



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

This is Holy Week

One of the favourite hymns of this season is “When I survey the wondrous Cross”, which ends with the lines: “Love so amazing, so divine demands my soul, my life, my all.”

“The *Lutheran Hymnal Handbook* includes this little narrative about the hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross:” “With regard to the practical application of the final stanza, Father Ignatius of St. Edmund’s Church in London is reported to have blurted to his congregation: ‘Well, I’m surprised to hear you sing that. Do you know that altogether you put only fifteen shillings in the collection bag this morning?’”

While Watts might not have been talking explicitly about money in the last line of his text, there is the expectation that we dedicate ourselves entirely to God, for God demands not just a piece of who we are, but “our soul, our life, our all.” This can be an incredibly difficult line to sing with any sense of honesty. Devotional author Jerry Jenkins writes in his book *Hymns for Personal Devotions*, “Perhaps it’s the distance between where Watts encourages me to be and where I truly am that makes this hymn so hard to sing. It’s a lofty and worthy spiritual goal to say that ‘Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all,’ but how short I fall!” (*Jenkins, 44*). And so as we sing this hymn of love and awe, we must sing it with a prayer in our hearts, asking God to enable us each day to live our life wholly for him.”

(www.hymnary.org website)

The question of how we give our “all” to Jesus is one which most of us living in the secular world find a constant struggle, but the week we call “holy” might be a good place to re-examine what we mean when we sing that line.

[There is a legend that one Sunday afternoon the young Isaac Watts complained about the deplorably poor quality of hymns sung at that time (around 1700), to which the pastor of his church responded: “I’d like to see you do better.” Isaac went up to his room, and a few hours later returned with his first hymn, in the following years wrote over 600 more, including three in our hymn book.]

This week we can, in a particular way live with Jesus. On Palm Sunday we begin the Mass in the hall, which for us represents the Mount of Olives, and we process from there to Jerusalem as Jesus did on the first Palm Sunday.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Jesus is to be found in Jerusalem frequently in the Temple. We can read about the events of these days in Matthew 21:18 - 26:14, Mark 11:12 - 14:9, Luke 19:47 - 22:6 and John 12:20-50.

We get our name for Thursday from the special teaching that Jesus gave during the Last Supper: “A new commandment I give you; that you love one another” (*John 14:34*). The Latin for ‘commandment’ is ‘mandatum’, from which we get the word ‘Maundy’.

But Maundy Thursday has much more than just that — it is the day of the institution of the Eucharist and the day when priests renew their commitment to service in the Church. It is the day when the Sacred Chrism and the other Holy Oils are blessed. There is a special Mass at the Cathedral at 11.00 on Thursday morning and the Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7.00 in the evening at St Gregory’s. At the end of the evening Mass we re-trace our footsteps on the previous Sunday to return to the Mount of Olives and to Gethsemane (in the hall) to “watch and pray” (*Mark 14:38*) with Jesus. “Could you not watch with me one hour?” (*Mark 14:37*)

However, the way in which each one of us truly obeys Christ’s New Commandment is one which needs to be worked out day by day in our Christian life. The works of mercy, as recounted in the story of the Last Judgement (*Matthew 25:35-36*) might be a good start. There is also a collection at the evening Mass which is for the charitable work of the Church in our own parish.

We call Friday “Good”. It is the day on which the infinite love of God was shown to its full depth — it is the day on which Jesus died so that we may have eternal life. It is the day on which God did the greatest good for humanity in surrendering the life of Jesus for us.

If we are to give our “all” to Jesus, this week would be a good time to make it a reality, sharing in the prayers of the Church in this week and following the life of Jesus.

The climax comes on Saturday evening with the Easter Vigil Mass, with baptisms and reception into the Church. This is the pivot of the Christian Year, the centre-point of our worship. For forty days we have been preparing for it and we shall celebrate it for the next fifty days. But the joy of Easter fills the entire year; it makes sense of life and of death and is the foundation of our faith. We are called to share that joy — one way would be to bring a friend to Alpha. (Details inside this newsletter, and forms available in church.)



