



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 Life-changing Experience

Our first readings at Mass on Sundays until Pentecost will tell us of the work of St Paul, a man who had a fundamental life-changing experience. Throughout the history of the Church, many who have come to faith have had similar experiences, although for many others, their coming to a mature faith in Jesus has been a more gradual process in which there may not be one single event which could be remotely compared to that of Saul on the road to Damascus.

One person who had such a life-changing experience was a lady called Abby Johnson, and a film has been made of her story. Abby was born in 1980 and grew up in Texas. During her time at university she volunteered for “Planned Parenthood”, an organisation which presents itself as a charity working to help women, and is in fact one of the biggest providers of abortions in the United States. Initially she was told that their aim was to reduce the number of abortions, and for eight years she worked in one of their clinics, eventually being promoted to become director of the clinic and in 2008 was named “Employee of the Year”. Throughout this time she was encouraging women who were seeking abortion, telling them that “a foetus cannot feel pain”. She was also scathing in her attacks on those who protested outside her clinic. However, in September 2009 she was asked to assist in the operating theatre. She was shocked to see on the ultrasound the unborn baby squirming and twisting to avoid the suction tube which was used in the process. She later wrote: “For the briefest moment the baby looked as if it were being wrung like a dishcloth, twirled and squeezed. And then it crumpled and began disappearing into the cannula before my eyes. The last thing I saw was a perfectly-formed backbone sucked into the tube, and then it was gone” (*Johnson, Abby (2011). Unplanned. SaltRiver. ISBN 978-1-4143-3939-9.*)

She must have wrestled with her conscience, and nine days later she resigned from the organisation.

In 2012 she was received into the Catholic Church, and has become a strong pro-life campaigner, not only opposing abortion, but also the death penalty and euthanasia. Since her change of heart she has been attacked at a personal level by the anti-life organisation, who even took her to court to try to suppress her story, even winning a restraining order against her, although this was overturned a week later.

The film of her experience, entitled “Unplanned” was released in America in March 2019 with very little publicity, yet has become the fourth-highest grossing film in the US on its opening week-end. This in spite of nearly all the major TV networks refusing to show advertisements for it and Twitter suspending the film’s promotional account. It is clearly a film that powerful people don’t want us to see.

One of the most powerful tools that the news media have is their ability to suppress stories that do not fit with their world-view, and while there may be a degree of balance in the news media over party politics, the term “Political correctness” covers a much wider range of issues. Our western society has come to an accepted view on a number of matters, some of which command general agreement, such as the unacceptability of racism and anti-Semitism, but others such as climate change are disputed, and the media are able to suppress information that does not suit it. The sanctity of life in one such.

It would seem that there are no plans for a release of the film in the UK, though it may be released as a DVD. There is some pressure for a release in Ireland.

In the account of the conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus, there is a telling point. Saul hears a voice saying “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goad.” Saul asks “Who are you, Lord?”, and the reply comes: “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.” (*Acts 26:14-15*)

It is not difficult to translate this into the experience of Abby Johnson. “I am Jesus, whom you are trying to kill”, she hears from the ultrasound image.

Most of us have been moved by the beautiful pictures of the newly-born Archie, and we rejoice at the birth of our own children, nephews and nieces, grandchildren and great-grandchildren if we are fortunate enough to live to see them. The industry that calls itself “pro-choice” does not give the unborn child any choice in the matter, and would prefer not to use the word “child” or “baby”. When it comes to the unborn, that business is anti-choice and anti-life. The propaganda they produce is one-sided and would hide the truth about the death of unborn children

The story of Abby Johnson is one which is inconvenient to the way in which the majority of our society thinks, and its thinking is that inconvenient things must be done away with; in particular inconvenient pregnancies.

Life is God’s wonderful gift to us, and he has commanded us to treasure it (*See Exodus 20:13*). He has also given us this wonderful planet to be our home, and we must treasure that too. These are all part of what it means to be human, to be a part of God’s creation.

