



# The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234091

OUR  
VISION

“A truly thriving Catholic community,  
confidently and humbly proclaiming  
the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

OUR  
VISION

# Put out into the deep

When Pope St John Paul II inaugurated the Holy Year of 2000, at the beginning of this millennium, he chose as the theme of the year the words “Duc in Altum”, words that come from the Gospel passage that we read today — “Put out into the deep”. At the end of the year he wrote an Apostolic Letter, “*Novo Millennio Ineunte*”, in which he said:

“At the beginning of the new millennium, and at the close of the Great Jubilee during which we celebrated the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Jesus and a new stage of the Church's journey begins, our hearts ring out with the words of Jesus when one day, after speaking to the crowds from Simon's boat, he invited the Apostle to “put out into the deep” for a catch: “Duc in altum” (*Luke 5:4*). Peter and his first companions trusted Christ's words, and cast the nets. “When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish” (*Luke 5:6*).

Duc in altum! These words ring out for us today, and they invite us to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever” (*Hebrews 13:8*)”  
(*Novo Millennio Ineunte* §1)

Later in the letter he wrote of pastoral initiatives for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium, and highlighted seven specific areas of focus:

## Holiness:

He asks us to re-read chapter 5 of the Vatican II dogmatic constitution on the Church, “*Lumen Gentium*” which speaks of the “Universal Call to Holiness”. He calls us to take seriously the radical nature of the Sermon on the Mount.

## Prayer

In an increasingly secularised society, there is an increased need for prayer, both liturgical and other forms of prayer. The “Biblical Walk through the Mass” course, which we have run is an example of helping people understand and better participate in the Mass, and the weekly day of Adoration and the Thursday Prayer Group are ways in which we respond to this call.

## The Sunday Eucharist

We are reminded of the centrality of Sunday Mass in the Christian life, and that Sunday must be seen as the Lord's Day.

## The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Pope St John Paul II write of his insistence “in calling for a re-discovery of Christ as the one in whom God shows us his compassionate heart and reconciles fully with himself.” Since then Pope Francis has inaugurated “24 hours with the Lord” during Lent, giving everyone an extra opportunity for making use of this Sacrament.

## The Primacy of Grace

We are reminded of the danger of giving in to the temptation of thinking that the success of pastoral activity depends on our ability to act and plan. Returning to the theme of the Holy Year, “*Duc in Altum*”, it was Peter who responded “At your word, we will let down our nets”. As Peter trusted in God's grace for a good catch, so must we trust in God's grace.

## Listening to the Word

The Second Vatican Council underlined the importance of listening to the Word of God in Holy Scripture, not least in the Dogmatic Constitution, “*Dei Verbum*”, (The Word of God). “It is especially necessary that listening to the Word of God should become a life-giving encounter, in the ancient and ever-valid tradition of *Lectio Divina*, which draws from the biblical text the living word which questions, directs and shapes our lives. (*Paragraph 39*)

## Proclaiming the Word

“To nourish ourselves with the Word in order to be “servants of the Word” in the work of evangelisation: this is surely a priority for the Church.” “Christ must be presented to all people with confidence.” (*Paragraph 40*).

There is a great deal more in this Apostolic Letter, and is so often the case, it is when we re-read a letter that we are able to draw out a depth of meaning that we may miss at the first reading. To put out into the deep means first to trust God completely. It means not to be put off by past failures nor by the risk of ridicule. It means to be obedient to the command of God and to take a risk with God.

A recent book described three styles of ministry; that of the caretaker who only seeks of maintain what is there, the risk-taker who will go with God into uncharted waters, to “put out into the deep”, and the undertaker who buries the remains.

We are called, like the fishermen, to be risk-takers, to “put out into the deep” and become fishers of souls!



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Website: [www.stgregory.org.uk](http://www.stgregory.org.uk)

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2019 Fifth Sunday of the Year Parish Mass Book - Year C Page 61

**Priest:**

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**Deacons:**

Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750

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**Pastoral Assistant:**

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<b>Sunday</b> <i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Edward & Mary Moan RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday Our Lady of Lourdes	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion (Followed by prayers for the sick)	
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Tony Refoy RIP
Thursday SS Cyril & Methodius	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Celebration of Word & Communion	
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Colman O'Donnell
Saturday Feria	9.00 am 9.30 am	Celebration of Word & Communion Confessions	
<b>Sunday</b> <i>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	Fr. John Harris RIP

Masses to be said by Fr. Andrew in Palazzola: Anne Gibson's Intentions; Philomena Fraher; Mark Cooke RIP; Tony Refoy RIP.

