



# 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

# “Love one another”

There are a number of themes that regularly occur in this newsletter, and the words from today's Gospel link them all together. Christianity is a “package deal”, not a “pick and mix”! The starting point is the Lord's absolute command: “Love one another”. It is a mistake to limit this to within the Christian community since the Lord also commanded us to make disciples of all people. This love must therefore be as unlimited as is the love of Jesus himself. (See *1 Corinthians 12:12 – 30 and Matthew 28:19.*)

These themes are not in any particular order of importance; they are all important. However, just as the human body is made up of many parts, and each part has its particular function, so within the Church, each person will have a major focus on one particular area of importance, while recognising the importance of those areas in which he or she will not be directly involved.

In highlighting some of those areas of importance, there is no intention of diminishing those other areas which may not get a mention today.

If we truly love one another, we will not be seeking to become more wealthy than each other. The lover does not want the beloved to be poorer than the lover. This means that the relentless quest for increased personal wealth cannot be compatible with the Christian life. While a world in which everyone has exactly equal wealth is impossible, the growing inequality of our country should be a matter of concern for all of us. Academic research has shown that there is a direct correlation between inequality and many social evils such as infant mortality, shorter life expectancy, mental illness, crime and many other problems. (See the *'Equality Trust'* for their research on this.)

This must inevitably involve us in the murky world of politics, but this is not a ‘party political’ issue; in this country we have seen the divide between rich and poor growing under every government, whatever its political colour. It is first-of-all a moral issue which relates to the life of the early Church as described in the Acts of the Apostles: “None of their members was ever in want, as all those whom owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money from the sale of them to present to the Apostles; it was then distributed to any who might be in need.” (*Acts 4:34-35*) This was clearly not an absolute rule; in Corinth Paul lodged in the house of Aquila and Priscilla (*Acts 18:1-3*), but it indicates a mode of living that was not dominated by self-interest.

For some people this concern may be expressed in political involvement, and it is important that committed Christians should

stand for Parliament and local government. (The electoral system that the British Government uses for the European Elections with party lists is very poor; most European countries have a system where votes are for candidates, not for parties.) For other people it will be direct involvement in such work as with the Hope Centre or CAFOD.

Arising from our love for one another and recognising that God loves each one of us must be our respect for human life, from its first beginning to its natural end. While not all Christians will be pro-life campaigners, we cannot discriminate against some of God's people just because they are not yet born, or because they are terminally ill or for any other reason. Equally, on the same basis we cannot be racist or seek to deprive other humans of benefits that we enjoy.

Care for the environment is related to this; we treasure the gift of life and for the planet on which that gift is given. We want that benefit for the next generation, both that they should have life itself and also that they should be able to enjoy it in a planet free from pollution and not damaged by climate change. Not all Christians will be eco-warriors, but we should all be willing to modify our behaviour to protect the planet on which we live.

We cannot expect those who do not share the Christian faith to live by Christian standards. Our country can no longer seriously claim to be a ‘Christian country’ — indeed such a concept is actually meaningless, as a country itself cannot have a faith. It is the people who have faith, not the country, and at present, in terms of active Christians, we are in a minority; even more so as Catholic Christians. This means that the command of the Lord already quoted to make disciples of all nations must be particularly important. Not all Christians will have the gifts to be ‘front-line’ evangelists, but, for example, we can all invite a friend to come to an Alpha course.

Evangelisation takes place in many different ways; one which is of great importance is helping young people to grow in their faith, and action on equality and on care of the environment are frequently seen as important by young people, although they do not always see it as a Christian imperative. All too often the failure of adult Christians to embrace these concerns is a reason why many young people turn away from the Church. Not all Christians will be called to be catechists, but we must all support young people and their parents as they seek to help their children to grow in faith.

A further form of evangelisation is in the welcome that is given in church. Worship that is welcoming, with good music, good proclamation of the Scriptures, good preaching and all genuinely directed to God — all these themes are important.



22 Park Avenue North  
Northampton. NN3 2HS  
**Website:** [www.stgregory.org.uk](http://www.stgregory.org.uk)

# Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

### 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>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>	9.00 am	Mass	David Donaghue
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Chris Butler RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Shanu Francis
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Mary MacDonald RIP
Thursday Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Louis Oliver RIP
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Theresa Duffy's Intentions
Saturday St. Bede the Venerable	9.00 am	Mass	Noreen Hanlon RIP
	9.45 am	Confessions	
<b>Sunday</b> <i>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Legion of Mary
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

#### Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £621.49. 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 Last Week:

Diocesan Priests' Training Fund. £251.33. Thank you!

