



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

Ecumenism is not optional!

These are the words of Pope Francis last Wednesday in his address at the Papal Audience. He said:

We are called to pray, so that all Christians may again become one family, consistent with the divine will that wants “that all may be one” (*John 17: 21*). Ecumenism is not optional. The intention will be to develop a common and consistent witness in the affirmation of true justice and in the support of the weakest, through concrete, appropriate and effective responses.

This-evening there is a “Shared Worship” at the Cathedral, and for us here in Abington, there is our annual shared Bible Study, which will be in the new Broadmead Baptist Church which now dominates the corner opposite Morrison’s on Wednesday at 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

This is an important occasion for Christians to be praying together, and celebrating the Scriptures which we all hold to be dear.



World Peace Day

Pope Francis sends this message:

“Peace be to this house!”

In sending his disciples forth on mission, Jesus told them: “Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you” (*Luke 10:5-6*).

Bringing peace is central to the mission of Christ’s disciples. That peace is offered to all those men and women who long for peace amid the tragedies and violence that mark human history. The “house” of which Jesus speaks is every family, community, country and continent, in all their diversity and history. It is first and foremost each individual person, without distinction or discrimination. But it is also our “common home”: the world in which God has placed us and which we are called to care for and cultivate.

So let this be my greeting at the beginning of the New Year: “Peace be to this house!””

Pope Francis speaks later in his message about the politics that brings division, particularly relating to nationalism and attitudes of rejection.

“When the exercise of political power aims only at protecting the interests of a few privileged individuals, the future is compromised and young people can be tempted to lose confidence, since they are relegated to the margins of society without the possibility of helping to build the future. But when politics concretely fosters the talents of young people and their aspirations, peace grows in their outlook and on their faces. It becomes a confident assurance that says, “I trust you and with you I believe” that we can all work together for the common good.”

Our politicians are in need of our prayers at this critical time in the life of our nation. We are, at present a deeply divided nation, and we see this in the language and behaviour of political demonstrations and marches. We all must be careful not to foster violent speech or actions by our words, but rather be workers for peace within our own communities, a peace which is inclusive, not exclusive; a peace which embraces all people, young and old and of every race and nationality.



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Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 20th January 2019 Second Sunday of the Year Parish Mass Book - Year C Page 53

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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Sunday <i>2nd Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	Jack Hale RIP
Monday St. Agnes	9.00 am	Mass	Holy Souls
Tuesday St. Vincent	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Roseanne Ogbata's Intentions
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Kevin Dillon RIP
Thursday St. Francis de Sales	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion Benediction Mass	Casey Family's Intentions
	6.45 pm		
	7.00 pm		
Friday Conversion of St. Paul	9.00 am	Mass	Tony Refoy RIP The Moriarty Family's Intentions
	2.20 pm	Healing Mass	
Saturday SS Timothy & Titus	9.00 am	Mass	Law Family's Intentions
	9.30 am	Confessions	
Sunday <i>3rd Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Anna Falcone RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

**Due to changed routines at St Andrew's Hospital,
the Wednesday service there is no longer regularly possible.**

- Your Offering To The Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £574.66. 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.
- Crib Collection:** Hope Centre £780.44. Thank you!
- Second Collection This Week:** The Life House
- Counters This Week:** M. Bonner, Mrs Morgan, I. Wraxall.
- Cleaners This Week:** Big Clean.

Readings for This Sunday

- Isaiah 62: 1-5.** *The bridegroom rejoices in his bride.*
- 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11.** *One and the same Spirit.*
- John 2: 1-11.** *This was the first of the signs given by Jesus.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30; Luke 1: 1-4, 4: 14-21. (Page 56)

- During this season of Ordinary Time, Winter, to pray for:**
- Peace on Earth; Christian Unity;
Victims of Trafficking;
Racial Justice; The Unemployed.

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)

Please keep Maria Heath and her unborn baby in your prayers
Pray for her whole family at this time.

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	Chris Butler
Joan Healy	Lily Butler
Irmgard Wraxall	Rachel
Sylvia Clark	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	N. Donegan
Philomena Fraher	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Catherine Stratten	Mary Rumsey
Baby Lorenzo Diccico	Nina Fenlon

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Elizabeth McDonagh	Mary Hurley
Michael Clifford	Mary Simkus
Henryka Szechowka	Patrick McDonald
Alice Turvey-Hardy	Jean Wiles
Thomas Burke	Hector Grace
Joan Cairney	Michael Duffy
Mary Duffy	Belinda Ferrison
John English	Joseph Gutt
Dorothy Remedios	Arthur Warnes
Thomas Dunne	Monica Frawley
Charles Brennan	Kathleen Moran
Mary Dillon	Alice Fox
Patricia Bissett	John Kennelly
Anne Starmer	Thomas Fallon
Kathleen Cumiskey	Kevin Dillon
Esther Birdie	Arthur Bull
Alice Shanahan	Michael Brennan
Margaret Taylor	John Livingston
Wilfred Bacchas	Joan Maher
Catherine Anderson	Maurice Myers
Mary Tomkins	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY

