



# The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234091



**“A truly thriving Catholic community,  
confidently and humbly proclaiming the  
Good News of Jesus Christ.”**



# The Word of the Lord

As we draw nearer to the beginning of the “Year of the Word”, it is interesting to consider how the Bible came to us and what it actually is.

We easily recognize that it consists of two ‘Testaments’, Old and New. We are familiar with the idea that the Old Testament is the Jewish Bible, but even this contains a complex story.

Throughout most of Jewish history, the words of Scripture were passed down in ‘oral tradition’, each generation teaching the next, but without the benefit of written texts. Only after the return from exile in 538 BC did the task of collecting written copies of all the books begin. These were all in Hebrew, but as Jews began settling all over the Mediterranean where the common language was Greek, there was a demand for the texts to be in their local language. By 132 BC, there was a complete copy of the Scriptures in Greek, which became known as the Septuagint. We have surviving copies of this dating from very early, while the oldest complete surviving text in Hebrew actually dates from the 10<sup>th</sup> century AD. The Septuagint contains several books not included in the Hebrew versions, and some supposed that these were not really part of the Bible at all. However, among the Dead Sea Scrolls a number of these books have been found in Hebrew, forcing scholars to reassess their understanding.

Archaeology is making Biblical scholarship a constantly growing field of study, and that is one reason why we have new versions of the Bible being published so often.



The books of the New Testament were originally written in Greek, and we have many early copies of this. One of the earliest is known as the “Rylands Papyrus” and is on display at the Deansgate building of the University Library of Manchester. It contains only a tiny part of St John’s Gospel, and dated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, but was discovered only in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The oldest complete New Testament dates from the 4<sup>th</sup> century, but was discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century at St Catherine’s Monastery on Mount Sinai, and

is known as Codex Siniaticus.

St Jerome is credited with the first translation of the Bible into Latin. Just as Greek-speaking Jews wanted their scriptures in their own language, so too did Latin-speaking Christians.

Jerome’s translation, worked on between 382 – 405 AD, used the Hebrew texts of the Old Testament, but also included the Septuagint versions of books not available to him in Hebrew. Centuries later, Protestants rejected books that did not have a Hebrew original text, and these are the books that we have in Catholic Bibles but are not in Protestant ones.

During the Middle Ages there were a number of translations of the Bible into a variety of different languages, but it needs to be remembered that relatively few people had the skill of literacy, and those who had were educated in Latin, so the need for translations of the Bible was small. The stained-glass windows in churches were known as the ‘Poor Man’s Bible’, and the walls of churches were covered in murals depicting Bible stories. Sadly few survive in England. However, St Bede translated St John’s Gospel into English, St Matthew’s Gospel was translated into German, and many other translations were made with the approval of the Church.

In the 11<sup>th</sup> Century a heresy emerged known as “Catharism”, and produced what was alleged to be a translation of the Bible but actually contained additional texts supporting their theology, and the Church condemned these texts. The most famous English version by John Wycliffe in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century was not in itself problematical, but sadly appeared at the same time as the ‘Peasants Revolt’, and the two became linked, which led to the suppression of Wycliffe’s Bible. This gave credence to the untruth that the Catholic Church opposed the people having access to the Bible. This was never the case, although the Church did condemn inaccurate translations or notes that gave interpretations of passages that were not in accord with Catholic teaching.

The first major Catholic English Bible (Douai-Rheims version) was published in 1610 (a year before the King James ‘Authorised Version’), and for 350 years those two were the main English Bibles, but during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the archaeological discoveries (such as Codex Siniaticus) renewed biblical scholarship.

Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Pope Leo XIII issued his encyclical “*Providentissimus Deus*” and a revised version of the King James Bible was produced. Through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and on into our own generation, many versions, some good translations, some paraphrases into more colloquial English have appeared.

The English language itself is changing — the New English Bible, which appeared in 1961, now is very dated! We should give thanks that the Word is living; may it always live in us!



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

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

### Thirty Third Sunday of the Year

### Parish Mass Book - Year C

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**Priest:**  
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015  
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**Deacons:**  
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
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Rev Rory Stewart (ret) ☎ 408407  
**Pastoral Assistant:**  
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<b>Sunday</b> <i>33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	Eddie Moriarty
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Padraic McAndrew RIP
	7.00 pm	Requiem Mass	Deceased of the Parish
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Jill O'Rourke RIP
Wednesday St. Edmund	9.00 am	Mass	Jack Smith RIP
Thursday Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	Rosa Anyile RIP
Friday St. Cecilia	9.00 am	Mass	Maria Azedo
Saturday Pope St. Clement I	9.00 am	Mass	Elizabeth & J. Brennan
	9.45 am	Confessions	
<b>Sunday</b> <i>Christ the King</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Gina & Luigi Mansi RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

**Your Offering To The Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £490.28. 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:** Kiltegan Fathers £394.92. Thank you!  
**Second Collection This Week:** Sick & Retired Priests' Fund  
**Counters This Week:** Mrs Quinn, A. Gibson.  
**Cleaners This Week:** Kathleen & Another.

