



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

Lady Day in Harvest

The cycle of seasons and feast in the Church's year both point to heaven and keep us grounded on earth. We are reminded in the most solemn and sacred liturgy of the year, the Easter Vigil, that "all time belongs to Him"; that is to say, to God. (*Blessing of the Paschal Candle*)

"In the cycle of the year, as she celebrates the mysteries of Christ, the Church also venerates with particular love the Blessed Mother of God, Mary, and proposes to the devotion of the faithful the Memorials of the Martyrs and other Saints." (*From the introduction of the Roman Missal, on the Calendar.*)

The Old Testament teaches us that "seven times a day I praise you" (*Psalm 118 (119): 164*), but Jesus tells us to "pray all the time", and St Paul tells us to "rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*) The Letter to the Hebrews says "Let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God" (*Hebrews 13:15*).

This presents to us a very different idea from that of simply "saying prayers", and requires a totally different attitude to life and prayer.

Part of our prayer is most certainly to be found in the celebration of Mass and in other forms of prayers that we say. However, that cannot be the whole of the story.

Central to this understanding of prayer is the idea of living in the presence of Christ, and meditating on the Assumption of Our Lady might give us an insight into this. Mary was assumed into heaven that she might be with her divine Son for all eternity. However, we know that during his life on earth, she was regularly with him. "There is no part in the history of Jesus but Mary has her part in it" (*Blessed John Henry Newman, in his devotions for the Way of the Cross.*) For us too, if we are to pray continually, we need to be close to him, not just when we are 'saying prayers' but all the time.

Mary, then offers us a school for prayer, a way of prayer in which we can speak to Jesus and listen to him: "the kind of talk friends have with one another, or perhaps the way a servant speaks with his master, asking for some kindness or apologizing for some failure, or telling him about some matter of business and asking for his advice". (*St Ignatius of Loyola, Spiritual Exercises §54*)

"Lady Day in Harvest" reminds us of the continuing cycle of the year, and a time when we reap the blessings of the fields. Before the days of industrialization, it was a season of hard labour; even the

children were put to work in the fields. That is why there is a long school holiday at this time of year.

It is worth keeping in mind that the origin of the word 'holiday' is 'Holy Day', and in our modern parlance, a Holy Day is one on which we particularly are careful to come to Mass. But what day is not holy? Is there a day that was not made by the Lord? If we should be praying 'all the time', there cannot be day in which we do not pray. There is no day in the year in which the Church does not pray.

Every day is holy in that it is a gift from God; part of his divine creation. But yet each day need to be made holy by prayer and good works. God has sanctified each day by his loving gift. We need to sanctify each day by our life of faith.

Thursday of this week is a 'Holy Day', and extra opportunities are made available to be at Mass that day. Every Thursday is a special day here at St Gregory's as we have the opportunity to spend time in adoration before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

The opportunity for adoration comes from the reality that the celebration of Mass is a step into the eternity of heaven, and the abiding presence of Jesus in the tabernacle is the eternal continuity of the Mass, and the localised presence of the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary.

Although the Old Testament speaks of praising God seven times a day, we find in Deuteronomy a way of helping us to be closer to God all the time. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (*Deuteronomy 6:4-9*).

The Jewish Law interpreted this in a literal way. The spiritual meaning of this is that we should think about God, and talk to our children about Him. In keeping them in our heart, we are praying, when we are at home or when we are away, when we are in bed or when we are up. When we trace the sign of the Cross with our hand we are reminding ourselves of our Baptism, and the emblem on our forehead comes from when we were 'sealed with the Holy Spirit' at our Confirmation. When we go through the door of our home, we remember that our true home is in heaven. (*Philippians 3:20*)



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS
Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 11th August 2019
Nineteenth Sunday of the Year
Parish Mass Book - Year C
Page 61

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>19th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Anthony Healey RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday St. James Frances de Chantal	9.00 am 4.00 pm	Mass Reception of the body of Violette Caillebotte RIP	James Doherty RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am 11.30 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick) Funeral Mass	Catherine Clarke Violette Caillebotte RIP
Wednesday St. Maximilian Kolbe	9.00 am 7.00 pm	Mass Mass	Ann Joyce Nancy Ginelly RIP
Thursday Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Holy Day</i> (Page 111)	7.00 am 9.00 am 6.45 pm 7.00 pm	Mass Mass Benediction Mass	The Parish Marcia Zapodeanu RIP Adrian Fisher RIP
Friday St. Stephan of Hungary	9.00 am	Mass	Pat Coleman RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	Kathleen & Tom Nicholson's Intentions
Sunday <i>20th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am	Mass Mass	Tony Refoy RIP The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £693.53. Thank you!

