



# 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 progress of Lent

We were reminded a couple of weeks ago about the character of Lent in the words of the Second Vatican Council, and that there is a twofold purpose in these weeks before Easter. The first mentioned is a time of preparation for Baptism, the second is as a time of penance. The length of forty days is derived from the time Our Lord spent in the wilderness and his time of temptation, but that is not what gives the season its character, only its duration.

As time went by there were fewer adult Baptisms, and the preparation aspects of Lent were overshadowed by penitential activities. However it is of value to see the way in which the Sunday readings take us through the season.

The first Sunday in Lent always gives us the account of the temptations of Christ and reminds us of Our Lord's forty-day fast, but the second Sunday is always an account of the Transfiguration. The preface to the Eucharistic Prayer for today helps us to see the significance of this: “After he had told the disciples of his coming death, on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory, to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets that the passion leads to the glory of the resurrection”.

On the third Sunday of Lent the gospels are different for each year, but in each year there are messages encouraging repentance, which is an important part in the preparation for Baptism.

The fourth Sunday takes us to a growing understanding our the relationship we have with God; this year through the parable of the repentant son (usually known as the ‘prodigal son’), who “came to his senses” while reduced to being a pig-man on a farm. (The connection with mothers [Mothering Sunday] came from the medieval era when the passage from Galatians which speaks of “The Jerusalem above, she is free, and she is our mother” (*Galatians 4:26*) — this passage no longer forms part of the Sunday readings.)

The fifth Sunday speaks to us about resurrection to eternal life; in year A through the raising of Lazarus, in year B through the teaching about the grain of wheat falling on the ground and dying and yielding a rich harvest. This year we will read about the woman caught in the act of adultery whose punishment should have been death by stoning, but had her life given back by Jesus — another way of understanding resurrection through the forgiveness of sins.

The following Sunday is Palm Sunday, and brings us to Holy Week, but as we have journeyed through Lent we have left behind the wilderness in order better to understand the true significance of our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. In our Lenten penances, we must not forget this, which we are told is the first purpose of the season.

## Pastoral Area Councils

Last Saturday Bishop Peter called a meeting which took place at Thornton College near Buckingham to inspire our Pastoral Areas to look forwards in planning.

When Pastoral Areas were set up, their first task was to consider how, in each local area the work of the Church could be maintained with fewer priests, as this is the reality for this and almost every diocese. This we have one, and the first and obvious result has been the reduction in the number of Sunday Masses in each parish. We have also established the Rosary Link prayer for vocations to the priesthood. In this we have sought to keep going as much as we could of the existing structures and ways of working to which we have become accustomed.

When Bishop Peter instigated ‘Together in Faith’, one of the objectives was the identifying and training of suitable lay-people

for different ministries within the Church. This is not simply so that we can “keep the show on the road”, and Pastoral Area Councils are tasked with becoming more outward-looking.

First, we are asked to identify those things that we do well, and at the meeting those from our pastoral area filled a whole page of achievements. However, we are also asked to look to the opportunities that we have which we may not have yet undertaken or not yet even considered.

This is a very encouraging move — the slogan ‘From Maintenance to Mission’ is one with which we have become familiar, and what the Bishop is asking is exactly in line with our vision to become “a truly thriving Catholic community, confidently and humbly proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ”, not just for our parish or pastoral area, but across the whole diocese.



22 Park Avenue North  
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: [www.stgregory.org.uk](http://www.stgregory.org.uk)

# Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Second Sunday of Lent

### Parish Mass Book - Year C

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**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>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Stations of the Cross	The Canonisation of Bl. Cyprian Tansi
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Eileen Murray RIP
Tuesday St. Joseph	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Catherine Clarke
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Ann Ganderton RIP
Thursday Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Nancy Ginnelly RIP
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Canonisation of Bl. Cyprian Tansi
	7.30 pm	Stations of the Cross (St Matthew's)	
Saturday Feria	9.00 am 9.30 am	Mass Confessions	Canonisation of Bl. Cyprian Tansi
<b>Sunday</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Ivan Watts & Antonietta Mansi
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	4.30pm	Stations of the Cross	

**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 Seamark	Robert Moore
Fr Ed Worthy	Sarah Dunster
Liam Murphy	Kim Do
Margaret Farragher	Sr. Margaret
Dulcie Miranda	Sylvia Clark
Joan Healy	Lily Butler
Irmgard Wraxall	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	Nina Fenlon
Philomena Fraher	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Catherine Stratten	Mary Rumsey

**Your Offering To The Parish:**

Last Sunday's collection was £654.41. 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:**

CAFOD

**Counters This Week:**

Paul & Clare Sefton, C. Sratten.

**Cleaners This Week:**

Pru & Another.

**Readings for This Sunday**

**Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18.**

*God enters into a covenant with Abraham, the man of faith.*

**Philippians 3: 17 - 4: 1.**

*Christ will transfigure our bodies into copies of his glorious body.*

**Luke 9: 28-36.**

*As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed.*

**Readings for Next Sunday**

**Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12; Luke 13: 1-9. (Page 77)**

**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.

**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)

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

Our sympathies go to the family of Chris Butler who died last Wednesday.  
Please pray for the repose of his soul.