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 14th April 2019

Palm Sunday

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	9.00 am	Mass	Danny & Marie-Jean
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Stations of the Cross	The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Thanksgiving for the Prayers and Thoughts of the Parishioners from Margaret Refoy & Family
	7.00 pm	Penitential Liturgy (Cathedral)	
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Catherine Clarke
	2.00 pm	Funeral Mass	Irmgard Wraxall
	7.00 pm	Penitential Liturgy (St Gregory's)	
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am 6.00 pm	Mass Confessions (Sacred Heart)	Nancy Ginelley RIP
Maundy Thursday <i>(Page 92)</i>	11.00 am 7.00 pm	Chrism Mass at the Cathedral Mass of the Last Supper— followed by procession to the Altar of Repose and Watching until Midnight.	The caring work in the parish.
Good Friday <i>(Page 95)</i>	10.00 am 3.00 pm 7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross for Children Procession of Witness (see posters) Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death, and Holy Communion. Stations of the Cross	
Saturday Holy Saturday		<u>There is no 9am Mass today</u>	
	9.00 pm	Easter Vigil (Page 103)	Goretti Smith's Intentions
Sunday <i>Easter Day</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am	Mass Mass	George Walsh The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £566.34. 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.

Ongoing Lent Collection for CAFOD:

Progress to be reported soon.

Good Friday Collection:

Holy Places

Counters This Week:

Mrs Quinn, A. Gibson.

Cleaners This Week:

Big Clean for Easter.

Readings for This Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-7.

I did not cover my face against insult. I know I shall not be shamed.

Philippians 2: 6-11.

He humbled himself but God raised him high.

Luke 22: 14-23:56.

The Passion of our Lord.

Readings for Next Sunday

Acts 10: 34, 37-43; Colossians 3: 1-4; John 20: 1-9. (Page 126)

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.

Victims and survivors of sexual abuse.

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.

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

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

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	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	Mary Rumsey
Paul Greaves	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Catherine Stratten	Eileen Howell

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Kathleen Morris	Patrick O'Rourke
Frederick Barford	Kitty Markey
Sr. Margaret	John Brennan
Carmela Apicella	Patrick Moyles
Joyce Malyszewicz	Lorraine Teague
Vincent Campbell	David Frost
Dermot O'Connor	Lilian Storr
Norah O'Rourke	Mary Quest
Mary Loughnane	Bernard Reeves
Thomas McKenzie	Alice Lambert
Frederick Downey	Margaret James
Edward Atkinson	Albert West
Franciszek Wawresta	Maura Byrne
Rachel Thompson	Fred Linnell
Eileen Bermingham	Carole Ryan
Margaret McDonnell	Mary Morris
Terence O'Farrell	Terence Byrne
Leonardo Brustenghi	John Murray
Trofinia Hewitt	Sybil Easton
Antonio Pesce	Dominic Mullan

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
FOR APRIL**

For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

Notices of Interest

The Repository: The Repository is open after both Sunday Masses. Easter cards are now available & 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation cards will be on sale from this week.
Kathleen Healey



We welcome into the family of the Church
Amelia D. Shkurti
who received Christian Baptism last week.
Please pray for her and her family.

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.**

Easter Flowers: There are envelopes for donations for flowers to decorate the church for Easter in the display area. Please return then to the Sacristy or put them in the collection.

Pilgrimage to Aylesford Friary, Kent: Saturday 1st May. A coach will leave St. Gregory's at 8am and return at about 8pm. Cost £13 per person. Please bring a picnic lunch. For details and to book a seat, please contact Maureen Salter (01604) 315112

CAFOD/Supporting Children With Cancer UK: Charity concert at St. Francis & St. Therese Church, NN4 0RZ, Friday May 3rd. Tickets £12.50 (including free glass of wine). Bar & Raffle. Full details on the notice board.

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.

Good Friday Walk of Witness: Starts at St. Alban's Church at 10:15am and ends at Christ Church at approximately 12 noon. Please see posters for full details.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children: protecting life from conception to natural death. The next meeting of the Northampton branch of SPUC will take place in the sacristy here at St. Gregory's at 7.00 pm on Friday 26th April. Everyone who would like to support the work and aims of SPUC is invited to attend or if you would just like to find out more about the organisation. At a time that when life is under attack at every level it is important that we work together to protect it under law and to promote the love of the unborn and vulnerable.

Head Teacher Opportunity at St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School. Please see poster & booklet for full details.

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 May 4th) All welcome.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. Next meeting 8th May. 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

St George's Charity Gala Dinner Dance in aid of the Karuri School Project, Nazareth House & the Beds & Northants MS Therapy Centre. Northampton Marriott Hotel; dancing to the Point Blank Band 10pm - Midnight. Dinner served 7.30pm, drinks available from 6.45. Cost £35 - 3-course meal, wine & dancing. Tickets & info markwilson58@hotmail.com or 07923528022

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.

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

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!