That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

Notices of Interest

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

Shared Bible Study: There will be our shared Bible Study to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Wednesday January 23rd, at the new Broadmead Baptist Church, with refreshments at 7.00 pm and the study starting at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to this, and you will have a chance to see inside their new building. It is also important to remember that the Bible is a treasure that all Christians have in common, but that sometimes we understand it in different ways. By studying the Bible together we can begin to understand each other better.

Shared Worship: There is a united service at the Cathedral on Sunday evening at 7.00 pm to which everyone is invited.

Margaret Refoy & Family would like to thank you most sincerely for your kindness, sympathy and Mass Intentions, which have been a source of great comfort to them at this sad time.

Prayer List for the Sick: Would everybody please scan through the 'sick list' to see if all the names still need to be on there. Many thanks. *Caryll*

Bible Alive for February 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.**

The Big Sleep Out this year will be on **Friday 1st Feb, Abington Park**, by the Park Café. Please can you sponsor Siobhan O'Donovan who will be sleeping out this year? Even a small amount will be most useful. Sponsor forms will be at the side and back doors of the Church if you would like to support her in this amazing way to highlight the plight of our homeless neighbours. All proceeds will, of course, go to the Hope Centre. **If you would like to join Siobhan, you will be very welcome** - it'll give her someone to talk to & increase awareness! If you are interested, please contact Caryll in the office & she will pass on your details to Siobhan.

Rotas for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for February to May inclusive have now been issued to all those on email. Hard copies are available in the sacristy for all others

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.

Save the Hope Centre: St Gregory's has supported the Hope Centre since it first began at Bishops' House. We have given food every week, and supported it financially. Now it needs another sort of support as **Midland Heart are seeking to evict it from Oasis House. Please sign the petition!**

Save the Date: Quiz night including fish & chip supper be takes place on **Fri. 1st March 2019**, 7pm in St Gregory's Church Hall in aid of the Northampton Life House. Tickets cost £10 and will be available shortly after Christmas.

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!

Fitness & Pilates for Mid Life & Beyond! Classes Wed, 10.30, in the Church Hall with Theresa, who is fully qualified & insured. For further info, please contact Theresa on 07773577804

Blessed Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group continues monthly on 1st Saturday of each month in the Sacristy at 10am. (Next meeting is February 2nd) All welcome.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. Next meeting **13th February**. All welcome.

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

Tour of Our Lady of Walsingham: The Diocese of Northampton is first for the Dowry Tour of Our Lady of Walsingham in 2019! From Thursday 7th February to Saturday 9th February 2019 in the Cathedral Church of Our Lady & St. Thomas. The full schedule is available in the Display Area.

Catholic Basics Course: Want to know more about your Faith? Join us for a basic introduction to the Catholic Faith in 4 parts: God, The Church, The Moral Life & Prayer. For each part there is a day of teaching with opportunities for interaction & discussion. Cost: £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged). Includes full lunch. No qualifications needed - just interest, good will & a sense of humour! Part I: Jan. 31, 10-3pm (9.30 for refreshments). NORES, 33 Westbourne Road, LU4 8JD. To book, contact admin@nores.org.uk or phone Jackie on 01582 723312

Flame 2019: The Day's Theme will be 'Significance'. Those preparing for Confirmation will be at Flame 2019

Choir Matters: Next Practices are: Thursday Feb 7, Ash Wed Mar 6, then Thursdays in Lent to prepare for Easter: Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr: 4, 11. These start after evening Mass and finish at 9pm. *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.

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!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7pm, Monday 21st January 2019, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion — 2019 Next session will be 2nd February. Please remember 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: Next session is on 9th February.

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>

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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

The statement that God governs everything “both in heaven and on earth” is an allusion to St Paul writing to the Corinthians: “The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man is from heaven.” (1 Corinthians 15:45). In this Paul contrasts Adam with Christ, and then, by extension, says: “Just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven” (verse 49).

The word translated as “govern” does not

Almighty ever-living God,
 who, govern all things,
 both in heaven and on earth,
 mercifully hear the pleading of your people
 and bestow your peace on our times

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.

mean “control”, but rather “guide”; the governing of things in heaven is **not** the ordering of the stars and planets. Rather, it is speaking of those who are already with Christ in heaven.