#### Counters This Week:

C.P., L. Allen.

#### Cleaners This Week:

Kathleen & Another.

### Readings for This Sunday

**Acts 14: 21-27.**

*They gave an account to the church of all that God had done with them.*

**Apocalypse 21: 1-5.**

*God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

**John 13: 31-35.**

*I give you a new commandment: love one another.*

### Readings for Next Sunday

**Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29; Apocalypse 21: 10-14, 22-23; John 14: 23-29. (Page 138)**

#### During this season of

New Members of the Church;

#### Easter, we are asked

Human Work; Priestly Vocations;

#### to pray for:

Right Use of the Media; The Church.

**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)

**Help urgently needed: our Alpha course has begun and we desperately need some more people to join the cooking team (3 to 7.30pm Tues afternoon) and the washing up team (8 - 10pm). If you are able to help, even if it's not every week, please speak to Fr. Andrew or Maria Heath.**

### 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	Ziadi Family
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 Diccio	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
Jennifer Ogbata	May Eamons
Stephen Aneke	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	Mary Rumsey
Paul Greaves	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Sue Dauksta	Catherine Stratten

### Anniversaries:

#### May they Rest in Peace

Dominic Cairney	Patrick Franks
James Mapston	Johanna Martin
Helen Gunningham	Mary Naylor
Henry King	Joseph Harte
John Friary	Betty Finn
Fr. Stephen McGuinness	James Coll
Margaret O'Mahoney	George Rushmore
Christopher Haggett	Herbert Williams
Wilhelm Kohlweg	Nicolina Ciccone
Gertrude Ginn	David Ryan
Teresa Tynan	Robert Finnegan
Harriet Manger	Martin Keegan
Grainne Morris	Florence Sweeney
Shaun Murphy	Annie Desmond
Lolo Grace Ndekwe	

### **POPE'S PRAYER**

#### **INTENTIONS FOR MAY**

That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

# Notices of Interest

**The Repository:** The Repository is open after both Sunday Masses. 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion and Confirmation cards are now on sale. *Kathleen Healey*



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Jack Stephen Togher  
who received Christian Baptism last week.  
Please pray for him and his family.

**Bible Alive** for Easter is now available in the lobby area. Please try this publication - 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.**

**A Letter of Thanks from Wangari; Karuri Project:** There is a copy of a lovely letter from Wangari on the Notice Board in the Lobby area. It gives an update on the children and their progress. Please take the time to see how much your aid has helped these children.

**May Rosary:** During the month of May the Legion of Mary recites the Rosary in the homes of parishioners. There is a list in the porch – please write your name & address on it if you would like us to come and pray with you. Please also write a contact number, and a date and time that you would like us to visit.

**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.

**Ecumenical Prayer Walk:** The date has been set for Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 6.45 for 7.00 pm start. Gather at Park Avenue Methodist Church where we'll have a short time of prayer together before going out in twos and threes to pray for the local area. There will be some guidance before we set off & each group will have a designated area to cover. We will gather at Park Avenue Methodist Church for light refreshments & feedback at 8 pm.

**Northampton Notre Dame Association Annual St. Julie Mass** at St. Aidan's Church, Kingsthorpe. Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the canonisation of St. Julie Billiart 22nd June 2019. Refreshments afterwards. All welcome.

**Pentecost Novena:** To promote prayer for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Free & easy to use resources are being offered by Northampton Diocese. [www.northamptondiocese.org](http://www.northamptondiocese.org) (follow links for 'Faith' and 'Evangelisation')

**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.

**Mass for victims and 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. The focus will be on healing, reconciliation and the forming of compassionate links with the Church. 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.

**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 June 1<sup>st</sup>) All welcome.

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. Next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> June. All welcome.

**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

**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.

**Choir Matters:** Come and join our great bunch of musicians; the first 10 years' membership is free. Next practices are usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month following evening Mass till 9pm : 6 June, 4 July, 1 Aug, 30 Aug\* (instead of 5 Sep to prepare for the Feast of St Gregory), 3 Oct. Weekly practices start in Nov till Dec to prepare for Christmas. 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. Friday classes will begin next Friday (17<sup>th</sup> May) at 6.30pm.!