- Your Offering To The Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £569.36. Thank you!
- Standing Order gifts to the Parish:** Each week £300 is given through standing orders.
- Gift Aid benefits to the parish:** The value of Gift Aid averages £137 per week.
- Counters This Week:** Paul & Clare Sefton, C. Stratten.
- Cleaners This Week:** Pru & Another.

### Readings for This Sunday

- Isaiah 6: 1-8.** *Here I am, send me.*
- 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11.** *I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.*
- Luke 5: 1-11.** *They left everything and followed him.*

### Readings for Next Sunday

**Jeremiah 17: 5-8; 1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20; Luke 6: 17, 20-26. (Page 63)**

- During this season of Ordinary Time, Winter, to pray for:**
- Peace on Earth; Christian Unity;
  - Victims of Trafficking;
  - Racial Justice; The Unemployed.

In Hospital? Let the Chaplaincy know on 01604 714556

If you are in need, please ring Gregory Care on 07982 235379, Someone will respond as soon as possible. Please be patient.

Are you new to the parish? You are welcome!  
Please introduce yourself to one of the clergy

Live Video streaming from the Cathedral: <https://www.churchservices.tv/northamptoncathedral>

**An important message for any who sometimes attend Mass at the Cathedral:** The Cathedral will no longer send envelopes from other Parishes back, so if you occasionally attend Sunday Mass there, please do not put St. Gregory's Envelopes into the collection, but save them until you are next here, or consider setting up a standing order (see Fr. Andrew)

### Please pray for the sick

Sylvia Marlow	Kelly-Ann
Cecilia Pereira	Robert Fleming
Fr Philip Swingler	Joan McAllister
Michael Spowart	Jean O'Neill
Dominic Nicholls	Clara Korejwo
Alf Shipman	Ziadi Family
Owen	Khanh Phan
Kath Seamark	Robert Moore
Fr Ed Worthy	Sarah Dunster
Liam Murphy	Kim Do
Margaret Farragher	Sr. Margaret
Dulcie Miranda	Chris Butler
Joan Healy	Lily Butler
Irmgard Wrxall	Rachel
Sylvia Clark	Phyllis Albon
Maurice Murphy	Doris Old
Sylvester Dauksta	Rita
Lorraine Woolard	Erica Campbell
Dolores Behan	Vera Curly
Richard Redmond	Chau
Teresa Redmond	Damien Darkko
Maire West	Michael Graney
Paul Mandel	Fr. John O'Brien
Kathleen Healey	Candy Docherty
Leo Bell	Elaine Donnely
Jennifer Ogbata	May Eamons
Stephen Aneke	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	N. Donegan
Philomena Fraher	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Catherine Stratten	Mary Rumsey
Baby Lorenzo Diccico	Nina Fenlon

### Anniversaries:

#### May they Rest in Peace

Selina Gee	Charles Pallett
Phyllis Robertson	John King
Wilfred Rook-Ley	Sabina Hadley
Patricia Stenson	Patrick Malone
Emily Middleton	Michael Cawley
Elizabeth McMahan	Grace Hurrell
Avvocatina Falcone	Lucy Willett
William Moore	Peter Brittain
Ivy Myles	William Fossey
Joseph Daly	Ollie O'Brien
Thomas Hall	

### POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

#### FOR FEBRUARY

**For a generous welcome to the victims of human trafficking, enforced prostitution, and violence.**

# Notices of Interest

**The Repository:** The Repository has now reverted to its normal pattern - open after Sunday Masses . St. Patrick's Day and Easter cards are now available *Kathleen Healey*



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Mabel Akinyemi,  
Samuel Vincent Darboe and  
Ilan-Maximilian Damoc  
who received Christian Baptism last week.  
Please pray for them and their families.

**Prayer List for the Sick:** Would everybody please scan through the 'sick list' to see if all the names still need to be on there. Many thanks. *Caryll*

**Bible Alive** for February is now available in the lobby area. Please give this publication a try - it has daily readings & good articles - all for only £2:50! **Please remember to put money in the box marked 'Books & Papers' in the entrance lobby.**

**Rotas for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers** for February to May inclusive have now been issued to all those on email. Hard copies are available in the sacristy for all others

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Please remember this important spiritual powerhouse of the parish. Exposition begins after the morning liturgy of Word and Communion on Thursdays and continues until 6.45 pm.

