



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.”**



The Holy Spirit and Fire

There is another passage in St Luke's Gospel where he brings together the themes of Baptism and fire:

“I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!”
(Luke 12:49-50)

The Baptism which Our Lord speaks of here clearly is not the Baptism he has already received — rather it is the Baptism of his passion and death, and this is how St Paul understands our Baptism:

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”
(Romans 6:3-4)

This is why the Baptism of John is fundamentally different from the Baptism in the name of Jesus. St Paul comes to Ephesus and found some disciples. He says to them:

“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”
And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.”

(Acts 19:2-4)

John clearly could not baptise into the death of Jesus since it hadn't yet taken place.

There is a very clear link between the Holy Spirit and fire:

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

(Acts 2:1-4)

Fire has a number of uses; one is purely destructive, but this is not the fire that Jesus speaks of in the first passage above. We read in the prophet Malachi:

But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them

like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.

(Malachi 3:2-3)

Fire here is seen as a means of purification, and this is one way of understanding what Jesus says when he wishes that fire were kindled already.

When we read the passage from Luke's Gospel in context in chapter 12, we find that it comes just after Jesus has said:

“Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.”

(Luke 12:48)

In other words, those who need the fire of purification are those to whom much has been given but are not delivering that which is required.

We can, in fact rule out the destructive power of fire in the context of Baptism — destruction is not God’s plan for us! The fire of the Holy Spirit is the fire of Divine Love.

An ancient hymn for Pentecost has the line: “what is frozen warmly tend” (*J. M. Neale translation*). The Holy Spirit, which appeared in tongues of fire both warming and enthusing. In the world of nature, the process of warming makes atoms and molecules move faster. The warming of the Holy Spirit enthuses us to do more for God, to deliver that which God requires.

Recently there have been companion books helping us to understand the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The first was “Youcat”, an edition for young people (but actually suitable for everyone!), More recently there has been the “Kidscat”, designed for younger children and their parents. There is also the “Docat”, which is designed to help us to understand what God wants us to do — to deliver that which God requires.

In his preface, Pope Francis writes:

“Only conversion of heart can make our world, which is full of terror and violence, more humane. And that means patience, justice, prudence, dialogue, integrity, solidarity with victims, the needy, and the poorest, limitless dedication, love even unto death for the sake of the other.”

Pope Francis ends his introduction:

“And so I give you this magnificent little book, hoping that it might kindle a fire in you. I pray every day for you. Pray for me too!

(Pope Francis, Docat, page 13)

“Kidscat” is available from the repository, “Docat” can be ordered



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Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 13th January 2019 The Baptism of the Lord Parish Mass Book - Year C Page 50

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|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Sunday <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i> | 9.00 am 11.00 am | Mass Mass | Denis Costello RIP The Parish |
| Monday Feria | 9.00 am 11.00 am | Mass Funeral Service | Rose Kelly RIP David Linnell RIP |
| Tuesday Feria | 9.00 am | Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick) | Mary McCleish RIP |
| Wednesday Feria | 9.00 am | Mass | Jenny Grant RIP |
| Thursday St. Anthony | 9.00 am 6.00 pm 6.45 pm 7.00 pm | Celebration of Word & Communion Reception of the Body of Nancy Ginelle Benediction Mass | Mrs Kathleen Brown RIP |
| Friday Feria | 9.00 am 11.30 am | Mass Funeral Mass | Bill McQuillan RIP Nancy Ginelle RIP |
| Saturday Feria | 9.00 am 9.30 am | Mass Confessions | The Canonisation of Bl. Cyprian Tansi |
| Sunday <i>2nd Sunday of the Year</i> | 9.00 am 11.00 am | Mass Mass | The Parish Jack Hale RIP |

**Due to changed routines at St Andrew's Hospital,
the Wednesday service there is no longer regularly possible.**

Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £616.66. 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 This Week:

The Life House

Counters This Week:

M. Murtagh, L. Allen, Anna Smith.

Cleaners This Week:

Kathleen & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7.

He saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth.

Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22.

While Jesus, after his own Baptism, was at prayer, heaven opened.