Standing Order gifts to the Parish:

Each week £390 is given through standing orders.

Gift Aid benefits to the parish:

The value of Gift Aid averages £133 per week.

Counters This Week:

Paul & Clare Sefton, C. Stratton.

Cleaners This Week:

Big Clean.

Readings for This Sunday

By the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you.

Abraham looked forward to a city founded by God.

You too must stand ready.

Wisdom 18: 6-9.

Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19.

Luke 12: 32-48.

Readings for Next Sunday

Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10; Hebrews 12: 1-4. Luke 12: 49-53. (Page 64)

During this season of Ordinary Time, Summer, We are asked to pray for:

Human Life; Seafarers;
Victims of Persecution/Oppression
Europe; Christian/Jewish Relations.

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.

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)

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

Mark Bingham's funeral Mass will be on 21st August at 12 noon. May he rest in peace.

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	James Power
Owen	Khanh Phan
Kath Seemark	Michael Connor
Fr Ed Worthy	Sarah Dunster
Liam Murphy	Kim Do
Margaret Farragher	Sr. Margaret
Dulcie Miranda	Sylvia Clark
Joan Healy	Lily Butler
Jayne Miller	Rachel
Baby Lorenzo Dicicco	Eileen Howell
Maurice Murphy	Doris Old
Sylvester Dauksta	Rita
Lorraine Woolard	Erica Campbell
Bernard Kelly	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
Catherine Stratton	May Eamons
Stephen Aneke	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	Mary Rumsey
Paul Greaves	Michael Rowback
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
N. Donegan	Norma Bryan
Maureen Bell	Deacon Rory
May Murtagh	

**Anniversaries:
May they Rest in Peace**

Christopher McLoughlin	Mary Costelloe
Michael Dowling	Douglass Pereira
Angela Cywinski	Agnes Brugger
May Robinson	Edmund Shanahan
Robert Webb	Irmguard King
John Fitzgerald	Peter O'Farrell
Christopher Tydings	Noel Duffy
Ferdinand Libich	Arthur Eyles
Frederick Coughlan	Gerald Gardner
James McInerney	Michael Burke
Patrick Kelliher	Catharine Clarke
Patrick Decourcy	John O'Leary
Christopher Styles	Martha Doyle
David Riddell	Ellen Jones
Justin Higginbottom	Charles Mulhall
Joseph Milner	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

FOR AUGUST

That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth."

Feast of St Gregory — 3rd September. Mass at 7.00, and refreshments afterwards. Can you help with food?

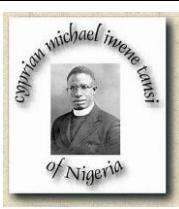
Notices of Interest

Important notice to all keyholders: Following recent burglaries, we now have an intruder alarm. The office door is alarmed; if you need access see Fr Andrew to be told the code. The foyer also has an alarm; if the door is locked, the alarm may be set. Please ask Fr Andrew for the code for this door.

The Repository: Due to further staff illness, I am now desperate for help, especially after the 11am Mass. All stock is priced and it only needs a few moments after Mass. Please help! If you can spare some time, please phone me on 629103, or speak to Fr. Andrew. *Kathleen Healey*

Bible Alive for August & September 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.**

Advance Office Notice: Just to let everybody know, the office will be closed for two weeks from 17th August until 31st August - wish me good camping weather! *Caryll*



Annual Blessed Tansi Pilgrimage, Mount St. Bernard Abbey, Coleville, LE67 5UL, Saturday 31st August, 10.30am. Rosary Procession, Holy Mass, Benediction and Blessing of the Sick. Please see fliers at the back of the Church for full details, and contacts for Northampton.



33rd Rosary Rally and Open Air Mass at Mount St. Bernard Abbey Leics, LE67 5UL, Sunday 1st September 2pm. See poster for full details. Bring a folding chair/seat & picnic lunch. All welcome.

