



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 Bishop's Ordination

It is inevitable that more people will want to be at the ordination of a bishop than can fit into most cathedrals! However the technology of live-streaming gives more people the chance to see the event, even if they are unable to be physically present. In any case, it may be that with the threat of coronavirus, people are better off watching from their own homes. By Thursday we may all be in self-isolation!

The ordination of a new bishop is rich with symbolism. It falls within the structure of the celebration of Mass, the first celebrated by the new bishop.

After the Gospel the bishop-elect is presented, and the Apostolic Letter from Pope Francis appointing bishop-elect David to Northampton is read out. Then follows the homily, after which the bishop-elect is asked to make promises to exercise the episcopal office faithfully.

- 1 To faithfully fulfil the episcopal office until death. This means that even in retirement, a bishop remains a bishop!
- 2 To preach the Gospel with constancy and fidelity. The task of the proclamation of the Gospel is the first specific responsibility laid on a bishop.
- 3 To guard the 'deposit of faith' (ie. the teaching of the Church). He is called to be a guardian of the truth, protecting the people of the diocese against heresy or error.
- 4 To build up the body of the Church. He is called to foster the unity of the Church within the diocese and to be a bond of unity with the Church in other dioceses and with his fellow-bishops.
- 5 To remain in obedient communion with the Pope.
- 6 To work with the priests and deacons of the diocese to guide the faithful in the ways of salvation; to be a spiritual father to the whole diocese.
- 7 To be welcoming and merciful to the poor, to strangers and to all who are in need. Therefore to be a figurehead and encouragement to the diocese in works of charity.
- 8 To seek out the lost and those who have strayed that they may return to the Lord's sheep-fold.
- 9 To be a man of prayer.

The last response is made asking the help of God, and this leads the entire congregation into the litany of the Saints, asking them to pray for the bishop-elect in his new ministry.

The central prayer of the ordination follows. It begins with a silent laying on of the hands of the presiding bishops. This is a gesture used on many different occasions, but all signifying the invocation of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit we are helpless.

While this prayer is said, the book of the Gospels is held open over his head. This liturgical action has been part of the Ordination Rite since ancient times, and it expresses the power of the Word of God over us. The life of each new bishop must be thoroughly imbued with the spirit of God's Word, which must be the foundation of his ministry.

There follow a series of symbolic actions; first the anointing of the new bishop's head, and then the giving of the book of the Gospels with the instruction to preach and teach. He is given his ring, a sign of fidelity to the Gospel and the Church, and then the mitre. The shape of the bishops' head-dress has changed over the centuries, and the present shape has a number of explanations. It has a front and a back, and these can be understood as representing the two testaments of the Scriptures. The front and the back are separated, and this can be seen as a representation of the flame of the Holy Spirit which came down at Pentecost. The prayer with which it is given is probably closer to the true meaning — it speaks of the "splendour of holiness", and also of a "crown of glory". Eastern Rite Catholic and Orthodox bishops wear a mitre which more closely resembles a crown. The prayer is that the splendour of holiness may shine forth in the new bishop. He is given his pastoral staff, the sign of his responsibility as the chief pastor of the diocese, and finally, is seated in the Cathedra, the bishop's chair, from which the Cathedral takes its name.

The word "Cathedra" derives from the Greek word simply meaning a seat. It has no specifically religious significance, but when it came into the Latin language, denoted a chair with arms, such as that used by the Emperor or his representative. It was in this context that it later became the word used for the bishop's chair.

In the 1st century a rabbi would teach sitting down, and we know that Jesus did this (*See Matthew 5:1-2*). Likewise in the early years of the Church, the preaching / teaching of a bishop was done sitting down, not standing up at an ambo or in a pulpit. The Cathedra then also represents the teaching authority of the Church, localised in the bishop. This is what makes the "ex Cathedra" teaching so significant.

May God give all grace to David, our Bishop-elect.



