



# 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

# The Spirit of Truth

The opening prayer speaks of the “Word of Truth”, and in the Gospel we hear Jesus speak of the “Spirit of Truth”. Jesus describes himself as “The Way, the Truth and the Life” (*John 14:6*), and St Paul, in a beautiful passage towards the end of his letter to the Philippians says: “Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things . . . and the God of peace will be with you.” (*Philippians 4:8-9*)

“The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the “hierarchy of the truths of faith”. The whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the way and the means by which the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to men “and reconciles and unites with himself those who turn away from sin.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, §234*)

What we are celebrating today; the mystery of God Himself is the central truth; the Truth of all truths. In understanding the concept of “hierarchy of truths”, it is not that some truths are “more true” than others; it is that our understanding that some truths flow from other truths. The truth of the Holy Trinity — three in one; three persons in total unity is a revelation of divine love; that “God is love” (*1 John 4:16*). This love cannot be simply the love of itself, because love is by nature inclusive. This love is manifested in God’s love for his creation, and was poured out on mankind in the person of Jesus himself. Thus the incarnation, and Jesus’ sacrificial death and resurrection form the next layer of this hierarchy of truths. Flowing on from this is the existence of the Church, the body of Christ still on earth (*See 1 Corinthians 12:27*). Through the Church, the divine love is mediated in the Sacraments, through prayer and in pastoral care.

These truths lead us on to the next; the infinite dignity of the human person. Our concern for the unborn and our opposition to abortion and euthanasia, and opposition to capital punishment as well as our involvement in the care of the marginalised and in overseas development are a direct consequence of this truth. All our moral teaching and social teaching spring from this truth.

Embracing all these truths takes us back to the Holy Trinity, and the essence of unity. The truths themselves form a unity of the Faith, and

speak to us of unity as a virtue in itself because it is of the very nature of God Himself.

It is concerning that many people speak of a “post-truth” era. The idea of “post-truth” is that what matters is not any provable reality, but how people feel about it. This was exemplified by a politician being interviewed about the growing use of food-banks, and his response that what he saw were people in growing prosperity.

President Trump said in an interview that “I don’t see any protest, I did see a small protest; very small, so a lot of this is fake news”. The reality is that tens of thousands of people actually protested.

This is the reality of what Pope Benedict XVI was frequently warning us about; what he calls “relativism”. Truth is limited to what the individual sees or feels.

An attempt to bring a private prosecution against Boris Johnson for “lying” about £350 million a week being given to the European Union was rejected by the High Court, and although their reason has not yet been given, the clear message is that it is acceptable for politicians to lie.

“Post-truth” is not a recent idea:

“in the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily; and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods.”

These words were published in 1925, having been dictated by Adolf Hitler while he was in prison. It is concerning that this book, “Mien Kampf” has recently become a best-seller in Germany.

Our feast today in which we honour the very nature of God Himself is not just a recognition of a particular teaching of the Church; it speaks to us about our human situation. It would be good for our politicians to take note of this,

The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of the importance of truth (Paragraphs 2464 to 2513). We are all accountable to the Truth.

If truth itself is set at no value, we set God at no value, and then we have nothing worth valuing at all.



22 Park Avenue North  
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**Website:** [www.stgregory.org.uk](http://www.stgregory.org.uk)

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019**  
**Trinity Sunday**  
**Parish Mass Book - Year C**  
**Page 30**

**Priest:**  
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<b>Sunday</b> <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	Keith Pullen RIP
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Irmgard Wraxall RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Betty Smith
Wednesday Dedication of the Cathedral (Page 126)	9.00 am	Mass	Mary Rumsey
Thursday St. Alban	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Josie Walsh
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday St. Aloysius Gonzaga	9.00 am	Mass	Rosa Anyile RIP
Saturday SS John Fisher & Thomas More	9.00 am	Mass	Joe Abbott RIP
	9.45 am	Confessions	
<b>Sunday</b> <i>Corpus Christi</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Roy Sedgwick RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	3.00 pm	Corpus Christi Procession (Billing)	

**Your Offering To The Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £701.73. 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:** Day for Life  
**Counters This Week:** M. Bonner, Mrs Morgan  
**Cleaners This Week:** George & Another.

