



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

A Wandering Aramaean

To understand the first reading of today's Mass we need to go back into the ancient history of the Israelite people.

The passage in which the Israelite people make this declaration is to be said at the feast of the “First-fruits”; the authentic Harvest Festival that comes as an act of thanksgiving at the beginning of the harvest season, not at the end. The spirit of this is in marked contrast with our experience of harvest festivals that are celebrated at the end of the harvest season.

When the first sheaf is cut, the offering must be made of that sheaf; the field is left and a journey must be made to the place where God was perceived to dwell — the Tabernacle — and the offering made. Only then could the rest of the harvest be reaped.

The wandering Aramaean was the patriarch Jacob, and we read his story in Genesis, from chapters 25 to 49. Aram was a grandson of Noah, and his family were settled in the land we now call Syria. Abraham was descended from Aram, hence his family are described as “Aramaean”.

Abraham's grandson Jacob was the younger of twins, Esau was their father's favourite, and Jacob was the favourite of their mother. Although Esau was the elder, he sold his birthright to Jacob, and later is cheated out of the last blessing of their father. As a result, Jacob fled and began his wanderings, first working for his kinsman Laban, during which he acquired wives and twelve sons (as well as at least one daughter, Dinah). Esau became the ancestor of the Edomites.

One of the best-known Edomites was King Herod (who tried to kill the infant Jesus, and massacred the Holy Innocents). It is a telling indication of the depths to which the Jewish state has fallen that not only was it an occupied province of the Roman Empire but that it was ruled by a descendant of Esau. Rebekah had been told by God before her twins were born that Jacob would rule over Esau, but now the offspring of Esau was ruling over the descendants of Jacob.

One of the sons of Jacob was Joseph; he was his father's favourite, and the story of how he went to Egypt is well-known (Genesis 37), and how there was then a great famine, which resulted in the whole family settling in Egypt where there was food, but where they eventually became enslaved.

Having been wealthy, within a few years they were reduced to slavery in a foreign land. (This sequence of events would be repeated centuries later with the exile to Babylon.)

From nothing, God brought them out of Egypt, and led them to the “promised Land” where they again became a powerful and prosperous nation.

Recognising that God had brought them “with mighty hand and outstretched arm” into a land “where milk and honey flow”, they acknowledge their complete dependence on God, and offer to him the first-fruits of their produce each year.

It is significant that this is all told very personally. “My father” demonstrates a direct family connection, and from the description “he became a nation”, the very next sentence says: “The Egyptians ill-treated us”. From then on in the story, it could be the present generation, just as it is this year's harvest.

There is a further parallel to notice: the reason why the sons of Jacob went to Egypt was because of famine — because of the failure of the harvest. This statement is made at the beginning of the harvest season.

This was not the end of the obligation regarding the harvest, and Deuteronomy 26 goes on to speak of the requirement as well as to support the organised religion (the Levites), also to support resident foreigners, orphans and widows.

Part of the Jewish Law says: “When a foreigner resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress him. The foreigner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you. You shall love him as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.” (*Leviticus 19:33-34*). Sadly, in our present age in which the scourge of nationalism is growing, we are seeing so many instances of this divine command being ignored; in this country the rise of both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia as well as a more general xenophobia expressed as “Britain for the British”; a concept which totally flies in the face of God's command.

The care of “widows and orphans” can be expanded into a more general care of the poor. This obligation clearly rests with us just as it did with the Israelites, and our regular gifts to CAFOD and the Hope Centre are part of our recognition of this requirement. Many people do make regular contributions throughout the year, but twice a year CAFOD encourage us to make a special effort. For those who are hungry every day, just twice a year does seem to be somewhat inadequate.

Can we manage to skip one meal every week, and give what we have saved to CAFOD? Please take a CAFOD envelope every week and put it in the collection bag each Sunday with the value of the meal you have missed, and give it so that someone can have food at all.



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 10th March 2019

First Sunday of Lent

Parish Mass Book - Year C

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Priest:

Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: priest@stgregory.org.uk

Deacons:

Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com
Rev Rory Stewart (ret) ☎ 408407

Pastoral Assistant:

Maria Heath ☎ 07952 040830
E-mail: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	The Grill Family
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Alfred Bowles RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Willie Berry
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Kathleen & Michael Cook's Intentions
Thursday Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Nancy Ginnelly RIP
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Michael's Intentions
	7.30 pm	Stations of the Cross (St Gregory's)	
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Dominic & John Ryan RIP
	9.30 am	Confessions	
Sunday <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	The Canonisation of Bl. Cyprian Tansi

Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £971.51. 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.