Readings for Next Sunday

Isaiah 62: 1-5; 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11; John 2: 1-11. (Page 53)

**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)

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

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 Seemark | 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 | N. Donegan |
| Philomena Fraher | Michael Fraher |
| Maureen Smith | Edward Taylan |
| Fr. Malachy Eleanya | Peter |
| Catherine Stratton | Mary Rumsey |
| Nina Fenlon | |

**Anniversaries:
May they Rest in Peace**

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Sarah Carter | Ronald Harding |
| Betty O'Grady-Marshall | Norman Clarke |
| Edith Alexander | Joseph Murtagh |
| Regina Dickson | Margaret Partridge |
| Edward Daly | Agnes Branson |
| John Cawley | Maurice Oakley |
| Kay Paige | Patrick Donohoe |
| Patrick Fagan | Victor Brugger |
| Agnes Sharp | Larry West |
| Ellen Higginbottom | Phyllis Saunders |
| Joan Duggan | William Treacy |
| Josephine McGoff | Colin Chisholm |
| Guglielmo Apicella | Andrew Cooke |
| Veronica Wrighton | Mary Grant |
| Daniel Whitworth | Mark Ventour |
| Berta Pumroy | Gorda Hamilton |
| Maureen Cumberpatch | Rose Miller |
| Mary Loakes | Brigid Mapstone |
| Sr. Ann of Arundel | Colin White |
| Mabel Knight | Mary Stopforth |
| Patricia Priest | Liz Bass |
| Mary Hurley | Michael Clifford |
| Elizabeth McDonagh | Mary Simkus |
| Henryka Szecowka | |

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY

That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

The funeral of John Shoreland will be at the Cathedral this Thursday 17th January at 11.00 am

Notices of Interest

The Repository: The Repository has now reverted to its normal pattern - open after Sunday Masses. *Kathleen Healey*

Shared Bible Study: There will be our shared Bible Study to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Wednesday January 23rd, at the new Broadmead Baptist Church, with refreshments at 7.00 pm and the study starting at 7.30 pm

Margaret Refoy & Family would like to thank you most sincerely for your kindness, sympathy and Mass Intentions, which have been a source of great comfort to them at this sad time.

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 January & 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.**

The Big Sleep Out this year will be on **Friday 1st Feb, Abington Park**, by the Park Café. Please can you sponsor Siobhan O'Donovan who will be sleeping out this year? Even a small amount will be most useful. Sponsor forms will be at the side and back doors of the Church if you would like to support her in this amazing way to highlight the plight of our homeless neighbours. All proceeds will, of course, go to the Hope Centre. **If you would like to join Siobhan, you will be very welcome** – it'll give her someone to talk to & increase awareness! If you are interested, please contact Caryll in the office & she will pass on your details to Siobhan.

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.

Our Lady of Kibeho: 1981, at Kibeho College in Rwanda, a young girl claimed to have seen a vision of the Virgin Mary who warned her of the unimaginable: Rwanda becoming hell on earth. She was ignored by her friends & scolded by her school but then another student saw the vision, & another, & the impossible appeared to be true. Katori Hall's *Our Lady Of Kibeho* presents us with a haunting insight into the true events that captured the world's attention. A vibrantly theatrical meditation on faith and everyday miracles, it was hailed "the most important play of the year" by the Wall Street Journal when it premiered in New York in 2014. It is on at the Royal Theatre in Northampton from 12th January to 2nd February.

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 **Frid. 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 February 2nd**) All welcome.

Blessed Cyprian Tansi Novena: There is a novena of prayer from 12th to 20th January. Leaflets at the back of the church.

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

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

Tour of Our Lady of Walsingham: The Diocese of Northampton is first for the Dowry Tour of Our Lady of Walsingham in 2019! From Thursday 7th February to Saturday 9th February 2019 in the Cathedral Church of Our Lady & St. Thomas. Further details to follow.

Catholic Basics Course: Want to know more about your Faith? Join us for a basic introduction to the Catholic Faith in 4 parts: God, The Church, The Moral Life & Prayer. For each part there is a day of teaching with opportunities for interaction & discussion. Cost: £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged). Includes full lunch. No qualifications needed - just interest, good will & a sense of humour! Part I: Jan. 31, 10-3pm (9.30 for refreshments). NORES, 33 Westbourne Road, LU4 8JD. To book, contact admin@nores.org.uk or phone Jackie on 01582 723312

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

Choir Matters: Practices will be weekly from 1st Thursday in February, after Thurs. evening Mass. New members always welcome, as are the old ones! *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 7pm, Monday 21st January 2019, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion — 2019 Next session will be 12th January. Please remember to be at Mass each Sunday and at Christmas (Very important!).

Confirmation Preparation: Next session is on 19th January.

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

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The account of the Baptism of Jesus is recorded in three of the Gospels: (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:7-11 and Luke 3:21-22), and all of them tell of the “voice from heaven” describing Jesus as “my Son, the beloved”, and speaks of being “well-pleased” with Him.