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

**15th March 2020
Third Sunday of Lent
Parish Mass Book - Year A
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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
Pastoral Assistant:
Maria Heath
E-mail: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk

Please pray for the sick:

Sunday <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.30 pm 4.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass Stations of the Cross	The Parish Canonisation of Bl. Tansi Zimbabwean Community
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Barbara & Bartley Cloherty RIP
Tuesday St. Patrick	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Canonisation of Bl. Tansi
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Patricia Evans RIP
Thursday St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00 am 6.45 pm 7.00 pm	Celebration of Word & Communion Benediction Mass	Legion of Mary's Intentions
Friday Feria	9.00 am 7.30 pm	Mass Stations of the Cross (St. Matthew's)	Margot & Midge McKenzie RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Elizabeth Parker RIP
Sunday <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Mass Station of the Cross	Ivan Watts & Anonietta Mansi The Parish

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Mary Bosworth	Sydney Beech
Leonard Osbourne	Hugh Gallagher
Bridget Williams	Bernard Powell
Petula Lynch	Gwendolen Cox
Eileen Doran	Hugh McDonald
Betty Heyward-Jones	Keith Nicholas
Elizabeth Priestly	Brigid Morris
Catherine English	Annie Leech
Patrick O'Beirne	Mary Perrett
John Williams	John Dunnann
Roy Gayton	Mary Howells
Marguerite Thorpe	Annie White
Teresa Ramsbottom	Rose Bett
Michael O'Connor	Phyllis Timms
Frances Diamant	Job Denton
Barbara Coughlan	Ronald Watkins
Baby Dylan Moore	Patrick Summers
Margaret Smith	Mary Tate
Henry Woodcock	Annie King
Stanley Kemp	Dante Davighi

Pray for God's blessing for Bishop Peter as he continues his ministry, and for our bishop-elect, Canon David Oakley
O Lord, who for the feeding of your flock have chosen your servant David as our bishop elect, grant him, we pray, a spirit of counsel and fortitude, a spirit of knowledge and piety, so that, by faithfully governing the people entrusted to him, he may build up in the world the sacrament of the Church.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH
We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

If you want Holy Water to take home, the bucket is in the Sacristy.

Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £334.94. 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.

Second Collection Last Week:

CAFOD. To be reported here shortly.

Counters This Week:

M. Murtagh, L. Allen, A. Smith.

Cleaners This Week:

George & Another.

Readings and Rotas for this Sunday

Exodus 17: 3-7.

Give the water to drink.

Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8.

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

John 4: 5-15, 19-26, 39-42.

"I who am speaking to you, I am he".

Readers:

9am: Paul Sefton, Cliff Snelling;

11am: Patrick Yau, Frances Nyale.

Eucharistic Ministers:

9am: Dorothy Pallett, HW, Anne Gibson, Chris Bird;

11am: Roseanne Ogbata, Maureen Moriarty, Harriet Zziwa, Beth Johnson.

Readings and Rotas for next Sunday

1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 9: 1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38.

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Readers:

9am: Marcel Brown, Stephen Pieterse;

11am: Susan Yau, Jim Alibone.

Eucharistic Ministers:

9am: Paul Sefton, Pru Hill, Krysia Wilson, Dorothy Pallett.

11am: Anna White, Michael White, Denise Johnson, Chris Oliver.

During this season

Candidates for the Sacraments; Penitents & Wanderers;

of Lent We are

Women's World Day of Prayer;

Asked to pray for

The Needy & Hungry of the World.

Are you new to the Parish? You are welcome!

Please introduce yourself to the Clergy

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.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 40 Hours prayer.

Notices of Interest

The Repository: St Patrick's Day and Easter cards are now available. 1st Communion and Confirmation cards & items will be on display from Sun. April 5th. Any queries phone Kathleen Healey 01604 629103.

Bible Alive for Lent & Easter 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.**

Important Car Park Notice: Please do not block the car park. This is a legal requirement of the Health & Safety Act. If there are spaces, please fill them, if there are no spaces please park elsewhere. Last Wednesday, two cars were blocking the interior of the car park (there was at least one empty parking bay), and one was actually blocking the exit! **This cannot continue, and regular offenders may be asked to park elsewhere.** *Caryll (Parish Secretary)*

Hope Centre: The Hope Centre can no longer accept pillows, duvets, sheets or towels. Please do, however, continue to donate clothes – especially coats. Clothing can be left at the Hope Centre Charity Shop in Abington Street. Thank you!