We show our gratitude to God, our true thanksgiving not just by what we do in Church and in our private prayer, but also through our involvement in our society, by our treasuring of life and of the planet on which we live, and teaching the next generation to be better than our own has been!



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

Sunday 12th May 2019
Fourth Sunday of Easter
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>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Special Intentions
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday Our Lady of Fatima	9.00 am	Mass	Mary Sugrue RIP
Tuesday St. Matthias	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Catherine Clarke
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Andrew MacDonald RIP
Thursday Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Madge Murray RIP
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Bridie Wall RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Elizabeth Parker RIP
	9.45 am	Confessions	
Sunday <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	9.00 am	Mass	David Donaghue
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £602.37. Thank you!

Standing Order gifts to the Parish:

Each week £380 is given through standing orders.

Gift Aid benefits to the parish:

The value of Gift Aid averages £133 per week.

Second Collection This Week:

Diocesan Priests' Training Fund.

Counters This Week:

M. Bonner, Mrs Morgan.

Cleaners This Week:

Aideen & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

Acts 13: 14, 43-52.

We must turn to the pagans.

Apocalypse 7: 9, 14-17.

The Lamb will be their shepherd.

John 10: 27-30.

I give eternal life to the sheep that belong to me.

Readings for Next Sunday

Acts 14: 21-27; Apocalypse 21: 1-5; John 13: 31-35. (Page 136)

During this season of

New Members of the Church;

Easter, we are asked

Human Work; Priestly Vocations;

to pray for:

Right Use of the Media; The Church.

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)

Help urgently needed: our Alpha course has begun and we desperately need some more people to join the cooking team (3 to 7.30pm Tues afternoon) and the washing up team (8 - 10pm). If you are able to help, even if it's not every week, please speak to Fr. Andrew or Maria Heath.

Please pray for the sick

Sylvia Marlow	Kelly-Ann
Cecilia Pereira	Robert Fleming
Fr Philip Swingle	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	Sylvia Clark
Joan Healy	Lily Butler
Jayne Miller	Rachel
Baby Lorenzo Diccico	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
Jennifer Ogbata	May Eamons
Stephen Aneke	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	Mary Rumsey
Paul Greaves	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Sue Dauksta	Catherine Stratten

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Fitzroy Burrell	Georgina Boyle
Madge Spice	Len Warrington
Elizabeth Wartmann	Augustine Keeffe
May Lewis	Herbert Butters
Betty Finn	Alexander Albon
Arthur Mawby	Mary Kinirons
Anthony Dwyer	Violet Gibson
Harry Paige	Paul Witty
Catherine Collard	Marie Townsend
Ernest Caillebotte	Peter Kenny
Madge Murray	Mary Mandley
Amy Ford	Patrick Kilbane
Christopher Malyszewicz	Grace Dibosa
Charles Bromwich	Angela Cotton
Peter Hanrahan	Thomas Grindley
Timothy Coughlan	Paula Yeomans
Winefride Adams	

POPE'S PRAYER
INTENTIONS FOR MAY

That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

Notices of Interest

The Repository: The Repository is open after both Sunday Masses. 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation cards are now on sale. *Kathleen Healey*



We welcome into the family of the Church
Lydia Tessa Bull and
Mateo Elijah Heath
who received Christian Baptism last week.
Please pray for them and their families.

Bible Alive for Easter is now available in the lobby area. Please try this publication - 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.**

May Rosary: During the month of May the Legion of Mary recites the Rosary in the homes of parishioners. There is a list in the porch - please write your name & address on it if you would like us to come and pray with you. Please also write a contact number, and a date and time that you would like us to visit.

A Day at Turvey Abbey: Saturday 18th May, 10am - 4pm. Day will include talks, praise & worship. Mass will be celebrated by Brother John. See poster for full details.

Summer Reflection Day at Turvey Abbey: Saturday 22nd June, 10am - 4pm. Talk by Br. John OSB, Mass, Prayers & more. Please see poster for full details.