Second Collection Next Week:

CAFOD – Family Fast Day 15th March

Counters This Week:

Mrs Quinn, A. Gibson.

Cleaners This Week:

Big Clean.

Readings for This Sunday

Deuteronomy 26: 4-10.

The creed of the chosen people

Romans 10: 8-13.

The creed of the Christians.

Luke 4: 1-13.

Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness and was tempted there.

Readings for Next Sunday

Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3: 17 - 4: 1; Luke 9: 28-36. (Page 75)

During this season of

Candidates for the Sacraments;

Lent, we are asked

The Needy and Hungry of the World;

to pray for:

Penitents and Wanderers.

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)

Communion to Those With Limited Mobility:

Holy Communion is brought to those in the FRONT ROW.

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 Wraxall	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 Donnelly
Jennifer Ogbata	May Eamons
Stephen Aneke	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	Nina Fenlon
Philomena Fraher	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Catherine Stratten	Mary Rumsey
Baby Lorenzo Diccico	

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

George McCarron	Susan Henry
Norah Mitton	Bridget Wall
Mary Bridge	Paul Goodwin
John Walsh	Anne Van Zeller
Violet Jadelin	Edith McGarry
Bartram King	Mary Tate
Margaret Osborne	Joseph Loveridge
Catherine Williams	Jack Bull
Gwynne Woodford	Gerald O'Rourke
Harold Marks	Theresa Costello
Patrick Parkes	Mary Bosworth
Dmytro Wrlyczko	Sydney Beech
Michael Royde-Smith	Hugh Gallagher
Leonard Osborne	Bernard Powell
Bridget Williams	Petula Lynch
Gwendolen Cox	Eileen Doran
Hugh McDonald	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

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
Anastasia-Giulia Pista,
Desiree-Melania Pista
Lena Magiera
And Teo Thileepasingam
who received Christian Baptism last week.
Please pray for them and their families.

Bible Alive for March 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.**

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children-Defending Life From Conception to Natural Death. The society is on the brink of establishing the only branch in Northampton, based here, in the Parish. In order to do so it needs someone to take on the role of secretary. Is this something you would be willing to do? The role would not be onerous & would not take up much time. You don't need any previous experience & there will be support available. Please consider yourself for this role & contact William Currie on wpcurrie@btinternet.com.

Funds Raised by the Life House Quiz: The amount raised by the Life Quiz held last week & from received donations comes to £800 - is a wonderful amount! Thanks to all who supported this event & for the generous donations, it was an enjoyable evening.

Northampton Notre Dame Association: 12th March 2019, 2.30-4.30pm at St. Matthews Church Room. Talk by Kathleen Fisher on the work of The Life House followed by tea and chat. All Welcome.

Life in the Spirit: Lenten Retreat at Sacred Heart Church Hall, Pyramid Close, Weston Favell, Northampton NN3 8DP. **Every Wednesday from 6th March to 24th April 2019.** Each session starts at 7.00pm in the Church Hall. All welcome!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7.00 pm, Monday 25th March 2019, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion — 2019 Next session will be 30th March. The session starts at 2.00 pm, and parents are asked to stay until, about 2.45 pm. 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: Blaze on 23rd March!

24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Great Billing: The Diocesan Shrine and parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour will be hosting a 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration of the Lord, 15th-16th March. Eucharistic Adoration begins with Holy Mass, 10am, Fri. 15th March & will conclude with Mass on Sat. 16th March, 10am. Come let us worship the risen Lord "in Spirit and Truth." (John 4:24).

Thanksgiving Mass for the Mayor's Charity, the Hope Centre and the Homeless. Bishop Peter will be celebrating Mass on Wednesday 3rd April at 7.00pm in the Cathedral. The Mayor Tony Ansell and other Civic guests will be attending. A collection will be taken during the Mass for this charitable work. All are welcome.

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!

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

Fitness & Pilates for Mid Life & Beyond! Classes Wed, 10.30am & Mon, 6.30pm (from 25th March) in the Church Hall with Theresa, who is fully qualified & insured. For further info, please contact Theresa on 07773577804

YOUCAT for Kids is a great new tool for catechists, parents & carers as they pass on the faith to children. A rescheduled YOUCAT for Kids session will take place from 7.45pm-9pm on Thursday 28th March in the Sacristy at St Gregory's Church. This book is a wonderful resource for parents and teachers — we do have copies for sale in the repository.

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!

