



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

Fire to the earth

When we read about fire coming to the earth, we may well think first about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and how the Apostles were inspired by the Spirit to proclaim boldly the Good News of Jesus.

We may also remember the words that St Paul wrote to Timothy, urging him “to fan into a flame the gift of God that you possess” (2 *Timothy* 1:6).

While these are good thoughts, it is not the context of our Gospel for today. We see a different side to the person and teaching of Jesus from the “meek and mild” version which many people have. We see a steely side to Jesus who is a fighter, and the fight is against evil. We are called to be warriors in this fight; the first battlefield is our own life and soul and the prize is our own life and soul.

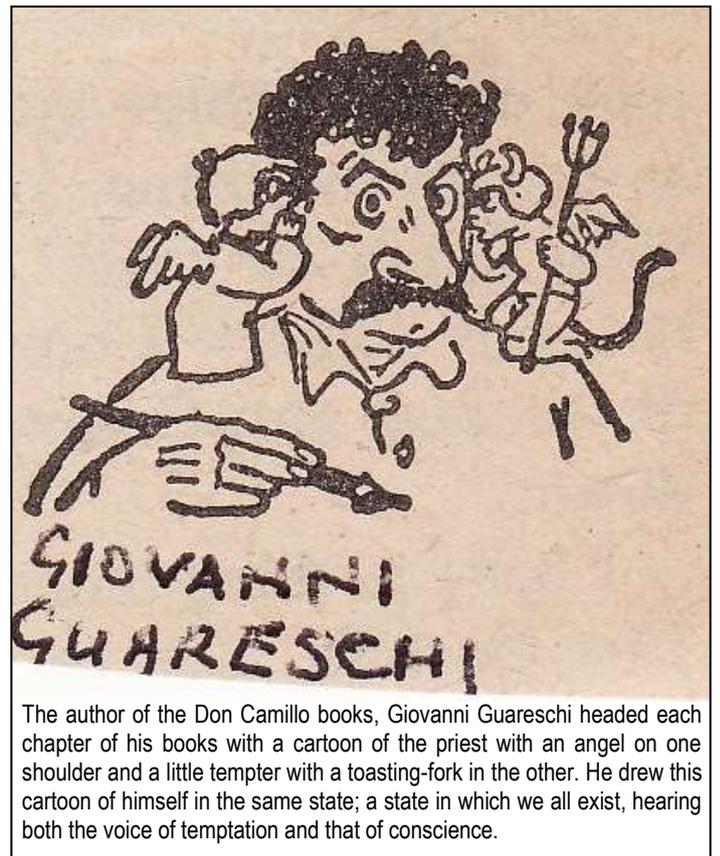
St Ignatius of Loyola was a soldier before his conversion, and in his new life of faith, he brought with him the discipline of his old life. The battle against evil requires as much effort and commitment as any military battle.

There is a real conflict in which we are involved, which, at its lowest level is simply the fight in our self between good and evil. This is the decision that we have to make day by day and hour by hour, and however saintly we may become, temptation is always there.

However, Jesus takes this to another level in speaking of the division within a household. Here we are speaking of something more than a personal decision about right and wrong, it is about making a stand for right against opposition. It is more than agreeing to differ; it is about a fundamental commitment to right.

St Ignatius before his conversion was not opposed to God; what happened to him as he recovered from his war-wound was a realisation that the fight against evil was bigger than just within himself.

We usually mean the term “conversion” to indicate a total change of direction, but in this context, it is more akin to a determination to be more serious about our life of faith. A recent phrase that is sometimes used is “intentional discipleship”; that is to say, a commitment of life to following Jesus in a public way. Intentional discipleship is more than not doing wrong, it derives from the Holy Spirit creating a wholehearted desire to live “in Christ”. St Paul gives a magnificent exposition of this in Chapter 8 of his letter to the Romans. (There will be a study course on Romans in the spring.)



The author of the Don Camillo books, Giovanni Guareschi headed each chapter of his books with a cartoon of the priest with an angel on one shoulder and a little tempter with a toasting-fork in the other. He drew this cartoon of himself in the same state; a state in which we all exist, hearing both the voice of temptation and that of conscience.

Fire to the earth is not a merely private and personal thing, as we have seen from recent wild fires, such as that in Gran Canaria, that have been burning this week. The fire of the Holy Spirit is only destructive of sin, and this is the fire that Jesus came to bring. However, this will lead to conflict, and the early Christians, facing persecution and martyrdom would have found these words of Jesus an inspiration, as did the English Catholic community in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, which is why these words were chosen as the motto of the English College in Rome, training missionary priests to return to England. They can also inspire us to be missionary disciples in our generation.