**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!

**Catholic Basics Course: Part Four: Prayer** 13 June. Join us for another day of engaging teaching with interaction & discussion. £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged), includes lunch. No qualifications needed - just interest, good will & a sense of humour! To book, contact [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone Jackie on 01582 723312.

**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 will be at 7.00 pm, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019, in the Sacristy.

**First Holy Communion — 2019** Next session will be 5<sup>th</sup> May. 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 parent is willing to become a helper, please contact Stella or Jean for details. No special prior qualifications or experience required, but DBS clearance will need to be obtained.

**Confirmation Preparation:** 27<sup>th</sup> April at Sacred Heart.

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

Our prayer this week is one of relatively few which were written at the time of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. It does, however follow the traditional themes of Eastertide, linking Baptism with God's promise of our own resurrection

The prayer that God will "accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us" is an important concept which needs to be understood.

As Jesus breathed his last he said: "It is accomplished" (*John 19:30*),

Almighty ever-living God,  
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,  
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism  
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit  
and come to the joys of life eternal.

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.

meaning that the saving work of God was completed. For this saving work to be accomplished within us can only be totally fulfilled when the last clause of the prayer is answered and we come to the joys of eternal life, but the prayer speaks of a constant accomplishment, and connected with to intention that we should "bear much fruit", speaks of our daily Christian life.

## Scripture Readings 19th May 2019, 5th Sunday of Easter, Year C

Last week in Acts the first mission of Paul and Barnabas started. They preached in synagogues, with mixed receptions. Many Jews became Christians. But many did not, stirring up hatred and violence against the Apostles, leaving Paul for dead. Barnabas and Paul then preached to the Gentiles, showing how they could recognise God's activity in nature. Today we hear how this first mission ends, with religious leaders appointed in each church, and a report of "what God had done".

The Psalm praises the Lord's kindness and care for creation.

In Revelation the promise of salvation described last week is now accomplished. The new Jerusalem comes down adorned as a bride for her marriage with the Lamb, the union of the Messiah with the community of the elect. God dwells with men on earth, after the

"former heaven and the former earth" are replaced by a "new heaven and a new earth". God's ancient covenant is fulfilled.

In the Gospel we hear the first of Jesus' farewell discourses at the Last Supper. Jesus is sad to leave his followers. After washing the disciples' feet, Jesus draws out the meaning of this action. He predicts his coming death and gives a new commandment: love one another. The true mark of discipleship is that we "have love for one another".

Psalm Response:

**I will bless your name for ever,  
O God my King.**

(Acts 14:21-27; Psalm 144(145):8-13; Rev 21:1-5; John 13:32-35)

*Chris Oliver*

# Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Chaucer observed that when April, with her sweet showers comes, folk long to go on pilgrimage. We are a bit late but every year when June comes round, the Diocese of Northampton goes on pilgrimage to Walsingham, led by the Bishop.

"Pilgrimages evoke our earthly journey toward heaven and are traditionally very special occasions for renewal in prayer. For pilgrims seeking living water, shrines are special places for living the forms of Christian prayer in Church. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* §2691)

In the document of Vatican II we find the clear understanding of the Church herself as on a pilgrimage (*Lumen Gentium Chapter VII*), and we, as individuals are all on a pilgrimage from cradle to beyond the grave, and, we pray, to heaven. Modern psychology often speaks of "journey".

It is a journey we make in



company; the Church is a community of faith. None of us should travel alone on our journey through life because in the Church we are all brothers and sisters, called to love one another, to serve one another and to support one another as we each make our way towards heaven.

Long before Canterbury was a place of pilgrimage; long before Our Lady appeared at Lourdes or at Knock or nearly every other holy place in the world, she came to Walsingham. The story is told in the "Pynson Ballad", named after him because he printed it in 1495, although he did not write it himself, at it is certainly older than the date of the printing. The ballad dates the foundation of the shrine to the year 1061, and became the chief place of pilgrimage in England until the martyrdom of St Thomas Becket, but still remained an important place of pilgrimage up until the destruction of the shrine under Henry VIII.

Our Diocesan Pilgrimage is on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June, and a coach will leave from St Gregory's at 8.00 am, and will return by about 8.00 pm. There is a charge of £13 for the coach, and you will need to bring a picnic lunch.

The young people preparing for Confirmation will be coming (together with a parent), and as a parish we support them as we journey together towards our promised destination of

heaven.