Blessed Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group continues monthly on 1st Saturday of each month in the Sacristy at 10am. (Next meeting is April 6th) All welcome.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. Next meeting 13th March. All welcome.

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.

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.

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

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!

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>

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Catholic Basics Course: Part Two: Church 11 April, **Part Three: The Moral Life** 16 May, **Part Four: Prayer** 13 June. After a 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 or phone Jackie on 01582 723312.

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

It is helpful for us to refer to the Latin original text to fully appreciate the full meaning of this prayer. That which is translated as “the yearly observance of Lent” misses two important concepts; the Latin speaks of “exercitia”, exercises and “sacramenti”, literally mystery.

The idea of mystery links to the “riches hidden in Christ”, and the exercises are to help us to “grow in understanding.

Grant, almighty God,
through the yearly observance of Lent,
that we may grow in understanding
of the riches hidden in Christ
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.

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.

However this is not merely an exercise which will help our knowledge of Christ. A purpose is made clear; that we may have “worthy conduct”.

The reality of our faith is revealed in the conduct of our lives, as St James makes abundantly clear: “Be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.” (James 1:22)

The mystery of the riches hidden in Christ are both Sacramental and found in our exercise of charity in our daily life.

Scripture Readings 10th March 2019, 1st Sunday in Lent, Year C

Deuteronomy, the “second law”, repeats the law given on Sinai. It describes events just before the Israelites crossed the Jordan from the desert into the promised land. In today’s reading Moses uses an ancient formula to prescribe how the first fruits of the harvest are to be offered in gratitude for the gifts God has given to a landless people. As with our offerings during Mass, the priest’s role is to begin the celebration by setting the offerings “before the Lord your God”.

The psalm describes benefits of trusting in God: protection from evils and terrors as God goes with us in our distress.

Paul has lamented to the Romans that the works and rituals of the Mosaic Law did not bring Israel righteousness, and they cannot

justify, that is make us right with God. Everyone can be saved, but only by confessing faith in God from their heart.

In Luke’s gospel we hear how, after his baptism, Jesus was tempted in the desert. The devil’s power is real. Perhaps Jesus was often tempted during his ministry to use lavish gifts, force or exhibitions of supernatural power to convince people. But Jesus remained faithful to his Father. The only way to God is by service and suffering. The devil is routed for now, but will return during Jesus’ passion.

Psalm Response: **Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.**

(Deut 26:4-10; Psalm 90 (91); Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13)

Chris Oliver

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

Northampton Prayer and Praise

MONDAY 1st APRIL 7.30 pm

**ABINGTON AVENUE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
157 Abington Ave, Northampton NN1 4QA**

This month we will be praying in particular for the police force and crime prevention in Northampton.

Refreshments from 7.00 pm

ALL WELCOME

CAFOD Family Fast Day:

Friday 15 March

CAFOD’s Family Fast Day this Lent is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters around the world. Drought, floods and storms are having a devastating impact on our global family. Once a week through Lent, can you eat a simple meal in solidarity and give what you save to help them? Through CAFOD’s global Church network your support can reach to the ends of the earth. Please collect your Fast Day envelope and give whatever you can. If you are a tax-payer please do fill in the Gift Aid slip.

News from CAFOD

When Mahinur moved into her new home, she was elated. She had worked for months digging foundations for a local road and had saved £300 – enough to buy a plot of land. 40 years old and a fisherwoman by trade, a first home on the edge of a river was the perfect location. What Mahinur didn’t know was that one year later, the river would run dry.

The drought came suddenly. By March 2018, not a drop of water remained. Mahinur left her boat and simply walked across the riverbed. The fish lay rotting around her. Soon there was heavy rainfall and the river filled again but there were still no fish.

Balancing the heavy wooden stave of the fishing net on her shoulder, she carries it to the riverbank. Then, fully clothed, she climbs into the river. For the next 20 minutes, she drags the net back and forth, occasionally reaching out a hand to steady herself against the current.



Just her head protrudes from the water. When she climbs out, she silently shakes out the contents of the net – one eel the size of a pencil, two fish no bigger than a penny, and one larger fish. The fish flips around as she drops it in the metal bowl. It’s barely two mouthfuls.

There should be fish in the river now — it’s the right time of year - but there’s nothing. Fish are Mahinur’s only source of food, and selling her catch her only

source of money. She frequently forgoes meals so her 12-year-old son can eat.

He suffers from a learning disability he’s had since birth. The right side of his body is also weakened by a kind of partial paralysis. No one seems exactly sure why. His father has a physical disability too, and walks with difficulty using crutches. It explains why Mahinur takes responsibility for the household.