#### Readings and Rotas for this Sunday

**Malachi 3: 19-20.** *For you the sun of righteousness will shine out.*  
**2 Thessalonians 3: 7-12.** *Do not let anyone have food if he refuses to work.*  
**Luke 21: 5-19.** *Your endurance will win you your lives.*

**Readers:** **9am:** Paul Sefton, Cliff Snelling;  
**11am:** Maggie Ndekwe, LF.  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** **9am:** Dorothy Pallett, HW, Anne Gibson, Chris Bird;  
**11am:** Rose Ogbtata, Maureen Moriarty, Denise Johnson, Margaret Refoy.

#### Readings and Rotas for next Sunday

**2 Samuel 5: 1-3; Colossians 1: 11-20; Luke 23: 35-43. (Page 99)**

**Readers:** **9am:** Marcel Brown, Stephen Pieterse;  
**11am:** Chris Oliver, EM.  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** **9am:** Paul Sefton, Pru Hill, Krysia Wilson, Dorothy Pallett;  
**11am:** Rose Ogbtata, Maureen Moriarty, Michael White, Anna White

**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.

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

**Sadly, we have been told that Hilary Graney, beloved wife of Deacon Michael Graney, died on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November. Funeral details will follow.**

#### Please pray for the sick

To comply with GDPR we are told that we should not publish the list of names of the sick on the website.

#### Anniversaries:

#### May they Rest in Peace

Kellie Falsey	Winifred Grigg
Margaret Nicholson	Rudolpho Berni
George Franklin	Jozef Luha
Norah Holloway	Leo Boulemier
Bridget Rushmore	Paul Hanley
Winifred Wittich	Thomas Allitt
Carmel Smith	John Driscoll
Margaret Byrne	Arthur Lewin
Veronica Sheppee	Alice Jepson
George Ganderton	Mary Confue
Ronald Battle	Florence Treacy
Noel Ridpott	Angela Glibbery
Anthony Latimer-Sayer	Carmel Doherty
John Smith	Edward Moriarty
Harry Carpenter	Frances Dorige
Marie Williams	Terence Phelan
Mary Cahill	Victor Neville
John Twomey	Mary Turner
Frederick Lewin	Florence Ginns
Elizabeth Mbamara	Maria Hernik
Kathleen Brown	Leonard Pullen
Christopher Mulcahy	Bernard O'Hara
Maria Mansi	John Dooley
Margaret Nolan	Alice Thresher

#### **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER**

**That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.**

# Notices of Interest

**The Repository:** From Sunday, Nov.17<sup>th</sup>, the Repository will be selling Christmas cards & other goods in the Hall after both Masses. We still need offers of help to man (or woman) the stalls at this busy period! Please phone me on 629103, or just turn up! *Kathleen Healey*

**Bible Alive** for November & December 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.**

**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. **Throughout the winter, this will be in the Sacristy, which should be more comfortable.**

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next Baptism Preparation Session will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 7pm, in the Sacristy.

**First Holy Communion — 2020** The preparation has now started, & no more registrations can be accepted. All families should have the full programme; the next preparation day is November 23<sup>rd</sup>, & this is a longer session, beginning at 10.00am at St Gregory's school, Grange Road. This is preparing for First Reconciliation, & it is essential that children attend this session. It is also essential that children attend Mass each week.

**Confirmation Preparation:** Those interested in Confirmation in 2020 are invited to join the Youth Alpha programme. This isn't a compulsory part of the preparation, but it's an excellent & enjoyable prelude. Young people in Year 7 & above wishing to be Confirmed, should collect & complete a registration form from the hall after Mass. Forms will be available from 6th October. Please then attend one of the registration sessions after Masses on Sunday 10th or 17th November. (8am at St Anselm's, 9.15am at Our Lady's, 10.30am Sacred Heart and 9am and 11am at St Gregory's). Classes begin in January 2020 & will generally be held on Saturday afternoons leading to Confirmation in July. If you have problems attending registration, please email Kathleen on kathfish@hotmail.com

**Choir Matters:** To prepare for Christmas & Epiphany Masses & carols, there are extra practices after Mass on Thurs. evening till 9pm. These are Nov. 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 19 then Feb 6 (no monthly practice on Jan 2). New singers always welcome & we gained one recently! *Alec*

**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.

## Teaching Opportunity - St Gregory's Catholic Primary

**School:** St Gregory's are seeking a highly committed and passionate teacher for KS2 keen to ignite a real passion in our pupils by providing a rich, varied and exciting curriculum within a nurturing and caring environment underpinned by a Catholic ethos and educational focus. Closing date: Wednesday 20th November.

For more information and to arrange a visit to our school please see our website: <https://www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk/>

**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 warmly welcome newcomers!

**Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group** meets 1st Saturday of every month in the Sacristy, 10am. **Next meeting December 7<sup>th</sup>.** All welcome.

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** meets 2nd Wednesday of every month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting December 11<sup>th</sup>.** All welcome.

**Autism Awareness Course:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 10am-2.30pm, St. Mary's Parish Hall, Woburn Sands, MK17 8NN. To book, please contact Lorraine on 01604 723516 or see poster for details.