Sunday 18th August 2019
Twentieth Sunday of the Year
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 Northampton. NN3 2HS
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Sunday <i>20th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Tony Refoy RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday St. John Eudes	9.00 am	Mass	Maria Marculescu
Tuesday St. Bernard	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	The Deceased Members of the Donegan Family
	5.00 pm	Reception of the Body of Mark Bingham RIP	
Wednesday St. Pius X	9.00 am 12.00 pm	Mass Funeral Mass	Bridget Scurfield RIP Mark Bingham RIP
Thursday The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Canon Norman Smith RIP
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday St. Rose of Lima	9.00 am 11.00 am	Mass Funeral Service	Quinna Jackson Kenneth Barber RIP
Saturday St. Bartholomew	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	Angeline Maria Jobin & Rosa Joseph
Sunday <i>21st Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Amanda Nilard RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £471.93. 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.
Counters This Week: M. Murtagh, L. Allen, Anna Smith.
Cleaners This Week: Pru & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10. *You have borne me to be a man of dissension for all the land.*
Hebrews 12: 1-4. *We shall keep running steadily in the race we have started.*
Luke 12: 49-53. *I am not here to bring peace, but rather division.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Isaiah 66: 18-21; Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13; Luke 13: 22-30. (Page 66)

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)

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

Mark Bingham's funeral Mass will be on 21st August at 12pm. May he rest in peace.

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
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 Donnely
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
May Murtagh	

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Philomena Mayle	James Brennan
Patrick Harrington	Mary Bradley
Mary Smith	Dorothy Clifford
Margaret Hobbs	Florence Percival
Doris Bayliss	Margaret O'Shea
Jenny King	Christopher Leech
Judith Atkinson	Ronald Savage
John Mulholland	John Birney
Audrey Kifer	Bridget Scurfield
Michael Mythen	Mairead Pontin
Canon Norman Smith	Michael Milloy
Edith Perkins	Marjorie Mallon
Frederick Kitchener	Charles Osborn
Arthur McGill	Carla Fenlon
Mary Clifford	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST

That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth."

Notices of Interest

Important Notice to all Keyholders: Following recent burglaries, we now have an intruder alarm. The office door is alarmed; if you need access see Fr Andrew to be told the code. The foyer also has an alarm; if the door is locked, the alarm may be set. Please ask Fr Andrew for the code for this door.



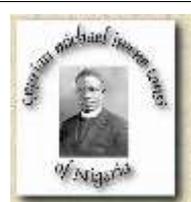
We welcome into the family of the Church
Vihaan Puelas Dinshan
And Olivia Mary Chappell
who received Christian Baptism last week.
Please pray for them and their families.

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 August & September 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.**

Advance Office Notice: Just to let everybody know, the office will be closed until 31st August - wish me good camping weather!
Caryll

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.



Annual Blessed Tansi Pilgrimage,
Mount St. Bernard Abbey, Coleville, LE67 5UL,
Saturday 31st August, 10.30am. Rosary
Procession, Holy Mass, Benediction and Blessing
of the Sick. Please see fliers at the back of the
Church for full details, and contacts for
Northampton.



33rd Rosary Rally and Open Air Mass at
Mount St. Bernard Abbey Leics, LE67 5UL,
Sunday 1st September 2pm. See poster for full
details. Bring a folding chair/seat & picnic lunch.
All welcome.

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 September 7th. All welcome.**

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

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 6th October commencing 12pm with Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation. Please see poster for full details.

The Feast of St Gregory: Please see the chart in the narthex for helping with food after the Mass for our feast-day.

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 2nd 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 on 8th and 15th September after either Mass. No registrations will be accepted until then. The main preparation sessions will take place on seven Saturdays leading to First Holy Communion in May 2020.

Confirmation Preparation: Details of the next Confirmation Preparation will appear here shortly.

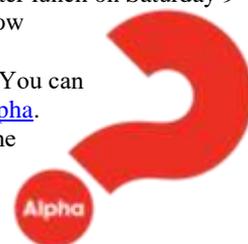
A request from Bishop Peter: “We need people who, in the midst of all changes to education policy, will keep Christ at the centre of everything they do. Do you have experience in Education or HR? I would like you to consider whether you are someone who could serve our children as they grow in faith by volunteering as a Director for our new Multi Academy Trust.” For more details contact Debbie Main on main@nores.org.uk or 01582 723312

Choir Matters: Practices are usually on the 1st Thursday of the month following evening Mass till 9pm : 30 Aug* (instead of 5 Sep to prepare for the Feast of St Gregory), 3 Oct. Weekly practices start in Nov until Dec to prepare for Christmas. *Alec*

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! On holiday now until September.

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 on 17th September and running Tuesday evenings until 3rd December with a break on 29th October. There is also an overnight session from the evening of Friday 8th to after lunch on Saturday 9th 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!



Autumn Courses at St Gregory's:

Monday at 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Catholicism
Monday at 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm	Acts
Tuesday at 10.00 am – 12 noon	Psalms
Tuesday at 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm	Alpha
Wednesday at 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Matthew

Autumn Course at Sacred Heart:

Tuesday at 10.15 am Bible Timeline.

Youth Alpha will also run this autumn — dates and times to be announced.

Love is at the heart of this prayer; specifically our love for God. It speaks first of those who love God as being the recipients of the fruit of this prayer.

What God offers us is greater than we can begin to imagine. This is then fruit of his love for us. His love is total and complete; ours is weak and faltering, and so we pray that our love may grow, to love God “in all things and above all things”. This phrase derives from St Paul

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire.