Ecumenical Prayer Walk: The date has been set for Friday 7th June, 6.45 for 7.00 pm start. Gather at Park Avenue Methodist Church where we'll have a short time of prayer together before going out in twos and threes to pray for the local area. There will be some guidance before we set off & each group will have a designated area to cover. We will gather at Park Avenue Methodist Church for light refreshments & feedback at 8 pm.

Northampton Notre Dame Association Annual St. Julie Mass at St. Aidan's Church, Kingsthorpe, by kind permission of Canon Mark Floody, Tuesday 14th May, 7pm. Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the canonisation of St. Julie Billiart 22nd June 2019. Refreshments afterwards. All welcome.

Pentecost Novena: To promote prayer for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Free & easy to use resources are being offered by Northampton Diocese. www.northamptondiocese.org (follow links for 'Faith' and 'Evangelisation')

Bible Timeline - Spreading the Word of God's Kingdom: Sat. 13th July, 10am - 4pm at St. Gregory the Great. Includes presentation & testimonies, prayer & Mass. Morning & afternoon tea & coffee - please bring a packed lunch. No charge, but a collection will be made to defray costs. Please see poster for full details.

Mass for victims and survivors of abuse, their families and supporters at St Mary's in Woburn Sands at 12 noon on 12 October 2019. All victims and survivors of abuse, their families and supporters are invited to this Mass. The focus will be on healing, reconciliation and the forming of compassionate links with the Church. There will be light refreshments after the Mass.

Individual Meetings for Victims and Survivors, with Bishop Peter. Bishop Peter is offering to meet with victims & survivors, families & supporters from May 2019 & continuing on a bimonthly basis. For more details or to book a meeting with the Bishop, contact the safeguarding office on: 01604 723514.

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 June 1st) All welcome.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. Next meeting 12th June. All welcome.

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

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: Come and join our great bunch of musicians; the first 10 years' membership is free. Next practices are usually on the 1st Thursday of the month following evening Mass till 9pm : 6 June, 4 July, 1 Aug, 30 Aug* (instead of 5 Sep to prepare for the Feast of St Gregory), 3 Oct. Weekly practices start in Nov till Dec to prepare for Christmas. Alec

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. Friday classes will begin next Friday (17th May) at 6.30pm.!

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!

Catholic Basics Course: Part Three: The Moral Life 16 May, **Part Four: Prayer** 13 June. Join us for another day of engaging teaching with interaction & discussion. £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged), includes lunch. No qualifications needed - just interest, good will & a sense of humour! To book, contact admin@nores.org.uk or phone Jackie on 01582 723312.

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: The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7.00 pm, Monday 29th April 2019, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion - 2019 Next session will be 5th May. 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 parent is willing to become a helper, please contact Stella or Jean for details. No special prior qualifications or experience required, but DBS clearance will need to be obtained.

Confirmation Preparation: 27th April at Sacred Heart.

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:
277 <https://www.facebook.com/StGregsNorthampton>

This Sunday is sometimes known as “Good Shepherd Sunday”, and the prayer takes up the theme from the Gospel.

There are three couplets in the meaning of the prayer, the first a contrasting one: ‘humble’ and ‘brave’, the second is more obvious in the Latin: ‘perveniat’ (may reach) and ‘processit’ (gone before). The third is ‘flock’ and ‘shepherd’.

Today we hear in the Gospel the promise of Jesus: “I give them eternal life”. Our

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave shepherd has gone before.

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.

prayer is that in humility we may come to the fulfilment of that promise in the joys of heaven.

There is another allusion in this prayer in the words “lead us to share in the joys of heaven” in that there is a connection to the language of the traditional Roman marriage in which the bride was led to her husband’s house. May we be led to the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Scripture Readings 12th May 2019, 4th Sunday of Easter, Year C

The Antioch church sent Barnabas and Paul on mission. After visiting Cyprus, Barnabas’ birthplace, they arrived at Perga on the south coast of what is now Turkey, and travelled north to Antioch in Pisidia. Everywhere they went they spoke first to the Jews about Jesus as the climax of the whole Jewish history. Jesus who was killed by the Jewish leaders, but raised from the dead by God. At first many Jews listened attentively.

