



# 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

# “Rejoice with me”



Each year the Church in England and Wales celebrates Home Mission Sunday. It is an opportunity to inspire us all to share the Good News we have received. Today we are encouraged to take to heart the invitation to ‘Rejoice with me’. This joyful invitation comes from two of the three people mentioned in the Gospel of the day. Through this short phrase, we are invited to experience the joy of finding something, or someone, that had been lost. How wonderful it would be if Catholic parishes responded to this invitation by celebrating with the people who have encountered Christ and come home to their parish community this Home Mission Sunday. Please remember that those who are ‘lost’ are not just Catholics who are no longer attending Mass; they are all those who have lost their way in the twists and turns of life; those who see no direction ; who perhaps see life as a dreary treadmill or who

have found that the world of materialism and consumerism offers no lasting happiness.

### **Rejoice with Me**

Every party or celebration is someone saying to those around them ‘rejoice with me’, whether a birthday, anniversary or thanksgiving. If you have had even one person encounter Christ and come home, through the RCIA programme or encounter Christ through a programme like Alpha.

Our next Alpha begins this Tuesday, and the evenings begin with a shared meal, which is a good centre of a celebration. Alpha is an opportunity for people to assess their life: the first session asks the question: “Is there more to life than this?”



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

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019**  
**Twenty Fourth Sunday of the Year**  
**Parish Mass Book - Year C**  
**Page 74**

**Priest:**  
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015  
E-mail: [priest@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:priest@stgregory.org.uk)  
**Deacons:**  
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
E-mail: [mvf@btinternet.com](mailto:mvf@btinternet.com)  
Rev Rory Stewart (ret) ☎ 408407  
**Pastoral Assistant:**  
Maria Heath ☎ 07952 040830  
E-mail: [maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk)

<b>Sunday</b> <i>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Brendan Moan
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday SS Comelius & Cyprian	9.00 am	Mass	Kathleen Healey's Intentions
Tuesday St. Robert Bellarmine	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Antonio Deso
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Robin Joseph John McGovern RIP
	11.00 am	Funeral Mass	
Thursday St. Theodore of Canterbury	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Rodney Brewer RIP
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday SS Andrew Kim Taegon & Companions	9.00 am	Mass	James Lynskey
Saturday St. Matthew	9.00 am	Mass	Michael Fraher
	9.45 am	Confessions	
<b>Sunday</b> <i>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	Nancy Ginelley RIP

**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 Seamark	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
May Murtagh	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 Stratten	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
Margaret M	Breege Manix

**Your Offering To The Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £855.49. 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 This Week:** Home Mission Sunday  
**Counters This Week:** Paul & Clare Sefton, C. Stratten.  
**Cleaners This Week:** Big Clean.

**Readings for This Sunday**

**Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14.** *The Lord relented.*  
**1 Timothy 1: 12-17.** *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*  
**Luke 15: 1-32.** *The younger son returned and was welcomed.*

**Readings for Next Sunday**

**Amos 8: 4-7; 1 Timothy 2: 1-8; Luke 16: 1-13. (Page 77)**

**During this season of Ordinary Time, Autumn, We are asked to pray for:** Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest; The Spread of the Gospel; Victims of War Prisoners & Their Families; Young People.

**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**

**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

Margaret Warnes	John McGill
Josephine Gilmartin	Patrick Purcell
Catherine Fleming	Gerald Gardner
Charles Clarke	Alfred Robinson
Frederick Burke	H. Brierley
Columba McCart	Trevor Thompson
Celia McNally	Kevin White
Thomas Hallahan	Mary Fallon
Margaret Hollowell	Ellen Ihme
Miklos Becker	John Rand
Hugh Talbot-Graham	Rodney Brewer
Thomas Sheridan	Eileen Coghlan
Bernard Browne	Adelaide Scanlon
Geraldine Blay	James O'Connor
Bridget O'Keefe	Peter Ryan
William Costello	

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER**

That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.

# Notices of Interest

**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 September & October 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.**



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Raymond Mateei Mitrica  
Amelia Beatrice Burcea  
And Dasha Evangeline Rajasinghe  
who received Christian Baptism recently.  
Please pray for them and their families.

**2020 Office Diary** has arrived early! If you know that you will need to book a Mass Intention for 2020, this is the time to do it – before the dates get taken!

**The Hope Centre** are looking for empty ice cream tubs and margarine tubs (NOT yoghurt pots). Please continue to donate only the large ice cream tubs and margarine tubs, as these can be used for placing dinners and puddings in for the homeless. Thank you!

**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.

**Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life:** Walsingham, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 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:** The next Baptism Preparation Session will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 7pm, in the Sacristy.

**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 today and next Sunday after either Mass. The main preparation sessions will take place on seven Saturdays leading to First Holy Communion in May 2020.

**Confirmation Preparation:** Those interested in Confirmation next year are invited to join the Youth Alpha programme.

**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 October 5<sup>th</sup>. All welcome.**

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting October 9<sup>th</sup>.** 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.

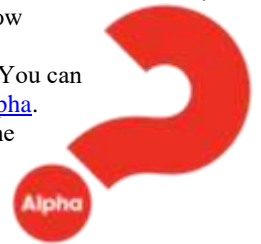
**Choir Matters:** Practices are usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month following evening Mass till 9pm: 3 Oct. & then weekly practices until Dec to prepare for Christmas. *Alec*

**Tots @St Gregory's:** If you have charge of a pre-school baby or child on Tuesday mornings why not come along to Tots @ St Gregory's which runs in the parish hall from 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 and begin again on Tuesday 10th September.