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.

describing God as “above all and through all and in all” (*Ephesians 4:6*)

In loving God “in all things” we recognise the work of the creator in everything that he has made, and love creation, as the handiwork of the creator. Yet in loving God “above all things”, we recognise that our love for God must be even greater than our love for that which he has made.

Scripture Readings 18th August 2019, 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Writing during the turbulence just before the exile, Jeremiah was caught between the king, Zedekiah, and jealous nobles, who falsely imprisoned him. In 586 BC Judea again revolted against Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Jeremiah told the king he should surrender because Judea would be defeated anyway, as God’s punishment for their infidelity, and resistance would lead to Jerusalem’s destruction. But the nobles said Jeremiah’s advice was undermining morale and threw him into a cistern. Jerusalem did not surrender, and was destroyed, and most survivors were deported to Babylon.

Jeremiah might have used this Psalm to give thanks after being rescued from the well. And to ask God for help in the troubles to come.

Last week we heard part of the discussion in Hebrews about the meaning of faith, “the conviction of things not seen”, giving the

example of Abraham. After further examples, Hebrews says yet all these “did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better”. With so many witnesses confident of this unknown reward, we must persevere in our faith, enduring, like Jesus.

The themes of turbulence and suffering continue in today’s reading from Luke’s gospel, which follows the insistence last week that unfaithful servants will be punished. Jesus’ message brings division between believers and non-believers, whose evil deeds are thrown into relief by the gospel.

Psalm Response:

Lord, come to my aid!

(Jer 38:4-6,8-10 Ps 39(40):2-4,18 Heb 12:1-4 Lk 12:49-53)

Chris Oliver

A Competition — with a prize

Sadly, there were no entries to the competition. However, trees are important to the stability of our planet; while we breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide, trees do the reverse. Not only do the trees absorb carbon from the air, but they give us the oxygen we need to live. Without trees, human and animal life could not exist.

Yet humans are chopping down an area of forest equal to 20 football pitches every minute, and if this continues at the same rate, there will be no forests left within 100 years. Children born this year will have

a bleak future is nothing is done to halt this decline. The planting of four trees this week will make an imperceptible difference.

Most of the land taken from the forests is used for agriculture, producing food, of which in this country it is estimated, a third is wasted. Much of that food is in the form of red meat, and the farming of cattle is in itself a contributor to climate change.

We could all eat less meat; waste less food and try to conserve energy — and actually save money at the same time.

October — Mission Month

A further extract from the message that Pope Francis has written for World Mission Day this October:

“Our mission, then, is rooted in the fatherhood of God and the motherhood of the Church. The mandate given by the Risen Jesus at Easter is inherent in Baptism: as the Father has sent me, so I send you, filled with the Holy Spirit, for the reconciliation of the world (cf. *John 20:19-23; Matthew 28:16-20*). This mission is part of our identity as Christians; it makes us responsible for enabling all men and women to realize their vocation to be adoptive children of the Father, to recognize their personal dignity and to appreciate the intrinsic worth of every human life, from conception until natural death. Today’s rampant secularism, when it becomes an aggressive cultural rejection of God’s active fatherhood in our history, is an obstacle to authentic human fraternity, which finds expression in reciprocal respect for the life of each person. Without the God of Jesus Christ, every difference is reduced to a baneful threat, making impossible any real fraternal acceptance and fruitful unity within the human race.

The Church needs men and women who, by virtue of their baptism, respond generously to the call to leave behind home, family, country, language and local Church, and to be sent forth to the nations, to a world not yet transformed by the sacraments of Jesus Christ and his holy Church. By proclaiming God’s word, bearing witness to the Gospel and celebrating the life of the Spirit, they summon to conversion, baptize and offer Christian salvation, with respect for the freedom of each person and in dialogue with the cultures and religions of the peoples to whom they are sent.”

We look back on brave men and women who followed this call and brought the faith to England, Ireland and all the different countries from which we come. Today we hold in admiration those who go to work on the missions. But mission is part of our own Baptismal calling; and our own response to mission can be right here!

An easy way to be a local missionary is to bring someone to Alpha. For dates and other information, see opposite.

St John tells us that three of the apostles came from the city of Bethsaida (Peter, Andrew and Philip) (*John 1:44*). We know that Bethsaida was on the shores of the Sea of Galilee but its exact location has been debated by experts for many years.



Recent archaeology has made a significant discovery. During the summer a mosaic floor and carved stones have been discovered, and the building has been identified as the church which was described by Bishop Willibald in the year 725 as having been built over the house of Peter and Andrew.

This discovery confirms that the location of Bethsaida is the current El-Araj. It provides yet more evidence of the accuracy of the Gospels. There are some who dismiss the whole of the Bible as fiction; even denying that Jesus ever existed, but here we have modern archaeology supporting the evidence of the Gospels.

By knowing the Scriptures better we can be more able to explain to sceptics and dis-believers that our faith is not a fantasy, but that modern science agrees with what we read in the Bible