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group meets 1st Saturday of every month in the Sacristy, 10am. **Next meeting April 4th.** All welcome.

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

Lenten Reflection: You are invited to join pupils from the Northampton Catholic Schools on their Lenten journey on Thursday 26th March, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in Cathedral of Our Lady Immaculate & St Thomas of Canterbury, Primrose Hill, Northampton, NN2 6AG: take time to be with Jesus through the eyes of our young people in reflection, prayer and music.

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. Anyone able to come during the afternoon would be especially welcome. **Throughout the winter, this will be in the Sacristy, which should be more comfortable.**

Vocations Day: The Diocese of Northampton is running a Vocations Day for men who may be thinking about the possibility of priesthood. This will take place at Holy Family Church, Luton, LU3 3TA, on Saturday March 21st from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Please contact Fr Andy at vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org if you would like to attend. See poster on noticeboard.

Rosary Link prayer for vocations: The next Rosary Link Mass here will be at 7.00 pm on Monday 1st June. Also at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour at Great Billing at 10.00 am on Saturday 20th June, Saturday 5th September and Saturday 5th December.

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.

Forthcoming Alpha Course: The next Alpha Course is due to start on Tuesday April 21st. Much the easiest way to enrol is through the web-site at <http://stgregory.org.uk/alpha/>. In view of the current projections for the Coronavirus pandemic, it may be that we have to postpone this course. However, those who have registered will be kept informed about any change of date.

Choir Matters: The next practice will be for Lent preparation for Easter: Mar 19, 26, Apr 2, followed by 1st Thurs. of the month: May 7, etc. New members are always welcome especially if they sing and are good at hill-walking (steps to the choir gallery are steep). *Alec*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation Session will be 7pm, Monday 23rd March, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion – 2020: The next preparation session for children is on Saturday 28th March at Sacred Heart Church Hall, from 2.00 pm until 4.30 pm. It is also essential that children attend Mass each week.

Confirmation – 3rd Preparation Session: Saturday 21st March at Sacred Heart Church hall from 3pm-6.30pm. **Parents must attend the Parent's Briefing at 3pm**

SPUC Pro-Life Chain. Sat. 25th April. SPUC Northampton are forming a Pro-Life Chain on St Peters Way. It will be a silent act of witness to the lives of 9 million unborn babies killed by abortion since the implementation of the Abortion Act 1968. Please join us. To make the chain we need a min. 6 people & being a group of four we need your help. Please help us in this witness, from 11am to 1pm but you could join us at any time. If you can help, please contact William wpcurrie@btinternet.com or 499833, or give your name to Fr. Andrew. If we could save the life of just 1 baby or help a woman who has suffered trauma following an abortion then there will be great rejoicing in Heaven. **Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Unborn - pray for us.**

During Lent! There will be a course on Tuesday evenings through Lent using the talks by Bishop Robert Barron entitled "The Mystery of God". It would be particularly suitable to all who have done the Alpha course, although everyone is welcome. Starts at 7.30 pm. On Fridays through Lent there will be our usual shared Stations of the Cross with St Matthew's, starting at 7.30 pm. **Information on local courses can be found at: www.bible-groups.info/timeline**

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

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.

Thomas Becket class of 1980 are holding a 40 year reunion at Semilong working men's club on 11th July. 7pm-late. Tickets are £6 which include a light buffet and are available from Eventbrite, Thomas Becket class of 1980: 40 years later reunion... <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thomas-becket-class-of-1980-40-years-later-reunion-tickets-89639505173?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Bishop Peter leaving: Bishop Peter left last Tuesday and as he leaves Northampton we pray that God will bless him in his retirement. Last Friday, Bishop-elect David moved into Bishop's House and his Episcopal Ordination takes place on Thursday at the Cathedral. **Regrettably, those wishing to attend his ordination will be unable to do so due to the capacity restrictions of the Cathedral so admission is by ticket only, however the liturgy on the day will be available via live streaming.**

Live streaming from the Cathedral: It is planned that on Thursday morning the episcopal ordination of bishop-elect David will be shown on the screen in church. Adoration will be suspended during this time.