**Save the Hope Centre:** St Gregory's has supported the Hope Centre since it first began at Bishops' House. We have given food every week, and supported it financially. Now it needs another sort of support as **Midland Heart are seeking to evict it from Oasis House. Please sign the petition!**

**Save the Date:** Quiz night including fish & chip supper be takes place on **Fri. 1st March 2019**, 7pm in St Gregory's Church Hall in aid of the Northampton Life House. Tickets cost £10 and will be available shortly after Christmas.

**The Prayer Group** meets every Thursday in the Sacristy from 2pm until 3.30pm for Praise, reading of Scripture and Intercession. We are a small group, and would warmly welcome newcomers!

**Fitness & Pilates for Mid Life & Beyond!** Classes Wed, 10.30, in the Church Hall with Theresa, who is fully qualified & insured. For further info, please contact Theresa on 07773577804

**Blessed Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group** continues monthly on 1st Saturday of each month in the Sacristy at 10am. (Next meeting is March 2<sup>nd</sup>) All welcome.

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. Next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> February. All welcome.

**Communion to Those With Limited Mobility:** Holy Communion is brought to those in the FRONT ROW.

**Flame 2019: The Day's Theme will be 'Significance'.**  
Those preparing for Confirmation will be at Flame 2019

**Choir Matters:** Next Practices are: Ash Wed Mar 6, then Thursdays in Lent to prepare for Easter: Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr: 4, 11. These start after evening Mass and finish at 9pm. *Alec*

**Becoming a Catholic:** For adults interested in becoming a Catholic, the parish runs Journey in Faith process (RCIA). Also offered for adults who are Catholic but have not received all the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist. Please speak to Alex Heath (07963032175), Fr Andrew or Maria Heath.

**Tots @St Gregory's:** Tots @ St. Gregory's: Tuesdays during school term-time from 9.30 - 11.30. Refreshments provided. 50p per family. All welcome!

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7.00 pm, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019, in the Sacristy.

**First Holy Communion — 2019** Next session will be 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Please note that this is a whole-day session, and is of vital importance in the programme. Remember also to be at Mass each Sunday and get your stickers each week.

If any parents willing to become helpers, please contact Stella or Jean for details. No special prior qualifications or experience required, but DBS clearance will need to be obtained.

**Confirmation Preparation:** The trip to "Flame" is on March 2<sup>nd</sup>: coach leaves at 8.45 am **DON'T BE LATE!**

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**Facebook page:** St Gregory's has a page on Facebook, and frequently carries news before it gets into the newsletter as well as reminders for events. Address: <https://www.facebook.com/StGregsNorthampton>

**Ceili Dancing:** Wednesday evenings, starts 8pm. Learn Ceili Dancing in a friendly atmosphere at St Gregory's Hall from 8pm – 9.15pm. All ages welcome! Ceád Mile Failte. For further info please phone Pat Franks on 07710624921

**Catholic Basics Course:** Part Two: **Church** 11 April, Part Three: **The Moral Life** 16 May, Part Four: **Prayer** 13 June. After a very successful launch, join us for another day of engaging teaching with opportunities for interaction and discussion. Cost: £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged). Price includes a full lunch. No qualifications needed - just interest, good will and a sense of humour! Part 2: CHURCH April 11 2019, 10am-3pm (arrive 9.30am for refreshments). NORES Centre, Holy Ghost Parish, 33 Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD. To book, contact [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone Jackie on 01582 723312.

**New Parent & Baby Group** at St. Gregory's Primary School, Grange Road. Wednesdays, 9.15am – 10.15am. £1 per adult. Refreshments provided by the PTFA.

There is an echo of Hebrew poetry in this prayer with a number of parallels.

The first and third lines are direct parallels, each carrying the same meaning. The middle line contains the important concept: “relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace”

We say that we are relying “solely on

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always with your protection.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

the hope of heavenly grace”, but we need to challenge ourselves about the sincerity of what we are saying.

We can so easily find ourselves relying on our own strength and skills and not on God. Yet God does expect us to use our strength and skills in his service.

## Scripture Readings 10th February 2019, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Isaiah’s calling vision in 742 BC is much quoted in the book of Revelation. He sees God enthroned, with Seraphs who had two wings covering their faces, two covering their privacy, and with two they flew. They praised God for his total otherness, and their “Holy, Holy, Holy” is repeated before the central part of every Mass. Isaiah expects to die after seeing God’s face. But he is symbolically purified by a burning ember on his lips, and so is fit to deliver God’s message of doom those who mistreat the poor. Only a remnant will survive.

The Psalmist thanks the Lord for answering his prayer, while calling on all rulers to join in this hymn of thanks for the Lord’s words.