**Notre Dame Association:** Tues. 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2.30-4.30 pm. at St. Matthews Church Room. September Tea Party. 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

**Alpha in the Autumn** The next Alpha will be in the autumn, starting this Tuesday and running on Tuesday evenings until 3<sup>rd</sup> December with a break on 29<sup>th</sup> October. There is also an overnight session from the evening of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> to after lunch on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 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!



**Helpers needed for Alpha:** If you are able to offer help for the Alpha course starting on Tuesday, please talk to Maria Heath. Those who have helped in the past will tell you that they greatly enjoyed the experience — there was always laughter coming from the kitchen!

## Autumn Courses at St Gregory's:

Monday at 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Catholicism	starts 16 <sup>th</sup> September
Monday at 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm	Acts	starts 16 <sup>th</sup> September
Tuesday at 10.00 am – 12 noon	Psalms	starts 24 <sup>th</sup> September
Tuesday at 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm	Alpha	starts 17 <sup>th</sup> September
Wednesday at 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Matthew	starts 18 <sup>th</sup> September

## Autumn Course at Sacred Heart:

Tuesday at 10.15 am	Bible Timeline	starts 17 <sup>th</sup> September
---------------------	----------------	-----------------------------------

**More information on local courses can be found at:**

[www.bible-groups.info/timeline](http://www.bible-groups.info/timeline)

## Youth Alpha will also run this autumn: (5.30 pm – 7.00 pm)

Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Life: Is this it?
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Jesus: Who is Jesus?
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Cross: Why did Jesus die?
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Faith: How can we have faith?
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Prayer: Why and how should I pray?
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Bible: Why and how do I read the Bible?
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Follow: How does God guide us?
	Spirit: Who is He and what does He do?
	Fill: How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Evil: How can I resist evil?
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Healing: Does God heal today?
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Church: What about Church and telling others?



This prayer dates from the 6<sup>th</sup> century, but only found its way into the Missal in 1970; an example of the way in which revised liturgy following Vatican II drew on the historic riches of the Church.

The phrase “with all our heart” reminds us of Our Lord’s teaching on the ‘greatest commandment’; “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart” (*Matthew 22:37, echoing Deuteronomy 6:5*).

Look upon us, O God,  
Creator and ruler of all things,  
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,  
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

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 serving of God springs from truly loving him — a love that does not lead to action is not a true love at all. (*See 1 John 3:18*)

The word “feel” does not mean a ‘nice feeling’. The original word here means to experience. God’s mercy is not about just ‘feeling’ forgiven; it is about actually being forgiven. .

## Scripture Readings 15th September 2019, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Earlier in the Book of Exodus God had given Moses the Ten Commandments and many other instructions, which the people had covenanted to obey, sealed by sprinkling sacrificial blood. During Moses’ second ascent of Sinai God wrote the Commandments on stone tablets. Meanwhile the people were already disobeying the first Commandment by worshipping a golden calf. No wonder God was angry – Moses pleaded with God not to let the Egyptians win after all. God relented – but Moses then angrily broke the tablets and God had to write them again later!

In this most famous penitential psalm we beg pardon for our sins, ask to be restored to grace and purity, and promise to make God’s mercy known to others.

Over the next 7 weeks we hear from the letters to Timothy attributed to Paul, giving detailed instructions for organising the developing Christian communities. At that time we hear about only ‘deacons’ and ‘presbyter-bishops’ as church leaders. ‘Presbyter’ simply means ‘elder’. The Greek *episcopi* means ‘overseer’ or ‘overlooker’. Later a three tier structure developed: Deacons, Presbyters, Bishops.

In the Gospel Jesus also shows how communities are to be managed: do not allow any members to be lost – the father runs to welcome back his prodigal son. Perhaps the most moving image we have of God.

Psalm Response: I will leave this place and go to my father.

(Ex 32:7-11, 13-14 Ps 50(51):3-19 Tim 1:12-17 Lk 15: 1-32)

Chris Oliver

# The Season of Creation

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

# The Year of the Word



Earlier this year there was a survey conducted by the Bishops entitled “Our Bible and You”. There were over 1,600 responses, and the summary of the results has been published.

One of the serious findings is that 41% of those who responded said that are not sure where to begin with the Bible. It is precisely these that the Bible Timeline courses are designed to help. Anyone who feels that they are part of that 41% is particularly recommended to join the course that starts on Tuesday morning at Sacred Heart (10.15 am).

Another of the findings of the survey is that only 34% see the Bible as important to the Catholic Faith. An important passage from the documents of the Second Vatican Council states:

“The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she venerates the Body of the Lord, in so far as she never ceases, particularly in the Sacred Liturgy, to partake of the Bread of Life and to offer it to the faithful from the one table of the Word of God and the Body of Christ. She has always regarded, and continues to regard the Scriptures, taken together with Sacred Tradition, as the supreme rule of her faith” (*Vatican II, Dei Verbum §21*).

More encouragingly, a small majority (51%) of Catholics say that they read the Bible daily outside Church. There are many ways of personal Bible reading; one is to follow the daily readings of the Church with a weekday Missal or through one of the many smartphone apps or online guides such as Universalis, or Laudate.

It is not generally recommended to start at the beginning with Genesis and plan to continue until reaching Apocalypse. This is because the books of the Bible do not appear in exactly chronological sequence, and some sort of a guide is really necessary. Again, this is where the Timeline course is a great help.

It is probably better to study one book of the Bible at a time with the help of a commentary — again, see the courses on offer opposite.

It is good to see that 84% of respondents say that it is important to our faith to tell others about Jesus. As we are on the brink of starting our new Alpha course, and that next month has been dedicated as an “Extraordinary Mission Month” by Pope Francis, this is very welcome. The Bible is a wonderful treasure of the Church, and not one to be hidden away like an investment in a bank vault. It is like the pounds that the servants were given (*Luke 19:11-27*). It is not for hiding or burying!

