



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.”**



# Divine Mercy

It seems to me that our Lord’s earnest desire to have his sacred heart honoured in a special way is directed toward renewing the effects of redemption in our souls. For the sacred heart is an inexhaustible fountain and its sole desire is to pour itself out into the hearts of the humble so as to free them and prepare them to lead lives according to his good pleasure.

From this divine heart three streams flow endlessly. The first is the stream of mercy for sinners; it pours into their hearts sentiments of contrition and repentance. The second is the stream of charity which helps all in need and especially aids those seeking perfection to find the means of surmounting their difficulties. From the third stream flow love and light for the benefit of his friends who have attained perfection; these he wishes to unite to himself so that they may share his knowledge and commandments and, in their individual ways, devote themselves wholly to advancing his glory.



This divine heart is an abyss of all blessings, and into it the poor should submerge all their needs. It is an abyss of joy in which all of us can immerse our sorrows. It is an abyss of lowliness to counteract our foolishness, an abyss of mercy for the wretched, an abyss of love to meet our every need.

Therefore, you must unite yourselves to the heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, both at the beginning of your conversion in order to obtain proper dispositions, and at its end in order to make reparation. But above all preserve peace of heart. This is more valuable than any treasure. In order to preserve it there is nothing more useful than renouncing your own will and substituting for it the will of the divine heart. In this way his will can carry out for us whatever contributes to his glory, and we will be happy to be his subjects and to trust entirely in him.

*A letter by St Margaret Mary Alacoque*

## Pope Francis looks forward to the end of the Pandemic

“Today also, in face of the coming — let’s hope it’s soon —the coming end of this pandemic, there is the same option: either our bet will be for life, for the resurrection of the peoples, or it will be for the god money: to return to the sepulchre of hunger, of slavery, of wars, of the arms factories, of children without education . . . the sepulchre is there.”

Many today are “carrying perfume” and “bringing the anointing” of “co-responsibility”. They are ministering to the Lord in their brothers and sisters. Some do this by not being a risk to others, others put their lives at risk. “Doctors, nurses, people stocking supermarket shelves, cleaners, caretakers, people who transport goods, public safety officials, volunteers, priests, women religious, grandparents, educations, and many others” have asked the same

question the women asked: “Who will roll away the stone?” Yet, the Pope acknowledges, this has not kept them from “doing what they felt they could and were obliged to do”.

Quoting *Global Pandemic and Universal Brotherhood: Note on the Covid-19 emergency*, by the Pontifical Academy for Life, Pope Francis emphasizes that this pandemic needs to be treated with the “antibodies of solidarity”. “Each individual action”, he underlines, “is not an isolated one.” “For better or for worse” all of our actions affect others. Each person is a “protagonist” of history and can respond to the evils affecting millions world-wide. “It is not permissible that we write current and future history by turning our backs on the suffering of so many people”, he said.



# Notices of Interest

## **An Important Notice providing food for the needy**

The Swan and Helmet pub on Clare Street is operating as a food bank. They are working with local schools, the local authority and many community groups. They have secured funding from a variety of sources, and are giving out food hampers which are making a difference to many people. While still supporting the Hope Centre (please see their "Just Giving page": <https://www.justgiving.com/northamptonhopecentre>), during this crisis time we are supporting this local effort. Any food left here (outside the fire door into the foyer please) will be taken down to the Swan and Helmet, and those seeking food at the presbytery are directed there.

## **Notice from the Diocese**

**Online Donation:** The Diocese has an online donation facility on the main Diocesan website through Virgin Money Giving (link below). If you use this option we ask that you please indicate in the notes section **which parish, including the parish name and area (St Gregory's, Northampton)** that you would like your donation to be attributed to. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donation <https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/>

**Standing Order via Donor's Own Bank.** You can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using either your on line bank account or in branch. The information required to make the donation is as follows:

Bank; NatWest  
Sort Code; 60-06-11  
Account Number; 46898093  
Account Name; Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust  
Payment Ref; Parish Name/Area: (St. Gregory's, Northampton)

**More on parish finances:** Fr Andrew has started delivering new planned giving envelopes to those who are not too remote as he takes his allowed exercise; if you have changed to giving by a standing order, please can you let him know.

**Forthcoming Alpha Course:** The next Alpha Course was due to start on Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>. In view of the current projections for the Coronavirus pandemic, we have to postpone this course. However, those who have registered will be kept informed about any change of date. Much the easiest way to enrol is through the web-site at <http://stgregory.org.uk/alpha/>.

**The Office:** Whilst I will continue to come in to the Office as usual, the church now being closed means that I cannot speak to anyone with problems/Mass Intention requests, face to face. However, I will be, as always, available on the phone or by email. The phone number is (01604)713015 & choose option 1. My email address is [secretary@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stgregory.org.uk).  
God bless and stay safe. *Caryll*

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** The regular Thursday adoration is not taking place during this present emergency.

**Bible Alive** for Easter is now available. It has daily readings & good articles - all for only £2:50! If you want to purchase a copy, they are on a table outside the fire door to the foyer during the daytime, with a box of (out of date) green envelopes. You can put the payment in an envelope and post it through the presbytery door.

**Hope Centre:** The needs of the homeless are not changed during this emergency Please see the Hope Centre website <https://northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/get-involved/donate/> to make continued donations.

**Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group** will not meet during this time.

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** will not meet during this time.