Paul reminds the Corinthians of their roots and especially the gospel he taught them. He uses an existing creedal formula that he

himself “had been taught”, namely “that Christ **died**”, “he was **buried**; he was **raised**; he **appeared**”. Paul goes on to argue that, in rising, Christ has conquered death, and therefore all the dead will also rise. Life after death is bodily, not just spiritual, as the Corinthians appeared to believe.

After Jesus was rejected in Nazareth he went down to Capernaum, where he taught and healed many people, including Simon’s mother-in-law. Today Luke describes Simon Peter recognising Jesus as “Lord”, his title after the Resurrection. Peter and his partners accept Jesus’ call, and follow him, leaving absolutely everything.

Psalm Response: **Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.**

(Isaiah 6:1-2a,3-8; Psalm 137(138); 1 Cor 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11)

Chris Oliver

NEXT ALPHA: Tuesday evenings, 7.30 – 9.45 pm from 30<sup>th</sup> April – 16<sup>th</sup> July, (except 28<sup>th</sup> May) BEGINS ON TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL plus Friday evening to Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June

## Saints of the week: Our Lady of Lourdes, St Cyril and St Methodius

Different shrines of Our Lady have different emphases; for example Fatima has a focus on reconciliation; Walsingham is the shrine of the Incarnation (England’s Nazareth). Lourdes is the shrine of healing, and 11<sup>th</sup> February has become the world day of prayer for the sick and their carers.

There are accounts of 26 healings in the Gospels including three accounts of the raising of the dead, and also references to general healings (*Mark 1:32-34*). At the end of St Mark’s Gospel, Jesus’ last reference to signs associated with believers is that “they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover” (*Mark 16:18*).

At the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles we read of the healing of a crippled man by Peter and John (*Acts 3:1-10*). The Church has always taken seriously the ministry to the sick. Our hospitals owe their origin to the Church — that is why senior nurses are called ‘sister’. The shrine at Lourdes is an example of this care and our taking seriously the work of Christ. In our time many people seek healing at Lourdes. However many people cannot make the pilgrimage in person, and many parishes have liturgies of healing, and in every parish the sick and the housebound are cared for by bringing Holy Communion to them, and the Church offers the Sacrament of the Sick to those who are unwell.

**WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK — IT IS NOT JUST “LAST RITES”!**

**The Sacrament of the Sick is the Sacrament of Healing. It is a tragedy that some people put off receiving this Sacrament until they are near death. In many cases, recovery flows from this Sacrament.**

Here at St Gregory’s we pray for the sick specifically each Tuesday after Mass as well as offering laying on of hands and the Sacrament of the Sick. Also usually on the last Friday of the month we have a special Mass to which those who cannot normally get the Mass in the morning may be brought. The Legion of Mary and other Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist bring Holy Communion to the sick and housebound.

Every week in the newsletter is a list of the sick for whom our prayers have been asked. Please do join in prayer for them.

For many people, 14<sup>th</sup> February is Valentine’s Day, but for the last fifty years the Church has celebrated SS Cyril and Methodius on this day. St Valentine was an early Roman bishop and martyr; we know very little about his life, and the earliest reference to a connection with romantic love dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century in “The Parliament of Foules” by Geoffrey Chaucer.\*

Cyril and Methodius were brothers, born in Thessalonica in the ninth century, of either Greek or Slavic origin. Methodius became a monk and Cyril a teacher in the university. In the year 862 they were asked to establish a mission to the Slavic peoples of Moravia (in the modern Czech Republic). To support them in this, they devised the Glagolitic alphabet so that the Bible could be written down in the Slavic language. This survives today in what is known as Cyrillic script, based of the work of St Cyril.

Their mission proved to be very successful, but attracted some opposition from neighbouring areas because of their use of the local language, not Latin. They went to Rome to seek the opinion of the Pope, Adrian II, who approved the use of the local language. However, Cyril fell ill and died in Rome on 14<sup>th</sup> February 869.

Methodius continued the mission without his brother until his death in 884.

The Catholic Church embraces 23 Eastern Rite Churches as fully part of the Catholic Church. Sadly a large number of Christians in the East are separated from us, belonging to nationalistic Orthodox Churches. May the prayers of SS Cyril and Methodius help us to find true unity.

\* The “Parliament of Foules”, in spite of first appearance, has absolutely nothing to do with Westminster, and actually refers to “Fowls”, or birds, and it was observed that about mid-February birds began their mating activities. It was this that began the association with the Saint whose feast-day fell in mid-February with romantic love.