

# The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



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



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



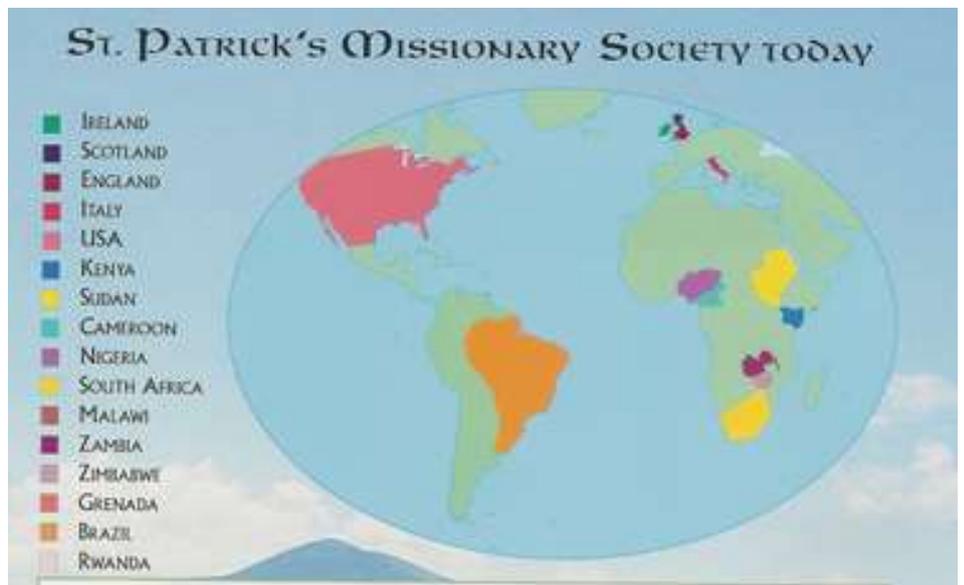
# St Patrick's Missions

St Patrick's Missionary Society was founded on St Patrick's Day 1932 and for more than eighty years has continued the work of spreading the Gospel, following the words of Jesus: Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. (Matt 28:19-20)

St Patrick's Missionary Society had its origins in Nigeria, before 1920, where Bishop Joseph Shanahan, a member of the Holy Ghost Order, was running a huge diocese of 8 million people. The Bishop had only 23 priests to help him, so he decided to appeal to students about to be ordained in Maynooth, the National Seminary in Ireland, to give the first five years of their priesthood to Nigeria. At the time, it was normal for newly ordained priests to go to England or America for a few years but none had, so far, gone to Africa. The first student to volunteer was Fr PJ Whitney from the Diocese of Ardagh. He was ordained in June 1920 and later that year he accompanied Bishop Shanahan to Nigeria.

A Dublin priest, Fr. Thomas Ronayne, who had been ordained in Maynooth seven years earlier, had also volunteered and he went to Nigeria on the same boat. In the 1920's, ten more Irish diocesan priests joined them – and worked alongside the Holy Ghost Fathers in an area where people were very anxious to enter the Church and where missionary work was exhausting but very satisfying. As the years went by, the diocesan priests came to believe that what was needed in the Nigerian Mission was a permanent commitment. In due course they decided to set up a society of secular priests who would be full-time missionaries. Fr PJ Whitney was chosen to lead the Society.

In March 1930, St. Patrick's Missionary Society was set up on a trial basis with Fr. PJ Whitney as Superior. A headquarters was established at Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow where a tea-merchant named John Hughes had given an old house and 20 acres of land for that purpose. Kiltegan became a place in which the diocesan priests working in Nigeria could spend their holidays and also a base from which the emerging Society could be organised. Fr. PJ Whitney appealed in Maynooth, as Bishop Shanahan had done, and by the end



of 1930 seven more diocesan priests had gone to Nigeria. He also travelled to Ireland, speaking of the needs of Southern Nigeria and seeking the support he needed to establish the Society as a permanent missionary body within the Church. He was very successful at this and, in 1932; the time was ripe for the official establishment of the Society.

At the present time, all those seeking to join St Patrick's Missionary Society come from the African continent. The Society opened houses of initial formation in West Africa and East Africa in 1997 and later in Central Africa. After two years in their own country, students travel to South Africa for university studies in philosophy. Thereafter they move to Nairobi, in Kenya for training in Theology at Tangaza College.

### What we do

Our aim is to bring, reveal and proclaim Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him and to the world and especially to those to whom we have been sent. Jesus said that He came so that, "you may have Life and have it to the full." We involve ourselves in the lives of the people both spiritually and materially, giving them hope and dignity in their lives.

Today we welcome Fr John Garry to appeal for the society.



# Notices of Interest

**The Repository:** From Sunday, Nov.16<sup>th</sup>, the Repository will be selling Christmas cards & other goods in the Hall after both Masses. We still need offers of help to man the stalls at this busy period - please help! Phone me on 629103, or just turn up! *Kathleen Healey*

**Bible Alive** for November & December is now available in the lobby area. 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.**

**Armistice Day Meditation:** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 5pm, Christ Church, Christchurch Road, Northampton. War time poetry, Bible readings & music, including The Trilogy by local composer Patricia Evans. All welcome.