**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

Betty Heyward-Jones	Keith Nicholas
Elizabeth Priestley	Brigid Morris
Mary Perrett	Annie Leech
Patrick O'Beirne	John Williams
Catherine English	John Dunnan
Roy Gayton	Mary Howells
Job Denton	Annie White
Teresa Ramsbottom	Rose Bett
Michael O'Connor	Phyllis Timms
Frances Diamant	Laura Thorp
Barbara Coughlan	Ronald Watkins
Baby Dylan Moore	Patrick Summers
Margaret Smith	Mary Tate
Henry Woodcock	Annie King
Stanley Kemp	Dante Davighi
Michael Mahoney	Mary Byrne
Frederick Poidevin	Joan Wooding
Ferenc Homann	Louise Ainge
Elizabeth Parker	

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH**

That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

# Notices of Interest

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



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Julia Zalewska  
who received Christian Baptism last week.  
Please pray for them and their families.

**Bible Alive** for Lent 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.**

**SPUC-Defending Life From Conception to Natural Death:** The inaugural meeting of the new Northampton branch of the SPUC will take place on Sat. 30th Mar, 10am, in the Sacristy, St. Gregory's Church. Everyone with an interest in the Society and its' work is invited to attend. It's hoped that future meetings will be on a week day eveing, so please do not be put off by this weekend start! In this increasingly secular world where the sanctity of life is being threatened at every level, it is important that like-minded people get together to campaign for change, offer each other support & fulfill our Christian duty to Christ. If you have any questions prior to the meeting or want to know more about the society before committing yourself, then please contact William via [wpcurrie@btinternet.com](mailto:wpcurrie@btinternet.com). Thank you.

**Life in the Spirit:** Lenten Retreat at Sacred Heart Church Hall, Pyramid Close, Weston Favell, Northampton NN3 8DP. **Every Wednesday from 6<sup>th</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019.** Each session starts at 7.00pm in the Church Hall. All welcome!

**Northampton Prayer and Praise: Monday 1st April 7.30 pm; Abington Avenue United Reformed Church, 157 Abington Ave, Northampton NN1 4QA.** This month we will be praying in particular for the police force and crime prevention in Northampton. Refreshments from 7.00 pm **ALL WELCOME!**

**Thanksgiving Mass for the Mayor's Charity, the Hope Centre and the Homeless.** Bishop Peter will be celebrating Mass on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.00pm in the Cathedral. The Mayor Tony Ansell and other Civic guests will be attending. A collection will be taken during the Mass for this charitable work. All are welcome.

**A Day of Reflection for Catholic Women:** Our Lady of Grace, Squirrel Lane, High Wycombe, HP12 4RY. Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am to 3pm. See Poster for full details.

**Mass For Married Life:** Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Woburn Sands, MK17 8NN. Gathering from 11.30am. Mass at 12 noon, Celebrant Bishop Peter Doyle. See poster for full details.

**Rosary Link for Vocations:** Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers! Mass & Rosary will be offered for Vocations at **SS Francis & Therese, East Hunsbury, Sat. March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9.30am.** Refreshments to follow. Mass & Rosary will also be offered at **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Wellingborough, Sat March 30<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am.**

**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 April 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> April.** 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!

**Choir Matters:** Next Practices are Thursdays in Lent to prepare for Easter: Mar 21, 28, Apr: 4, 11. These start after evening Mass and finish at 9pm. *Alec*

**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

**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

**YOUCAT for Kids** is a great new tool for catechists, parents & carers as they pass on the faith to children. A rescheduled YOUCAT for Kids session will take place from 7.45pm-9pm on Thursday 28th March in the Sacristy at St Gregory's Church. This book is a wonderful resource for parents and teachers — we do have copies for sale in the repository.

**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.

**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.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7.00 pm, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019, in the Sacristy.

**First Holy Communion — 2019** Next session will be 30<sup>th</sup> March. 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 parents willing to become helpers, please contact Stella or Jean for details. No special prior qualifications or experience required, but DBS clearance will need to be obtained.

**Confirmation Preparation:**

**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:  
**277** <https://www.facebook.com/StGregsNorthampton>

**Catholic Basics Course: Part Two: Church** 11 April, **Part Three: The Moral Life** 16 May, **Part Four: Prayer** 13 June. After a successful launch, join us for another day of engaging teaching with opportunities for interaction and discussion. Cost: £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged). Price includes a full lunch. No qualifications needed - just interest, good will and a sense of humour! Part 2: **CHURCH** April 11 2019, 10am-3pm (arrive 9.30am for refreshments). NORES Centre, Holy Ghost Parish, 33 Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD. To book, contact [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone Jackie on 01582 723312.

Luke, whose account of the transfiguration we read today is the only evangelist to speak of the purpose of the climbing of the mountain as “to pray”. Our prayer today links the transfiguration and the command to “listen to him” with the Lenten preparation for Baptism as we pray that “spiritual sight” may be made pure.