**Readings for This Sunday**

**Proverbs 8: 22-31.** *Before the earth came into being, Wisdom was born.*  
**Romans 5: 1-5.** *To God, through Christ, in the love poured out by the Holy Spirit.*  
**John 16: 12-15.** *Everything the Father has is mine; all the Spirit tells you will be taken from what is mine.*

**Readings for Next Sunday**

**Genesis 14: 18-20; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; Luke 9: 11-17. (Page 32)**

**During this season of Ordinary Time, Summer, we are asked to pray for:** Human Life; Seafarers; Victims of Persecution/Oppression; Europe; Christian/Jewish Relations.

**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)

**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	James Power
Owen	Khanh Phan
Kath Seemark	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
Catherine Stratten	May Eamons
Stephen Aneke	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	Mary Rumsey
Paul Greaves	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
N. Donegan	Norma Bryan

**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

Thomas Neligan	Michael Dawson
Alfred Bosworth	Maureen Doyle
Margaret Smith	Michael Flavin
Masie Jones	Margaret Coughlan
Wanda Kohlweg	Mary O'Rourke
William Tomney	Teresa Pugh
Kenneth McKay	Elizabeth Smith
Robert Quinn	James O'Mullan
Bernard Bosworth	Lorenzo Oliva
Angela Dadono	David Jeffrey
Peter Sarembecyki	William Pascoe

**POPE'S PRAYER**

**INTENTIONS FOR JUNE**

That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.

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

# Notices of Interest

**The Repository:** The Repository is open after both Sunday Masses. Confirmation cards are now on sale. *Kathleen Healey*

**Bible Alive** for June & July 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.**

**Choir Matters:** Brilliant news! Deacon David will celebrate his first Mass at St Gregory's on July 21 at 11:00 Mass. Our next choir practice (July 4) will focus on that event. Our already much praised choir would benefit from others joining us so that we become even better and improve what we deliver at David's very special and blessed event. Help us do justice to his celebration.  
*Alec*

**Society for the Protection of Unborn Children-protecting life from conception to natural death:** Please take the time after Mass to sign a card asking the Home Secretary not to allow the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill to be hijacked by the pro-abortion lobby. They are seeking to attach an amendment to the bill, which would decriminalise abortion in Northern Ireland, England and Wales. Removing criminal sanctions from abortion will not protect women from abusive men.

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

**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.

**33rd Rosary Rally at Mount St Bernard Abbey:** This begins with Mass at 2.00 pm on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September. See the poster for more information.

**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 July 6<sup>th</sup>) All welcome.

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. Next meeting 10<sup>th</sup> July. All welcome.

**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!

**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.

**Climate Lobby in London - 26 June:** Join CAFOD & many other charities at an unforgettable event in London on 26 June. It's time to confront this climate & environmental crisis & tell our leaders that Britain should no longer contribute to the destruction of our common home. You can make a difference by joining in. Please register if you would like to attend (see <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-lobby> for more details).

**Our Common Home** There will be a special day of prayer and celebration of creation on Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup>, which will focus on the CAFOD climate change campaign. Keep a watch-out for more information about this.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7.00 pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July in the Sacristy.

**First Holy Communion – 2020** Enrolment for next year's First Holy Communion preparation will be in September.

**Confirmation Preparation:** Check your programme!

**Job Vacancies:** There are advertisements for various job vacancies; as part-time housekeeper for Northampton Cathedral, as a Full-time Youth Ministry Co-ordinator with (NYMO) based at Luton, and as a Parish Youth Minister. The full advertisements are on the notice-board in the display area, and further information can be found on the diocesan website:  
[www.northamptondiocese.org/vacancies](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/vacancies)

**Summer Camp:** NYMO, our diocesan youth ministry office, wish to invite all young people of secondary school age, to this year's Summer Camp. With the opportunity to sleep in a castle and experience amazing outdoor activities, alongside a day at Alton Towers and a mystery day out! All this alongside daily Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration. Cost is a minimum donation of £205 (9 subsidised) to an actual cost of £295. More information can be found at [www.nymo.org](http://www.nymo.org) or call Fiona on 01582 720627

**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 and survivors of abuse, their families and supporters are invited to this Mass. 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.

**Bible Timeline - Spreading the Word of God's Kingdom:** Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Refugee Week Celebration Event:** Come and join in a celebration of asylum-seekers in Northampton. Learn about their culture with an art exhibition, a film and a series of presentations. The theme is: "Me, you and those who came before". It will be in the Courtroom, Northampton Guildhall on 20<sup>th</sup> June from 5.00 pm until 7.00 pm. There will be a stall about the work of "Safe Haven" there. Drinks and refreshments will be available.