The processional psalm sings joyfully of God: “he made us, we belong to him”.

In the Book of Revelation John sees events in heaven which mirror events on earth. Witnesses persecuted for their beliefs do not suffer in vain: they will be vindicated and evildoers punished. Not vengeance, but God’s justice. And a message of hope: the

faithful of every nation will be rewarded with perfect life in God’s renewed creation.

In John’s Gospel, after Jesus had healed the man born blind, the Jewish leaders argued about Jesus, and asked him to say plainly if he was the Messiah. Jesus says the healing he does in the Father’s name testifies to him. He ends with a clear statement: “I and the Father are one” The Jews picked up rocks to stone Jesus: they understood Jesus was claiming to be God.

Psalm Response: **We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

(Acts 13: 14, 43-52; Psalm 99(100); Rev 7: 9, 14-17; John 10: 27-30)

Chris Oliver

Bible Remains a Challenge to Many Catholics

A recent international Biblical Congress held in Rome from April 23-26, 2019 has established that access to the Bible in local languages, as well as affordability, remains a major challenge to many Catholics around the world.

Fr. Emmanuel Chimombo, who was among the participants at the Congress said that an evaluation of the activities of the Catholic Biblical Federation during the Rome Congress also indicated the need to make the Bible more available to people with physical disabilities, especially the visually impaired and those with hearing and speaking challenges.

“In Africa, we have made a number of strides. For instance, through the Small Christian Communities, we have encouraged the reading of the Bible. The faithful have opportunities to listen to the Word of

God and be inspired according to one’s personal situation,” Fr. Chimombo said.

At the end of the Conference, President of Catholic Biblical Federation Cardinal Tagle, the Archbishop of Manila, Philippines, announced that the Federation’s Executive Committee has decided to mark 2020 the Year of the Word, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent December 1, 2019 until the feast of St. Jerome September 30, 2020.

The “Year of the Word” will be commemorated in our Diocese and throughout England and Wales, and the “Bible Timeline” courses that we have been running for several years past; first introduced to us by Fr Damien will be rolled out further as well as other initiatives, such as more encouragement to take the “Bible Alive” booklets.

Pontifical Biblical Institute

On the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the foundation of the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Pope Francis held an audience with the Professors and students of the Institute and with the participants in the Conference “Jesus and the Pharisees: An Inter-Disciplinary Revision.”

In his address, the Holy Father recalled the foundation of the Pontifical Biblical Institute, created by Saint Pius X, to be “a Centre of Higher Studies of the Sacred Scriptures in the City of Rome, to promote with the greatest possible efficacy the biblical doctrine and studies related to it, in keeping with the spirit of the Catholic Church” (Apostolic Letter *Vinea Electa*, May 7, 1909).

The Pontiff also pointed out that the Institute has worked since then to be faithful to its mission and has contributed to promote academic research and the teaching of biblical studies for students and future Professors, who come from some 70 countries.

Over the last years, the Institute has intensified its collaboration with Jewish and Protestant experts.

To Know One’s Neighbour

Pope Francis referred to the dialogue between Jews and Christians and the need to know one’s neighbour to love him. “Indeed, to love our neighbours better, we need to know them and to know who they are, we must often find the way to overcome old prejudices. Therefore, your Conference, relating creeds and disciplines with the intention of reaching a more mature and precise understanding of the Pharisees, will make it possible to present them in a more appropriate way in teaching and in preaching.”

Finally, the Holy Father hoped that the work of the participants would have “ample resonance within and outside the Catholic Church, and that your work may receive abundant blessings from the Most High or, as many of our Jewish brothers and sister would say, from *Hashem*.”