Our prayer is that we too may be “well-pleasing” to God. The prayer makes no specific detail of the way in which we are to be “well-pleasing” to God, and for each of us, it will be different and specific.

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.

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.

So to make this prayer with true sincerity, we need also to be asking God to reveal to each of us individually what is required.

It is worth noticing that we are praying that we “may **always be** well-pleasing to you”. It is not a prayer that we **do** “well-pleasing” things to God, but that we may **“be”** well-pleasing, which is a permanent state, not just in particular actions.

Scripture Readings 13th January 2019, Baptism of the Lord, Year C

Writing in Babylon about 540 BC, second Isaiah majestically consoles Israel in its exile. God tenderly commands his attendants to comfort Israel and to prepare a sacred way for them to return to Jerusalem. He will lead his people to freedom across the desert in a new Exodus. The coming of God’s rule should be announced to the whole world, shouted from the mountain-tops.

The psalm magnificently praises and celebrates God's creative wisdom and power.

Titus worked with Paul and later administered the church in Crete. In this pastoral letter Paul advises Titus on setting up church structures and choosing suitable presbyters for each local church. All Christians, and especially Church leaders, are urged to lead godly lives. We should reveal God's love to others in our good

behaviour, while not disrupting the lives of others, in confident expectation of our redemption.

Luke saw us as living in a time of waiting, one of three phases he saw in salvation history. Luke's time of promise, the period of Israel, ended when John was put in prison by Herod, after John the Baptist's prediction that Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit. Jesus' baptism begins the period when this promise is fulfilled. Luke's Book of Acts describes his third phase, the beginning of the church.

Psalm Response:

**Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are.**

(Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 103(104); Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Luke 3: 15-16. 21-22)

Chris Oliver

Courses starting and resuming this week resuming — Timeline and Acts on Tuesdays

James: Pearls for Wise Living

James is one of the most practical books of the Bible. Its teachings speak loudly to those who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and their faith. This study offers “pearls for wise living” by applying the wisdom of James to our current day. For anyone who has struggled to live a truly Christian life, James offers a wealth of practical solutions for handling and even sanctifying everyday circumstances. Join us for **James: Pearls for Wise Living** at St Gregory's Church Hall beginning Monday 14th January 2019 at 1pm and continuing weekly until 1st April 2019 (except half term break on 18th February).

Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

Being Catholic takes more than simply believing in God or doing what he asks of us. Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer—he wants you to be his disciple and friend. To help you answer this call to deeper friendship with Christ join us for **Follow Me : Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John** at St Gregory's Sacristy beginning on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 10.00 am and continuing weekly until 18th March 2019 (except half term break on 19th February).

For more information or to register for **James: Pearls for Wise Living or Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John**, call Julie at 01604 456321 or via email: NN.BibleTimeLineTeam@aol.com. Study Guide for each course costs £22.

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

Saint of the week: St Anthony of Egypt

The life of Anthony will remind many people of Saint Francis of Assisi. At 20, Anthony was so moved by the Gospel message, “Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor” (*Mark 10:21b*), that he actually did just that with his large inheritance. He is different from Francis in that most of Anthony’s life was spent in solitude. He saw the world completely covered with snares, and gave the Church and the world the witness of solitary asceticism, great personal mortification and prayer. But no saint is antisocial, and Anthony drew many people to himself for spiritual healing and guidance.

At 54, he responded to many requests and founded a sort of monastery of scattered cells. Again, like Francis, he had great fear of “stately buildings and well-laden tables.”

At 60, he hoped to be a martyr in the renewed Roman persecution of 311, fearlessly exposing himself to danger while giving moral and material support to those in prison. At 88, he was fighting the Arian heresy, that massive trauma from which it took the Church

centuries to recover. “The mule kicking over the altar” denied the divinity of Christ.

Anthony is associated in art with a T-shaped cross, a pig and a book. The pig and the cross are symbols of his valiant warfare with the devil—the cross his constant means of power over evil spirits, the pig a symbol of the devil himself. The book recalls his preference for “the book of nature” over the printed word. Anthony died in solitude at age 105.

Reflection

In an age that smiles at the notion of devils and angels, a person known for having power over evil spirits must at least make us pause. And in a day when people speak of life as a “rat race,” one who devotes a whole life to solitude and prayer points to an essential of the Christian life in all ages. Anthony’s hermit life reminds us of the absoluteness of our break with sin and the totality of our commitment to Christ. Even in God’s good world, there is another world whose false values constantly tempt us.

(Acknowledgement to Franciscan Media)