Scripture Readings 15th March 2020, 3rd Sunday in Lent, Year A

Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt about 1300 BC, probably under Ramses II. God gave them food and water while they wandered in the wilderness. But they grumbled, losing faith that “God was with them”. “Massah” means “test”, “Meribah” means “quarrelling”. As this was before they made the covenant with God by Sinai, they are not punished yet. But this generation will not enter the promised land.

The Psalm invites us to praise and worship the Lord daily, for he is our king and shepherd. We must not lose faith in God, as did the Israelites on their desert journey.

Paul tells the Romans that God loves and forgives us, just as he continued caring for the ungrateful Israelites. Christ died for us, proving God’s love, gaining pardon for all humanity and access to his grace through faith.

We hear the first three gospels over three years, but we hear parts of John’s gospel every year during Lent and Easter. Today Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at the well. John carefully moves the characters on and off stage as the woman gradually comes towards faith in Jesus. Then, while still unsure, she goes and brings the rest of the Samaritans in her town to hear this man, wondering “Could he possibly be the Messiah?”

Psalm Response: **O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

(Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 94(95); Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42)

Chris Oliver

The Season of Creation

Actions to Live Simply :

Tip No. 47: Living Sustainably with creation: If you develop a cough or have a temperature of over 37.8 degrees, Self isolate yourself for 7 days. Keep in touch with your community by telephone (for company and deliveries).

Tip No. 48: Living Sustainably with creation: try to buy only seasonal organic vegetables and dried fruit to minimise CO2 emissions by international transport.

The CAFOD Lent fast day appeal will help to support the healthcare work in Zimbabwe, and CAFOD has already given £50,000 in emergency response. Pope Francis has been reminding us that the poorest people suffer disproportionately from climate change and natural disasters; please be generous, and keep up the fast each week during Lent.

**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**

Saint’s days this week — St Patrick and St Joseph

The story of St Patrick is well-known, and his feast is kept in event part of the world. Amidst the shamrock and Guinness, we must remember above all that he was a great missionary, and that today the same missionary spirit is needed in the Church. Although brought up in a Christian household, as a teenager he was not an active believer when he was captured and taken into slavery to Ireland. It was during this time in captivity that he really came to faith. Years later, after becoming a priest and later a bishop, he returned to Ireland to proclaim the Gospel there.

St Joseph’s story is told in the scriptures, and we have a picture of an honest man, and above all, the man who protected Mary and Jesus. When he might have rejected Mary, he did not, and when Jesus was threatened for his life by Herod, took him and Mary to safety in Egypt.

In Patrick and Joseph we see two qualities for our new bishop. We see in Patrick a willingness to take personal risks to proclaim the Gospel, and in Joseph a determination to keep the Body of Christ safe. May Saints Patrick and Joseph pray for Bishop-elect David.

The Year of the Word

DIOCESAN SCRIPTURE FESTIVAL DAY

June 6th is still a long way off, but dates do seem to have a habit of taking us by surprise. Please do indicate your interest in coming to Wordfest by signing the list in the display area. It is now twelve weeks away, and there is a risk that this might be just when the coronavirus infection level is at its peak. As with the Alpha course after Easter, whether Wordfest has to be postponed or done in a different way cannot be decided until nearer the time. However, signing the list and blocking the date in your diary is a good thing to do.

As reported last week, we have a considerable reserve to buy tickets; anyone who would like to go is asked to put their name on the list in the display area, together with the number of adults and children who would go. Contact will be made by email, and a block booking will be made by the parish.

Whatever happens with Wordfest; there will be more Bible study courses starting in the autumn. We will certainly be running the

basic “Bible Timeline” course, and this really is the best place to start. This is followed by the course on Matthew, and then the course on Acts. These are all long courses, but after doing them, we have a variety of shorter courses on other books in the Bible; Psalms from the Old Testament, Romans, Ephesians, James and Revelation from the New Testament. We also have a course on the Mass, on Our Lady, on early Church History. There is also a new course: *Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life*. Anchored in the life of Christ as presented in the Gospels, this study explores the entirety of Jesus’ life—who he is, what he is really like, what he taught, what he did for our salvation, and what all of this means for us as Catholics today.

In addition to these courses, we have Bishop Robert Barron’s course on Catholicism and on the mystery of God. There will be no shortage of opportunities; please plan to make use of at least some of them!