**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:** Please contact Deacon Michael direct (01604) 647750, E-mail: [mvf@btinternet.com](mailto:mvf@btinternet.com) for information.

**First Holy Communion — 2020:** The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established.

**Confirmation - 3<sup>rd</sup> Preparation Session:** The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established. There is a provisional date for Confirmation of 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**Tots @St Gregory's:** As with other meetings, Tots has been cancelled until further notice.

# Online Prayer resources during this time

Live-streamed Mass from the Cathedral  
<http://northamptoncathedral.org/live/>

Live-streamed Mass from Walsingham  
<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

Live-stream Mass from Lourdes  
[https://www.directfromlourdes.com/lourdes\\_live\\_tv](https://www.directfromlourdes.com/lourdes_live_tv)

Fr Nicholas King leads Stations of the Cross  
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/3785948>

Readings, homily and Spiritual Communion  
<https://www.lentinisolation.com/videos>

EWTN  
<https://www.ewtn.com/tv>

Sacred Space guided prayer  
<https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Cardinal Nichols leads Stations of the Cross  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16s7Nt\\_P2E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16s7Nt_P2E)

# On participating in Mass on-line or through television

For most of us, it is a new experience to participate in Mass over the internet or on television. It is important not to be in the mindset of simply "watching television" or "watching a film". The Church as always asked for "active participation", and the medium of television make this quite difficult.

It is better if you can avoid sitting in an armchair or on a sofa, and try to adopt the same postures as you would in church (sitting, standing or kneeling), and to speak the responses; please do not simply be a viewer. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a simple prayer of Spiritual Communion.

# Scripture Readings 19th April 2020, Second Sunday of Easter Year A

Between Easter and Pentecost, readings from the Old Testament are replaced by the Book of Acts, about the beginnings of the Church as the Holy Spirit continues Christ's work on earth. Today Luke describes the early believers' close-knit community, holding their resources in common, and practising their Jewish faith before meeting in their homes for Eucharist.

More verses from the psalm used for the Easter Masses, rejoicing at the coming of the king.

This year the second readings during Eastertide are from the First Letter of Peter, the only time this letter is read on Sundays. Written from Rome to the Gentile Christians in Asia Minor. God gives us a new birth and a hope based on the resurrection. We must try as good citizens to maintain Christian standards amid pagan people. Suffering

can purify our faith, enabling us to imitate Christ more. God cares for us while we look forward to our inheritance in heaven.

This first week of Easter ends with the first ending of John's Gospel. Jesus appears twice to the apostles, sending them out to forgive sins. After doubting without seeing, Thomas utters the most complete expression of faith. The brief accounts of Jesus' ministry are that we may "believe that Jesus is the Christ, and "have life in his name".

Psalm Response: **Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.**

(Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 117(118); 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31)

Chris Oliver

## The Season of Creation

**Tip No. 57:** *Living Sustainably with creation:* St Benedict recommended that our ability to listen is our gift to those around us.

**Tip No. 58:** *Living Sustainably with creation:* St Benedict recommended to be content with the work we are given to do and with the circumstances of our lives, as it is our outlook that confers value on our experiences.

**Actions to LiveSimply :** Communication regularly (telephone) with of our , 'family in faith,' can cheer our predicament, or with eye contact using WhatsApp, Messenger or Skype.

**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**

Since the lock down not only are abortion clinics still open for business, but the governments in both Westminster and Scotland have given the go-ahead for DIY abortions at home.

This is dangerous for women who are given powerful drugs, designed to kill their unborn baby, and left alone to self-administer the pills and undergo the horrific ordeal of abortion

### New Northern Ireland Abortion Regulations

The London Government has published its new framework for legal abortions in Northern Ireland which includes:

- Abortion on demand up to 12 weeks
- Abortion up to 24 weeks on unspecified "health" grounds, including financial or housing issues- essentially abortion on demand
- Abortion up to and during birth on the grounds of disability
- No limit for self-induced abortions. A woman who kills her child while giving birth will not commit a criminal offence
- Doctors who selectively kill a disabled twin or triplet just before or during delivery will not be prosecuted

### **What can we do?**

Please write, email or call your Member of Parliament showing your opposition to these regulations and asking that they vote against them when Parliament sits again and to stop DIY abortions now.

Michael Ellis MP- Northampton North [michael.ellis.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:michael.ellis.mp@parliament.uk)

Andrew Lewer- Northampton South [andrew.lewer.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andrew.lewer.mp@parliament.uk)

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Bullet points to consider using when writing or emailing

- The Government's regulations impose on Northern Ireland one of the most extreme abortion regimes in Europe
- These regulations lack all legitimacy. 75% of people who took part in the consultation rejected Government proposals
- They introduce abortion on demand
- They allow some babies to be aborted up to birth
- They fail to respect the rights of all health service workers not to be involved in abortion
- They will introduce abortion provision through schools without the knowledge of parents
- Abortion kills children, it is not healthcare

The pro-abortion lobby have been very active during this pandemic and unborn babies are more at risk than ever. Many thousands will die from the coronavirus but millions will die from these extreme abortion measures.

Please take just a few minutes to contact your MP as they do really take note of what people say to them even if they hold opposing views.

Let us continue to pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe for the unborn

**During this time of restricted public worship, please keep reading the Bible. The Easter "Bible Alive" is available — see the note elsewhere in this newsletter. On the parish website and on Facebook there will be a Bible Study on the Acts of the Apostles as we read this through Eastertide, with particular reference to our present circumstances.**