**Journey of the Maqi:** A Christmas treat by the Springs Dance Company, Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 4.30pm, Abington Avenue United Reformed Church, Northampton, NN1 4QA. Tickets £6 adults/£1 children. Call 01604 604623 or email office.aaurc@btconnect.com

**The Hope Centre** are looking for empty ice cream tubs and margarine tubs (NOT yoghurt pots). Please continue to donate only the large ice cream tubs and margarine tubs, as these can be used for placing dinners and puddings in for the homeless. Thank you!

**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. **Throughout the winter, this will be in the Sacristy, which should be more comfortable.**

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next Baptism Preparation Session will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 7pm, in the Sacristy.

**First Holy Communion — 2020** The preparation has now started, and no more registrations can be accepted. All families should have the full programme; the next preparation day is on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and this is a longer session, beginning at 10.00 am and is at St Gregory's school, Grange Road. This is the preparing for the First Reconciliation, and it is essential that children attend this session. It is also essential that children attend Mass each week.

**Confirmation Preparation:** Those interested in Confirmation in 2020 are invited to join the Youth Alpha programme. This isn't a compulsory part of the preparation, but it's an excellent & enjoyable prelude. Young people in Year 7 & above wishing to be Confirmed, should collect & complete a registration form from the hall after Mass. Forms will be available from 6th October. Please then attend one of the registration sessions after Masses on Sunday 10th or 17th November. (8am at St Anselm's, 9.15am at Our Lady's, 10.30am Sacred Heart and 9am and 11am at St Gregory's). Classes begin in January 2020 & will generally be held on Saturday afternoons leading to Confirmation in July. If you have problems attending registration, please email Kathleen on kathfish@hotmail.com

**Choir Matters:** To prepare for Christmas & Epiphany Masses & carols, there are extra practices after Mass on Thurs. evening till 9pm. These are Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 19 then Feb 6 (no monthly practice on Jan 2). New singers always welcome & we gained one recently! *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.

**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 warmly welcome newcomers!

**Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group** meets 1st Saturday of every month in the Sacristy, 10am. **Next meeting December 7<sup>th</sup>.** All welcome.

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

**Autism Awareness Course:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 10am-2.30pm, St. Mary's Parish Hall, Woburn Sands, MK17 8NN. To book, please contact Lorraine on 01604 723516 or see poster for details.

**Monday 18th November at 7pm:** A special Mass to remember those who have died. Relatives of those who have been buried from this Church in the last year will have received an invitation to the Mass. Anyone else who would like a loved one remembered in this Mass is asked to give their name in to the people welcoming you at the door as you arrive for the Requiem Mass. All the names received will be read out. This is an opportunity to remember those who have died & to support those in the Parish community who have lost loved ones. Refreshments available in the hall afterwards.

**Advent Retreat 'Saying "YES" to God':** Sacred Heart are having a retreat day on Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Nov with Mass at 9.30am & continuing until 3pm. You are warmly invited to join them! Celebrated by Fr David Donaghue, a new priest, it promises to be a special day with a varied programme, including confession. Lunch of soup, French bread & cheese provided by the Parish but donations of cakes or puddings would be very welcome!

**Red Boxes:** The Autumn collection starts today. Please bring your boxes/envelopes to the Sacristy after Mass or as soon as possible. If you need it collecting from your home, please ring Des & Mary on 416474. Many thanks.

**Tots @St Gregory's:** If you have charge of a pre-school baby or child on Tuesday mornings, come to Tots @ St Gregory's which runs in the parish hall, 9:30-11:30. We are a friendly, welcoming group where all have fun; refreshments are provided. The cost is £1 for each adult regardless of how many children you bring! We run throughout the school terms.

**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

**Northampton Cathedral Development Campaign** is now on TheGivingMachine, a fundraising site that lets you raise donations for the Cathedral Development Campaign whenever you shop online. It's easy to use & doesn't cost you a penny! TheGivingMachine is a fundraising charity setup to help charitable causes raise money online. By signing up & shopping online via TheGivingMachine you will generate a free cash donation for us. With over 2,200 of your favourite retailers, including Amazon, ebay, M&S, NEXT, Tui, Sainsbury, John Lewis & Partners, Waitrose, you are bound to find what you need & generate a donation. To start raising free donations go to <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/northampton-cathedral-development-campaign> enter the sign up code 265642 & join - it's that easy.

**Information on local courses can be found at:**

[www.bible-groups.info/timeline](http://www.bible-groups.info/timeline)

**A change to the Youth Alpha dates: (5.30 pm – 7.00 pm)**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December



**There will be food and drink at each meeting!**

The words “graciously keep us” in the second line of this prayer seem to be weaker than the Latin “*exclude*”; an imperative meaning completely remove, or shut out.

“Graciously” does not refer to how the shutting out is done; it means “By your grace, shut out”.