**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

**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.

**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.  
**280** Address:  
<https://www.facebook.com/StGregsNorthampton>

St Paul wrote to the Ephesians: “In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit” (*Ephesians 1:13-14*).

St John tells us that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth” (*John 1:14*).

This prayer echoes the words of Scripture.

God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty.

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 fullness of the mystery of God is beyond our human capability to fully understand but in passages of Scripture such as these, we are given pointers to help us.

The word “acknowledge”, which is so much less than “understand” is contrasted with “adore”, which is our appropriate response to the mystery of the Holy Trinity. The alliteration in the Latin text makes this much clearer.

## Scripture Readings 16th June 2019, Trinity, Year C

Written after the return from the exile in Babylon, the Wisdom books contain the practical knowledge of both the Israelites and the peoples around them, accumulated over two thousand years. Wisdom is the art of living a life at peace with God and with other people. It was developed by reflecting on the great questions: life, death, suffering, love, evil, relationships. It was seen to be a universal guide for living, and so given by God. So Wisdom came to be seen as a person – the caring, feminine side of God, existing from all eternity. In today’s reading from Proverbs Wisdom speaks of sharing God’s delight in His work at the beginning of creation.

The Psalm expresses our amazement at the dignity the infinite God has given to mankind’s finite nature in his wonderful creation.

In his letter to the Romans Paul insists that being justified, or made “at peace” with God, means that our previous alienation from God is overcome. God’s love “poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit” has brought us into an intimate relationship with God, but we confidently hope in a more glorious intimacy in the future.

No wonder Jesus says in John’s Gospel “I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now”. The Spirit gives us understanding.

Psalm Response: **How great is your name, O Lord our God, through all the earth.**

(Proverbs 8:22-31, Psalm 8:4-9, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15)

Chris Oliver

## Corpus Christi Procession at Great Billing

There is a record of the Corpus Christi procession at Billing in 1875, at which the Bishop Amherst, the second Bishop of Northampton presided. The report in the “Tablet” says that there were over 1,000 people present. It was described: “It was a most glorious sight, for all the way of its long course was amongst large trees celebrated even here for their size and beauty; and the Blessed Sacrament was treated with the utmost respect by the villagers, who were Protestants, and devotion, of course, by

Catholics; and to see the groups kneeling about as it passed was a sight that will, I know, be long remembered here”

The procession has continued down the years, and is now the occasion for all those who have received Holy Communion for the first time to walk in front of the Blessed Sacrament, and it always an occasion of great joy. This year it will be next Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, and the procession begins at 3.00 pm. All our First Holy Communion children are invited to take part, as is everyone. Remember this is next Sunday!

## Pastoral Area Reflection Day: July 6<sup>th</sup>

Bishop Peter has asked all Pastoral Areas to have a “Reflection Day”, to consider pastoral provisions for the future. This is not to do with the deployment of priests; rather it is to do with the third part of the “Together in Faith” campaign which was the development of Lay Ministry. We will be led by Avril Baigent, and it is important that each parish is well represented.

The event will be at St Edmund Campion school in Wellingborough, and will begin at 10.30 am and end at 4.00 pm. A sandwich lunch will be provided for all those who attend. Please mark this date in your diary.



God “sends His message on earth” and “His word runs swiftly” — says the Psalm (*147:4*). The Word of God runs, it is dynamic, it waters every terrain on which it falls. And what is its force? Saint Luke tells us that the human word becomes effective — not thanks to rhetoric, which is the art of good speaking —, but thanks to the Holy Spirit, who is the *δυναμις* of God, the power of God, His force, which has the power to purify the word, to make it bearer of life.

For example, in the Bible there are stories, human words, but what is the difference between the Bible and a history book? The difference is that the words of the Bible are taken from the Holy Spirit who gives a very great force, a different force, and who helps us so that that word is seed of sanctity, seed of life, effective. When the Spirit

visits the human word it becomes dynamic, like “dynamite,” namely, able to light hearts and break schemes, resistances, and walls of division, opening new ways and expanding the boundaries of the people of God.

He who gives vibrant and incisive voice to our very fragile human word is solely the Holy Spirit, through whom the Son of God was generated; the Spirit that anointed and sustained Him in the mission; the Spirit thanks to whom He chose His Apostles and guaranteed to them proclamation, perseverance, and fruitfulness, as He also guarantees it today to our proclamation.

(Pope Francis, General Audience, May 29<sup>th</sup> 2019)