When we pray for God’s peace in our times, we are contrasting this present time with the peace of eternity in heaven. As there is peace in heaven, so may that same peace be on earth. That is the peace for which we pray at every Mass.

Scripture Readings 20th January 2019, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Writing after 515 BC, when the Temple had been rebuilt after the exile, third Isaiah heavily criticised idolatry and other excesses in the Temple, and injustices among the people. But he also had this glorious vision of a restored Jerusalem, comparing the Lord’s delight in his people with the bridegroom’s delight in his virgin bride.

The psalm invites all mankind and all creation to praise the Lord, the one true God.

Over these Sundays before Lent we hear from Paul’s letter to his beloved church in Corinth. Paul criticised the Corinthian Christians for misbehaving during the Eucharist: the rich ate and drank too well, while poorer members of the community were left out. The church should have unity in diversity: different gifts are given to different individuals, so that all contribute to the whole.

After the Baptism of Jesus, and before resuming our readings from Luke’s gospel, we hear today John’s description of a marriage feast at Cana. A happy family occasion, to which Jesus and his newly chosen disciples were invited. Both Isaiah and Paul saw that the Lord longs to join himself to his church as intimately as possible. Water intended for use in Jewish purification rites is replaced by the fine wine of the heavenly banquet.

Psalm Response: **Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.**

(Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 95(96): 1-3.7-10; 1 Cor 12: 4-11; John 2: 1-11)

Chris Oliver

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

St. Agnes	St. Vincent	St. Francis de Sales	Conversion of St. Paul	St Timothy	St Titus
<p>Agnes was said to have been a very beautiful child, brought up in Rome in the third century. At the age of about 12 or 13, many young men wanted to marry her, but she refused them all. One of her admirers, on being rejected, denounced her as a Christian. She was arrested and put to death, and buried in a catacomb which is now named after her. Constantina, the daughter of Constantine, built a church over this catacomb, and later a church was built over the place of her martyrdom, one of the great baroque churches of Rome in the Piazza Navonna. She was martyred in or about the year 258.</p>	<p>Vincent was ordained Deacon in Saragossa in Spain towards the end of the third century. In the year 303 there was a violent outbreak of persecution against the Church, and the bishop escaped into exile, but Vincent was arrested and tortured. The torturing failed to break Vincent, and he would not surrender the books or treasures of the Church. While in prison, Vincent converted his jailor, but died in prison.</p>	<p>Francis was born in 1567 near Annecy in the kingdom of Savoy. After obtaining a doctorate in law at Padua, he was ordained priest, against the will of his father. At the young age of 35 he was appointed bishop of Geneva, at that time the centre of Calvinist Protestantism. Through his gentleness he converted many people; he taught that “you catch more flies with honey than with vinegar”!</p> <p>His spirit lives on in religious communities inspired by him, among them the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales (MSFS), an order with several priests in our diocese; among them, Fr Benny at Duston.</p>	<p>It could be argued that the conversion of St Paul was the most significant event in the life of the Church after Pentecost. We first meet him as Saul who approved of the stoning of Stephen, and later became an active opponent of the Church. The event on the road to Damascus is well known, and the words that he heard: “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting” helped form his understanding that Jesus lives in all who believe in him.</p> <p>We particularly remember Paul as a missionary and as a preacher. His letters contain much teaching; and has been an inspiration throughout the Christian centuries.</p>	<p>Timothy came from Lystra, and Paul met him on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:1). He was born into a “mixed marriage”; his mother was Jewish and his father was Greek.</p> <p>He became a companion of Paul, eventually in Rome, then became bishop of Ephesus, and there is a tradition that he was eventually stoned to death having opposed a festival in honour of the Greek deity Diana.</p> <p>St Paul wrote two letters to Timothy which tell us a lot about him, and gives us good advice too. We are told to “fan into a flame the gift” that is in us; we need this just as much today as 2000 years ago.</p>	<p>Titus was a friend and disciple of Paul, and like Timothy, was then recipient of a letter which we have in the New Testament.</p> <p>He was a Greek, probably from Antioch. Titus was seen as a peace-maker, a good administrator.</p> <p>Paul speaks highly of him: “But thanks be to God who put in the heart of Titus the same eagerness for you that I have myself. For he not only accepted our appeal, but since she is more eager than ever, he is going to you of his own accord” (2 Corinthians 8:16-17).</p> <p>Can we have that same eagerness for the spread of the Gospel.</p>

STOP PRESS Lucie Cooper (widow of Deacon Robin Cooper) died on January 18th. No further information available at this time. May she rest in peace.