Almighty and merciful God,  
graciously keep us from all adversity,  
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,  
we may pursue in freedom of heart  
the things that are yours.

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.

We are praying that nothing may prevent our whole-hearted following of Christ, and while we are praying that God will remove everything that hinders us, we must also recognise that sometimes our following of Christ is far from whole-hearted; and frequently barely even half-hearted.

As well as praying that external obstacles may be removed, we also pray that the internal obstacles of our weak wills may be overcome, so that we will want to do what God wants us to do (in mind) and actually do what God wants (in body).

## Scripture Readings 10th November 2019, 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

The second Book of Maccabees relates events from about 180 to 160 BC, including the martyrdom stories of Eleazar, and of this family of a mother and seven brothers, written to encourage God’s people in times of persecution. The Syrian king Antiochus imposed Greek culture on the Jews, prompting a revolt led by Judas Maccabeus. The brothers each profess aspects of their faith, including confidence in individual bodily resurrection. The Jews later succeeded in throwing off their oppressor.

The psalm asks for God’s favourable judgement, confident He will help us against our enemies.

The second letter to the Thessalonians was written to calm a community startled by claims that “the day of the Lord” was upon them. As long as they love and believe in the truth given them

originally they should stand firm and have no fear. They should continue to pray confidently for Paul and all preachers.

In Luke’s gospel, after meeting Zacheus Jesus entered Jerusalem, cleansed the Temple and responded to challenges about his authority. Then he is asked about resurrection, with another example of seven brothers. He says those worthy to attain resurrection will no longer die or marry, “they are children of God”, the living God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, whom Moses called “Lord”.

Psalm Response: **I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord.**

(2 Macc 7:1-2,9-14 Ps 16(17) 2 Thess 2:16-3:5 Lk 20:27-38)

*Chris Oliver*

# The Season of Creation

### Actions to Live Simply :

Communication with eye contact melts ‘Stranger fears’.

**Tip No. 13: Living Sustainably with creation:** Join a community litter pick. Phippsville litter pick first Saturday every month.

**Tip No. 14 Solidarity with the poor:** Be discerning when listening to politicians.

### PRAYER

#### CREATOR GOD

You gave us responsibility for the earth  
A world of riches and delight.  
Create in us a desire to live sustainably,  
So that those who follow after us  
May enjoy the fruits of your creation

In order to reduce the carbon footprint of the parish through the winder the Thursday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be in the Sacristy. This should also make it more comfortable for those praying, and (as a spin-off benefit) reduce the heating bill for the parish  
The parish is also investigating the possibility of rainwater harvesting for flushing the toilets.

**Many thanks to Harry and Helen Charles who have offered to co-ordinate our parish’s work towards the “Living Simply Award”.  
Anyone who is interested is being involved in this, please contact them, or speak to Fr Andrew**

## Election promises: Can you believe them?

Joseph Goebbels is ‘credited’ with having said: “If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it.” He certainly wrote in an article dated 12 January 1941 entitled *Aus Churchills Lügenfabrik* “The English follow the principle that when one lies, one should lie big, and stick to it. They keep up their lies, even at the risk of looking ridiculous.”

Before every election candidates and political parties produce their manifestoes and election statements. Wikipedia is ever-hopeful: “Across the Western world, political parties are highly likely to fulfil their election promises” (*Article on “Election Promise”*). However a case in 2008, “Wheeler v Office of the Prime Minister” made it

abundantly clear that under English law, there is no obligation for politicians to keep any election promise. Moreover, there is no obligation to be truthful in any election statement. It was made clear that opposing candidates may challenge the truthfulness of such statements, but that is the limit of any check. It is reported that the response to one disgruntled voter was “more fool you for believing”!

Recent experience should make us very wary of believing people who have a reputation and track record for lying. What is a matter of record is what they have actually done in the past. Goebbels is also credited with this: “the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie”. That is, at least, true! Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (*see John 14:6*)

# The Year of the Word



Increasingly parishes are finding that they have only one resident ordained priest, and that he cannot do everything that is wanted. Increasingly parishes need to recognise the gifts and abilities of all their members, so as to draw on them for the support and nourishment of their common life. The current (relative) shortage of priests should not

be the only reason we recognise the need to ensure the best formation possible for all parish ministers to help develop and nurture the gifts they have. However if this historical accident provides the occasion for that to happen, then so be it. (*From the Liturgy Office website.*)

God has a way of leading us by blocking off the wrong path. The story of Baalam is a good example of this. He was on his way to do something that was not in accordance with the will of God, so God sent an angel to block the way. You can read the whole story in Numbers chapters 22 to 24.

What we can perceive as a 'shortage' of priests can be seen as God's way of re-discovering the true ministry of all Christians. Ministry belongs to the Baptised, not just to the ordained! The need for Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers, people to proclaim the Scriptures, lead Children's Liturgy of the Word and many other ministries is not a problem but God prompting us to recognise the ministries of all the Baptised.

We are offering training for proclaimers of the Scriptures — sadly only very short, but of great importance. 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 pm

