed spontanee secun-  
dum Deum, neque turpis lucri gratia, sed  
voluntarie; neque ut dominantes in cleris, sed  
forma facti gregis ex animo. Et, cum apparuerit  
princeps pastorum, percipietis immarescibilem  
gloriæ coronam. Deus autem omnis gratiæ, qui

*A lesson from the Epistle of St Peter the Apostle.  
Dearly beloved: The ancients therefore that are  
among you, I beseech, who am myself also an ancient,  
and a witness of the sufferings of Christ; as also a  
partaker of that glory which is to be revealed in time  
to come; feed the flock of God which is among you,  
taking care of it, not by constraint, but willingly,  
according to God: not for filthy lucre's sake, but  
voluntarily; neither as lording it over the clergy, but  
being made a pattern of the flock from the heart.  
And when the prince of pastors shall appear, you*

vocavit nos in æternam suam gloriam in Christo Jesu, modicum passos ipse perficiet, confirmabit solidabitque. Ipsi gloria et imperium in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

*shall receive a never fading crown of glory. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little, will himself perfect you, and confirm you, and establish you. To him be glory and empire for ever and ever. Amen.*

GRADUAL: *Ps. 106:32, 31*

Exaltent eum in ecclesia plebis : et in cathedra seniorum laudent eum. *℟.* Confiteantur Domino misericordiæ ejus : et mirabilia ejus filiis hominum.

*Let them exalt him in the church of the people : and praise him in the chair of the ancients. ℟. Let the mercies of the Lord give glory to him; and his wonderful works to the children of men.*

TRACT: *Ps. 39:10-11*

Annuntiavi justitiam tuam in ecclesia magna, ecce labia mea non prohibebo : Domine, tu scisti. *℟.* Justitiam tuam non abscondi in corde meo : veritatem tuam et salutare tuum dixi. *℟.* Non abscondi misericordiam tuam, et veritatem tuam a concilio multo.

*I have declared thy justice in a great church, lo, I will not restrain my lips : O Lord, thou knowest it. ℟. I have not hid thy justice within my heart : I have declared thy truth and thy salvation. ℟. I have not concealed thy mercy and thy truth from a great council.*

GOSPEL: *Mt. 16:13-19*

Sequentia sancti Evangelii secundum Matthæum.

In illo tempore : Venit Jesus in partes Cæsareæ Philippi, et interrogabat discipulos suos, dicens : quem dicunt homines esse Filium hominis? At illi dixerunt : Alii Joannem Baptistam, alii autem Eliam, alii vero Jeremiam aut unum ex prophetis. Dicit illis Jesus : Vos autem quem me esse dicitis? Respondens Simon Petrus, dixit : Tu es Christus, Filius Dei vivi. Respondens autem Jesus, dixit ei : Beatus es, Simon Bar Jona : quia caro et sanguis non revelavit tibi, sed Pater meus, qui in cælis est. Et ego dico tibi, quia tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificabo Ecclesiam meam, et portæ inferi non prævalebunt adversus eam. Et tibi dabo claves regni cælorum. Et quodcumque ligaveris super terram, erit ligatum et in cælis : et quodcumque solveris super terram, erit solutum et in cælis.

*Continuation of the holy Gospel according to St Matthew.*

*At that time: Jesus came into the quarters of Cæsarea Philippi, and he asked his disciples, saying: Whom do men say that the Son of man is? But they said: Some, John the Baptist, and other some, Elias, and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. Jesus saith to them: But whom do you say I am? Simon Peter answered, and said: Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answering, said to him: Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my Father who is in heaven; and I say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it; and I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven.*

OFFERTORY: *Jer. 1:9-10*

Ecce dedi verba mea in ore tuo : ecce constituit te super gentes, et super regna, ut evellas et destruas, et ædifices et plantas.

*Behold I have given my words into thy mouth : lo, I have set thee over the nations, and over kingdoms, to root up, and to pull down, and to build, and to plant.*

SECRET

Annue nobis, quæsumus, Domine : ut intercessione beati Gregorii hæc nobis prosit oblatio, quam immolando, totius mundi tribuisti relaxari delicta. Per Dominum.

*Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord, that through the intercession of blessed Gregory, this sacrifice may profit unto us, by the offering of which thou didst vouchsafe to forgive the sins of the whole world. Through our Lord.*

PREFACE

*Of the Apostles*

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare : Te Domine suppliciter exorare, ut gregem tuum, pastor æterne, non deseras : sed per beatos Apostolos tuos continua protectione custodias. Ut iisdem rectoribus gubernetur, quos operis tui vicarios eidem contulisti præesse pastores. Et ideo cum Angelis et Archangelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni militia cælestis exercitus, hymnum gloriæ tuæ canimus, sine fine dicentes :

*It is truly meet and just, right and salutary, humbly to pray thee, O Lord, the eternal shepherd, to abandon not thy flock; but through thy blessed Apostles to keep a continual watch over it; that it may be governed by those same rulers whom thou didst set over it as shepherds and as thy vicars. And therefore with the Angels and Archangels, with the Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing a hymn to thy glory, evermore saying:*

COMMUNION: *Mt. 16:18*

Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificabo Ecclesiam meam.

*Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.*

POST-COMMUNION

Deus, qui beatum Gregorium Pontificem sanctorum tuorum meritis coæquasti : concede propitius; ut, qui commemorationis ejus festa percolimus, vitæ quoque imitetur exempla. Per Dominum.

*O God, who didst make the blessed Pontiff Gregory to rank with thy saints in merit : grant, in thy mercy, that we, who keep his memory by this festival, may also follow the example of his life. Through our Lord.*