The connecting of the words “nourish” and “word” indicate a Eucharistic overtone.

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.

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.

Inward nourishment is not merely through receiving the word through our ears, though that is in itself important. Our inward nourishment is also derived from receiving the Word made flesh made bread for us in the Eucharist.

The glory that we pray we may behold is not the momentary glory of the transfiguration, but the eternal glory on the Resurrection. However, on our earthly pilgrimage we are sometimes given a foretaste of the glory of heaven, just as Peter, James and John were given theirs on the Mount of Transfiguration.

## Scripture Readings 17th March 2019, 2nd Sunday in Lent, Year C

While Abram was wandering round Canaan before 1500 BC, his kinsman, Lot was captured in Sodom. Abram and his allies freed him. To celebrate this victory, bread and wine were brought out and Abram was blessed by Melchizedek, Priest-King of Salem, traditionally identified with Jerusalem. Then the Lord promised Abram a land of his own, an heir, and numberless descendants. A firebrand signifying the Lord's presence, pass between the halves of the animals, a common way at that time of confirming a covenant.

The psalm asserts complete confidence that God will not abandon but will rescue us, while asking for guidance and protection.

Paul wrote to the Philippians about 60 AD. A devout Jew and Pharisee, Paul has nevertheless concluded that righteousness does not come from the Law but through faith in God, as shown by

Abraham. As citizens of heaven we owe allegiance to Christ, not Caesar. Since God will transfigure our bodies, we must not be ruled by bodily appetites but gradually transform ourselves into images of Christ.

Luke describes Jesus' appearance being changed. Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets, are talking with him about his “exodus”, his coming passion and death. The disciples are confused, but then God tells them they must now listen to Jesus, the representatives of old Israel have departed.

Psalm Response: **The Lord is my light and my help.**

(Gen 15:5-12,17-18; Psalm 26(27); Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 9: 28-36)  
*Chris Oliver*

**NEXT ALPHA: Tuesday evenings, 7.30 – 9.45 pm from 30<sup>th</sup> April – 16<sup>th</sup> July, (except 28<sup>th</sup> May) BEGINS ON TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL plus Friday evening to Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

## Saints of the week: Patrick and Joseph

This year 17<sup>th</sup> March falls on a Sunday, and there is no liturgical celebration of St Patrick in England. However he is an important saint, not just for Ireland and the Irish.

Saint Patrick was born early in the 5<sup>th</sup> century in Britain. At the age of sixteen he was taken captive and brought to Ireland where he worked as a slave. Life was not easy for Patrick as a young man as he worked long hours on the bleak hillside minding sheep. After six years he escaped back to Britain to his family who were glad to see him return home.

Patrick became a Christian and he visited France where he continued his studies after scriptures and reflected on Christ's teaching. Near at the end of his life he put in writing his reflections on his search for God and the blessings God had given him in his life. In the Confessions of St Patrick, we read of the absolute trust Patrick had in God's loving care for him, his gratitude for the gift of faith and he rejoiced in the way God had transformed the lives of Irish men and women who became Christian on his return to the island as a missionary. Today we celebrate the great blessings entrusted on Patrick by God to bring the good news: Christ the Light of our World to our land.

He wrote: "So I am first of all a simple country person, a refugee, and unlearned. I do not know how to provide for the future. But this I know for certain, that before I was brought low, I was like a stone lying deep in the mud. Then He who is powerful came and in his mercy pulled me out, and lifted me up and placed me on the very top of the wall. That is why I must shout aloud in return to the Lord for such great good deeds of his, here and now and forever, which the human mind cannot measure."

Like him, we too are raised up, and like him, we must proclaim God's glory. St Joseph was included in the Eucharistic Prayers a few years ago; a recognition of his importance.

“Exercising his paternal care over Jesus, Saint Joseph of Nazareth, set over the Lord's family, marvellously fulfilled the office he received by grace. Adhering firmly to the mystery of God's design of salvation in its very beginnings, he stands as an exemplary model of the kindness and humility that the Christian faith raises to a great destiny, and demonstrates the ordinary and simple virtues necessary for men to be good and genuine followers of Christ. Through these virtues, this Just man, caring most lovingly for the Mother of God and happily dedicating himself to the upbringing of Jesus Christ, was placed as guardian over God the Father's most precious treasures. Therefore he has been the subject of assiduous devotion on the part of the People of God throughout the centuries, as the support of that mystical body, which is the Church.

The faithful in the Catholic Church have shown continuous devotion to Saint Joseph and have solemnly and constantly honoured his memory as the most chaste spouse of the Mother of God and as the heavenly Patron of the universal Church. For this reason Blessed Pope John XXIII, in the days of the Most Holy Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, decreed that Saint Joseph's name be added to the ancient Roman Canon. In response to petitions received from places throughout the world, the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI deemed them worthy of implementation and graciously approved them. The Supreme Pontiff FRANCIS likewise has recently confirmed them. In this the Pontiffs had before their eyes the full communion of the Saints

who, once pilgrims in this world, now lead us to Christ and unite us with him.” (*Decree from the Congregation for Divine Worship*)