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. **(Including this Thursday)**

Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life: Walsingham, Sunday 6th October commencing 12pm with Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation. Please see poster for full details.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Please speak to a member of the Clergy.

First Holy Communion — 2020 For a variety of reasons we will have to limit the number of children in the preparation programme for First Holy Communion in 2020. This will initially be done on a “first come, first served” basis, following the beginning of registration, which will be on 8th and 15th September after either Mass. No registrations will be accepted until then. The main preparation sessions will take place on seven Saturdays leading to First Holy Communion in May 2020.

Confirmation Preparation: Details of the next Confirmation Preparation will appear here shortly.

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!

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group meets every 1st Saturday in the Sacristy at 10am. **Next meeting is September 7th. All welcome.**

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting August 14th. All welcome.**

Mass for Victims & Survivors of Abuse, their families and supporters at St Mary's in Woburn Sands at 12 noon on 12 October 2019. All victims, survivors of abuse, their families & supporters are invited to this Mass. There will be light refreshments after the Mass.

A request from Bishop Peter: “We need people who, in the midst of all changes to education policy, will keep Christ at the centre of everything they do. Do you have experience in Education or HR? I would like you to consider whether you are someone who could serve our children as they grow in faith by volunteering as a Director for our new Multi Academy Trust.” For more details contact Debbie Main on main@nores.org.uk or 01582 723312

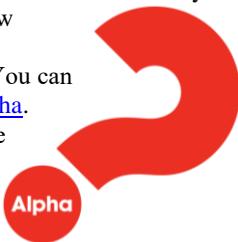
Choir Matters: Practices are usually on the 1st Thursday of the month following evening Mass till 9pm : 30 Aug* (instead of 5 Sep to prepare for the Feast of St Gregory), 3 Oct. Weekly practices start in Nov until Dec to prepare for Christmas. *Alec*

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! On holiday now until September.

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

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

Alpha in the Autumn The next Alpha will be in the autumn, starting on 17th September and running Tuesday evenings until 3rd December with a break on 29th October. There is also an overnight session from the evening of Friday 8th to after lunch on Saturday 9th November. Many people have spoken of how Alpha has re-vitalised their faith; please think about joining if you haven't already! You can sign up online at: <http://stgregory.org.uk/alpha>. Responding to Pope Francis' initiative of the October Mission Month, you could not just come yourself, but bring a friend as well!



Our Regular CAFOD giving. The project which we have been supporting for the last five years in Sebeya has come to an end, and we are now supporting the CAFOD water projects, bringing clean drinking water to remote communities. One of the most heart-wrenching advertisements on television is the one showing a child drinking filthy polluted water. Many thanks to everyone who makes regular donations to CAFOD; please keep it up!

Catholicism: Journey around the world & deep into the Catholic Faith in all its richness, history, beauty, goodness, & truth in breathtaking, high-definition cinematography. Travel with Bishop Robert Barron to more than 50 locations throughout 15 countries. You'll be illuminated by the spiritual & artistic treasures of this global culture, claiming more than one billion of Earth's people. From the sacred lands of Israel to the beating heart of Uganda; from the glorious shrines of Italy, France, & Spain to the streets of Mexico, Kolkata, & New York City; the fullness of CATHOLICISM is revealed. Here, on Monday afternoons in the autumn.

The week's prayer is one of the very few of which the Latin text was changed for the most recent edition of the Missal. The phrase: "taught by the Holy Spirit" was added, and reminds us of Jesus' promise that "the advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything".

However the main scriptural reference is to St Paul's letter to the Romans: "You have received a spirit of adoption. When you cry 'Abba', Father it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that

Almighty ever-living God,
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance
which you have promised.

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 children of God, and if children,
then heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs
with Christ. (*Romans 8:15-17*)

We see the great wonder of our faith,
that God is indeed Almighty, and yet
we can address him as 'Abba', the
most intimate and familial way to
address our Father.