Piano Concert by Margaret Fingerhut Wednesday 1st May, 7pm, at Northampton School for Girls in aid of Northampton Town of Sanctuary. Tickets £12.50. See poster for 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: 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.

Vacancy Parish Youth Minister: We are delighted to advertise the role of Catholic Parish Youth Minister in the parishes of Ss Philip & James and Holy Cross, Bedford. This is a rare & exciting opportunity for a practising Catholic, with the right skills & experiences, to support & develop local young people in their faith & relationship with their parish. Details of the role can be found www.northamptondiocese.org/vacancies or 01604 714840. Closing date for applications will be 03/05/2019.

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 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.

There is a beautiful poetic pairing in the Latin which is lost in translation: “Carnem sumere” and “Cruce[m] subire”. This both links and contrasts “take flesh” and “submit to the cross”

This linking is a direct reference to the second reading at today’s Mass from the letter to the Philippians (2:6-11)

Almighty ever-living God,
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow
caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the cross,
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson
of patient suffering
and so merit a share in his Resurrection

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.

The reading speaks of the humility of Christ, and we pray that we may learn from him the lesson of patient suffering. However, the reading continues to speak of God raising Jesus high, and giving him the name above all names. Our prayer asks that we may be found worthy to have a share in this glory, the glory of the Resurrection. Our journey through Lent has brought us to the beginning of Holy Week. May we share in the joy of Easter.

Scripture Readings 14th April 2019, Palm Sunday Year C

In this suffering servant song Isaiah expresses the despondency of an exiled people apparently deserted by their God. But it is they who have fallen away. God has not gone back on his promise to them, and he will come to their help. But first they must turn back to him and put all their trust in him, in spite of their sufferings.

On the Cross Jesus uttered the first words of Psalm 22, which goes on to reflect his suffering. But rather than a cry of despair, the psalm expresses Jesus' complete confidence in his Father and praises the redemption bought by his Cross.

Paul pleaded for unity among the Philippians, divided by rivalry and personal vanity. He urged them to “do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather humbly regard others as Second Isaiah describes the new Exodus, the return from exile in

more important than yourselves”. Unlike Adam, Jesus did not try to be equal to God. Instead his crucifixion gives us the supreme example of unselfish love. Therefore he was raised to new life, as also will be those who follow his example.

Luke says that at the Last Supper Jesus declares he will “not drink wine until the kingdom of God comes”. Mark and John say that immediately before he died Jesus was given wine to drink from a sponge, then saying “It is finished”.

Psalm Response:

**My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?**

(Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21(22) ;Phil 2:6-11; Luke 22:14-23:56)

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 21st to 22nd June
Please come and bring a friend!

CAFOD update on Cyclone Idai

Thanks to the generosity of the Catholic community, our church network responded immediately to the devastating effects of Cyclone Idai. Getting people to safety and providing them with food, clean water and shelter.

We are so grateful to people like you for remembering your sisters and brothers in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi. Over the next few weeks, we will be focusing on four things:

- With over 1,400 reported outbreaks of cholera, we're providing clean water and soap, as well as advice on the importance of clean food and drink to prevent further spread.
- Many children were separated from their parents. We're protecting and reuniting them with their relatives.
- Access to rural areas is still challenging due to flooding and damage to bridges and roads. We're still reaching these people and providing emergency aid.

Going forward, our local partners are moving people, especially women and children into more permanent camps. They will be protected and can start rebuilding their lives.



March 25th 2020 — England re-consecrated as the Dowry of Mary

The recent visit to our Cathedral of the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham as part of the Dowry Tour is a preparation for the re-consecration of this country under its ancient title of “Mary’s Dowry”.

This is part of the total strategy of the New Evangelisation. What, you may ask is ‘new’ about reviving the ancient title of the Dowry of Mary? The “New Evangelisation” is not an evangelisation to a “new Gospel” — the Good News of Christ is always new and always the same. It speaks fundamentally about God’s love for us and how God wishes us to be fully reconciled to him. It speaks of how death has been conquered and how sins can be forgiven. It speaks of how God is calling us to a special relationship with him, and how we can live in such a way as to make the world a better place. It speaks of how God uses people to achieve his purpose on earth, and no one more so than the girl of Nazareth who we know as Our Lady, the Mother of God.

To help us better understand the place of Our Lady is God’s great plan of salvation, we are all invited to take part in the film series: “*Mary A Biblical walk the Blessed Mother*” which will be at the Institute in Great Billing on Mondays at 1.00 pm starting on 13th May

A Powerful Study on the Blessed Mother Begins on 13th May at the Institute, Great Billing