**Tomorrow, 18th November at 7pm,** there will be a special Mass to remember all those who have died. Relatives of those who have been buried within this Church in the last year will have received an invitation to the Mass. Anyone else who would like a loved one remembered in this Mass is asked to give their name to the people welcoming you at the door as you arrive for the Requiem Mass. All the names received will be read out. This is an opportunity to remember those who have died & to support those in the Parish community who have lost loved ones. Refreshments will be available in the hall afterwards.

**Advent Retreat 'Saying "YES" to God':** Sacred Heart are having a retreat day on Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Nov with Mass at 9.30 & continuing until 3pm. You are warmly invited to join them! Celebrated by Fr David Donaghue, a new priest, it promises to be a special day with a varied programme, including confession. Lunch (soup, french bread & cheese) provided by the parish but donations of cakes or puddings would be very welcome!

**Christian Counselling Courses at The Manna House** will be running in the New Year: Level 2 "Introduction to Christian Counselling" will start on 9<sup>th</sup> January and Level 3 "Advanced Christian Counselling" will start on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Full details, including prices etc are available in the Lobby area.

**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.

**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

**Transport:** There are a number of people of reduced mobility who would appreciate a lift to Mass. In particular, anyone who comes from the Parklands area to the 11am Sunday Mass & has a spare seat in their car, please speak to Fr Andrew. Also, anyone who can offer lifts to those wanting to come to the Healing Mass on the last Friday of most months, please speak to Maureen Salter or Fr Andrew.

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

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

**A change to the Youth Alpha dates: (5.30 pm – 7.00 pm)**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December



There will be food and drink at each meeting!

This prayer invites us to think of the Parable of the Talents in Matthew chapter 25; one of the final parables of the Gospel, appropriately here as we come to the end of the Church's year. Those who had made good use of the talents entrusted to them were told: "join in your master's happiness".

St Paul also writes about happiness: "I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness." (*Philippians 4:4*)

Grant us we pray, O Lord our God the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good.

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 true service of God should bring us true happiness — that deep joy which is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (*Galatians 5:22*). This service is found in using the talents that God has given us; all the gifts that we have been given in the way that God intends; in the service of God, of the Church and of all God's people.

## Scripture Readings 17th November 2019, 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Writing anonymously about 460 BC, after the Jews returned from their Babylonian exile to rebuild the Temple, Malachi criticises the people's religious indifference, priestly abuses, and intermarriage with pagans and divorce: "Where is the God of justice?" But he promises the day of the Lord is coming, preceded by a messenger to prepare the way, seen by Christians as John the Baptist. When that day comes evil-doers will be burnt up, while those who fear the Lord will be energised and healed, gambolling with joy, treading on ashes of evil-doers.

The psalm urges all creation to praise the Lord for His victorious salvation.

The Thessalonians had heard a forged letter saying the Lord's second coming was very close. Some had stopped working for a living and were "interfering in everyone else's" work. Paul says they are

"busybodies", stirring up trouble! They should be shunned until they pull their weight in the community, as Paul did when he was with them.

In the Gospel Jesus foresees the destruction of the Temple, and the disasters, persecutions and false prophets that must precede the second coming. But we must not worry about these future problems, nor try to guess the day of the Lord's second coming. We should concentrate on the day-to-day following of Jesus, placing all our trust in Him.

Psalm Response:

**The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness.**

(Mal 3:19-20 Ps 97(98) 2 Thess 3:7-12 Lk 21:5-19)

*Chris Oliver*

# The Season of Creation

### Actions to Live Simply :

Communication with eye contact melts 'Stranger fears'.

**Tip No. 15: Solidarity with the poor:** consider volunteering a few hours at the Hope Centre Kitchen.

**Tip No. 16: Live sustainably with creation:** Try to discern Policy announcements that will reduce climate change.

### PRAYER

God of peace and justice,  
you give us the capacity to change,  
to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom.  
Create in us a desire to act in solidarity,  
so that the pillars of injustice crumble  
and those now crushed are set free. Amen

In order to reduce the carbon footprint of the parish through the winder the Thursday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be in the Sacristy. This should also make it more comfortable for those praying, and (as a spin-off benefit) reduce the heating bill for the parish

The parish is also investigating the possibility of rainwater harvesting for flushing the toilets.

**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



A new resource has been produced by the Diocese of Northampton, which is designed to help people to prepare for Christmas. It is a sort of Advent Calendar, but in the form of a

pack of cards. It is a short pack; only 25 cards, one for each day of December up to Christmas. Each card will highlight a passage from the Bible, and offer a thought on that passage. On the reverse of the card is a further comment, and the hope is that people or families using these cards will find the entire passage in their own Bible, and find further inspiration.



As December progresses, the theme of the cards takes you through the timeline of God's plan of salvation, beginning with creation, and taking you through the covenants that God made with humanity, through the different periods of history, the Patriarchs, the Judges, the Kings and all the events of history leading up to the birth of Jesus. They are available from the Catholicism Store ([www.catholicismstore.co.uk](http://www.catholicismstore.co.uk)) and will be on our repository next week at a cost of £6.50.