Yet, like the prodigal son, we "have
sinned" and are "no longer worthy to
be called" God's child, but yet we pray
that like the prodigal, we may enter
into the promised inheritance. (See
Luke 15:11-32)

Scripture Readings 11th August 2019, 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

The Wisdom of Solomon was the last book of the Old Testament to be written. It was written in Greek, not Hebrew, so not in the Septuagint nor therefore in the Protestant Bible. The final chapters meditate on the Exodus, contrasting the woes visited on the Egyptians at the first Passover with the gifts given by God to the Israelites.

The Psalm celebrates God's faithfulness, power and wisdom, justifying our confidence in him.

The 2nd readings in August from Hebrews describe faith, which gives assurance to our hopes. Abraham is the prime example of a man of faith: he obeyed God's command to go to a new land; he believed God's promise that he and Sarah would have a child in their old age; and he passed the supreme test of faith when God

asked him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. God's last minute reprieve for Isaac is seen as a return from the dead.

In Luke's Gospel, following the parable we heard last week about the rich man building a bigger barn, Jesus assures us that we will be given all the resources we need to meet the Lord's demands. He then urges us to have faith and to be prepared.

Psalm Response: **Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.**

(Wis 18:6-9 Ps 32(33):1-22 Heb 11:1-2,8-19 Lk 12:32-48)

Chris Oliver

A Competition — with a prize

The competition closes at midnight tonight. The entry with the greatest number of trees of different species or sub-species in Abington park correctly identified will be the winner. The prize will be modest (£20); the purpose of the competition is to encourage a greater understanding of the variety of trees, and to appreciate their vital contribution to the wellbeing of our planet. The trees which were brought up in the offertory procession last week will be planted this week, and make their contribution to preventing climate change.

The entries will be judged by experts from the Northamptonshire Natural History Society, and their judgement will be final.

There are many on-line resources which will help to identify trees, and actually many of those in the park have plaques which are a bit of a give-away!

In the event of a tie, the prize-money will be divided between the winners

October — Mission Month

Pope Francis has written in his message for World Mission Day this October about Christ's command to proclaim the Good News: "This missionary mandate touches us personally: I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptized man and woman is a mission. People in love never stand still: they are drawn out of themselves; they are attracted and attract others in turn; they give themselves to others and build relationships that are life-giving. As far as God's love is concerned, no one is useless or insignificant. Each of us is a mission to the world, for each of us is the fruit of God's love. Even if parents can betray their love by lies, hatred and infidelity, God never takes back his gift of life. From eternity he has destined each of his children to share in his divine and eternal life (see *Ephesians 1:3-6*).

This life is bestowed on us in baptism, which grants us the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, the conqueror of sin and death. Baptism gives us rebirth in God's own image and likeness, and makes us members of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. In this sense, baptism is truly necessary for salvation for it ensures that we are always and

everywhere sons and daughters in the house of the Father, and never orphans, strangers or slaves. What in the Christian is a sacramental reality — whose fulfilment is found in the Eucharist — remains the vocation and destiny of every man and woman in search of conversion and salvation. For baptism fulfils the promise of the gift of God that makes everyone a son or daughter in the Son. We are children of our natural parents, but in baptism we receive the origin of all fatherhood and true motherhood: no one can have God for a Father who does not have the Church for a mother (see *Saint Cyprian, De Cath. Eccl., 6*.)"

There are many ways in which the mission of the Church can be accomplished. A wise priest once said that no one was argued into heaven, only loved into heaven. Inviting someone to a meal is a good sign of love, and there is an offer of a free meal at the Alpha course!

Wives, invite your husband! Husbands, invite your wife! For dates and other information, see opposite.

St John tells us that three of the apostles came from the city of Bethsaida (Peter, Andrew and Philip) (*John 1:44*). We know that Bethsaida was on the shores of the Sea of Galilee but its exact location has been debated by experts for many years.



Recent archaeology has made a significant discovery. During the summer a mosaic floor and carved stones have been discovered, and the building has been identified as the church which was described by Bishop Willibald in the year 725 as having been built over the house of Peter and Andrew.

This discovery confirms that the location of Bethsaida is the current El-Araj. It provides yet more evidence of the accuracy of the Gospels. There are some who dismiss the whole of the Bible as fiction; even denying that Jesus ever existed, but here we have modern archaeology supporting the evidence of the Gospels.

By knowing the Scriptures better we can be more able to explain to sceptics and dis-believers that our faith is not a fantasy, but that modern science agrees with what we read in the Bible

