



The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 29497

OUR
VISION

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

OUR
VISION

The Sacrifice of the Mass

On the feast of SS Peter and Paul this newsletter carried an article which spoke of “tensive harmony”, quoting Bishop Robert Barron who described this as the relationship between these two great Apostles.

The same concept of tensive harmony can be seen in ways in which we understand the Mass. An important document arising from the Second Vatican Council states:

The Mass, the Lord’s Supper, is at the same time and inseparably:

- A sacrifice in which the Sacrifice of the Cross is perpetuated;
- A memorial of the death and resurrection of the Lord, who said “do this in memory of me” (Luke 22:19);
- A sacred banquet in which, through the communion of the Body and Blood of the Lord, the People of God share the benefits of the Paschal Sacrifice, renew the New Covenant which God has made with man once for all through the Blood of Christ, and in faith and hope foreshadow and anticipate the eschatological banquet in the kingdom of the Father, proclaiming the Lord’s death “till His coming.”

(Eucharistum Mysterium §3)

The same document goes on to say in the same paragraph: “In the Mass, therefore, the sacrifice and sacred meal belong to the same mystery-so much so that they are linked by the closest bond.”

As we share in the joy of the newly-ordained priest celebrating his first Mass, it is good to reflect on what he, and all of us are doing.

The three elements of the Mass that *Eucharistum Mysterium* speaks of are, like the two great apostles, held in “tensive harmony”. At different times the Church seems to have laid greater stress of one or another of these elements; this was to correct an imbalance, but, human nature being what it is, usually leads to a different imbalance.

In the years before the Second Vatican Council there was a great emphasis on the Holy Sacrifice. Indeed, there was a serious heresy called “Jansenism” which, although condemned by the Church in 1715, left a legacy which continued well into the 20th century, discouraging the faithful from coming to Communion, but just to attend Mass. Pope Saint Pius X encouraged the faithful to come to Communion frequently, and specifically mentions the Jansenist heresy as teaching “that the Most Holy Eucharist is a reward rather than a remedy for human frailty.” (*Quam Singulari, 1910*)

Pope Francis, said that “the primary and fundamental mission of the Church is to be a ‘field hospital,’ a place of healing, mercy and forgiveness, and to be the source of hope for all suffering, the desperate, the poor, the sinners, and the discarded.” (*Papal Audience, August 9th, 2017*), and also teaches: “The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.” (*The Joy of the Gospel, §47*).

The tendency throughout the 20th century has been to emphasise the importance of receiving Communion, but this has been, to a significant extent, at the expense of understanding the vital importance of recognising the fact that the Mass is a sacrifice in which Calvary is made present to us in our lived experience. These truths must be held in “tensive harmony”. To be present and consciously to participate in the offering of the Mass is just as important as to receive Holy Communion.

The word ‘memorial’ in modern English does not have the weight of the concept that it is translating. The true understanding is that the Mass makes truly present the life, death and resurrection of Jesus who is truly present in the Mass, and when we come to Mass we come to a true and complete meeting with Him.

At the Altar he is born in his “house of bread” (Bethlehem literally means ‘house of bread’, and the manger is a feeding-place.

In the Old Testament we are reading the same scripture that he read.

In the Gospel we hear him speaking to us or watch some action of his. We are with him as he lived here on earth.

In the community he is already present “where two or three are gathered” (*Matthew 18:20*).

At the offertory we bring our gifts to offer to him, as the Magi did at Bethlehem.

In the rite of peace we share his gift (*see John 14:27*).

In the singing of the ‘Sanctus’ we join the saints to be one with their hymn in heaven, there Jesus is today in his glory.

In the Eucharistic Prayer we are standing at the foot of the Cross with Our Lady and St John, as his great sacrifice is made present to us.

In the dismissal he send us out to announce the Gospel; to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. (*see Matthew 28:19-20*)

Every way in which we meet Jesus at Mass is vitally important!



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS
Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 21st July 2019
Sixteenth Sunday of the Year
Parish Mass Book - Year C
Page 54

Priest:
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: priest@stgregory.org.uk
Deacons:
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com
Rev Rory Stewart (ret) ☎ 408407
Pastoral Assistant:
Maria Heath ☎ 07952 040830
E-mail: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk

Please pray for the sick

Sunday <i>16th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass (Principal celebrant: Fr David Donaghue)	Thomas & Mary Donoghue & George Walsh
Monday St. Mary Magdalene	9.00 am 11.30 am	Mass Funeral Mass	Dolores Behan RIP Bob Moore RIP
Tuesday St. Bridget of Sweden	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Ann Gibson RIP
Wednesday St. Sharbel Makhlef	9.00 am	Mass	Harold & Alicia Blundell RIP
Thursday St. James	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Teresa Redmond
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday SS Joachim & Anne	9.00 am 2.20 pm	Mass Healing Mass	Agnes Hegarty RIP Nollaig Donegan
Saturday Feria	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	Colin Davis RIP
Sunday <i>17th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Tommy Gill RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Sylvia Marlow	Kelly-Ann
Cecilia Pereira	Robert Fleming
Fr Philip Swingle	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	Deoris 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
Catherine Stratten	May Eamons
Stephen Aneke	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	Mary Rumsey
Paul Greaves	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
N. Donegan	Norma Bryan
Maureen Bell	Deacon Rory
May Murtagh	Michael Rowback

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £486.11. 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: Apostleship of the Sea. £177.01. Thank you!
Counters This Week: M. Bonner, Mrs Morgan.
Cleaners This Week: George & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

Genesis 18: 1-10. *Lord, do not pass your servant by.*
Colossians 1: 24-28. *A mystery hidden for centuries has now been revealed.*
Luke 10: 38-42. *Martha welcomed Jesus into her house. Mary has chosen the better part.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Genesis 18: 20-32; Colossians 2: 12-14; Luke 11: 1-13. (Page 56)

During this season of Ordinary Time, Summer, Human Life; Seafarers;
We are asked to pray for: 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

With great sorrow we record the death of Violette Caillebotte. Funeral details will follow as soon as they are known. May she rest in peace.

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Emma Darby	Thomas Grant
Rosella Pickerill	Nona Todds
Richard Fitzgerald	William Walker
Agnes Bingham	Jane Chisolme
Ron Fryer	Patrick Holland
Carmel Challis	Walter Denny
Kathleen Bradbury	Terence Collins
Philip Masson	Norah Battle
Anthony Lasslett	Edith McGill
Violet Burke	Amy Butlin
Margaret Millmore	George Page
Elizabeth Greaves	Michael Greenan
Antonietta Riseley	Anna Amalfitano
William Mulcahy	Martin Kelly
Ann Hill	George Penny
Lilian McGee	Kathleen Spring
Sarah Crossan	Johanna Hardy
James Cocks	Kathleen Burke
Pamela Haynes	Mary Franks

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JULY

That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.

Notices of Interest

The Repository: The Repository is open after both Sunday Masses. Confirmation cards are now on sale. *Kathleen Healey*

Bible Alive for July & August 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.**



We welcome into the family of the Church
Kodiak Valerian Chan and
Ines-Vivienne Plesca
who received Christian Baptism last week.
Please pray for them and their families.

David Donaghue's First Mass: As I am sure you're all aware, David celebrates his first Mass here, today, at 11am. There will be a buffet afterwards to help him celebrate, & everyone is invited to come along and partake!

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children: Please come to our next meeting on Fri. 9th Aug, at 7pm in the Sacristy. This is a vital time for the pro-life movement, with decriminalising abortion & assisted dying, back on the political agenda. You don't have to commit yourself to anything at the meeting, but it will be an opportunity to discover more about pro-life work in the town. If you can't attend but are interested in learning more about the group, please contact William Currie at wpcurrie@btinternet.com

Choir Matters: Practices are usually on the 1st Thursday of the month following evening Mass till 9pm : 1 Aug, 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!

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.

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



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.

Our Common Home: There will be a special day of prayer & celebration of creation on Sunday, Aug. 4th, which focuses on the CAFOD climate change campaign. Watch for more information about this in due course.

Summer Camp: NYMO, our diocesan youth ministry office, wish to invite all young people of secondary school age, to this year's Summer Camp. With the opportunity to sleep in a castle and experience amazing outdoor activities, alongside a day at Alton Towers and a mystery day out! All this alongside daily Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration. Cost is a minimum donation of £205 (9 subsidised) to an actual cost of £295. More information can be found at www.nymo.org or call Fiona on 01582 720627

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 August 3rd. All welcome.**

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting August 14th.** 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.



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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Please speak to a member of the Clergy.

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.

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 and survivors of abuse, their families and supporters are invited to this Mass. 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.

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.

Bob Moore RIP The funeral Mass for Bob Moore will be on Monday 22nd July at 11.30 am. May he rest in peace.

Alpha in the Autumn The present “Alpha” course is nearing its end, and the dates have been fixed for the next, which will be in the autumn, starting on 17th September and running in Tuesday evenings until 3rd December. Many people have spoken of how this has revitalised their faith; please think about joining if you haven't already!

The object of our prayer is that we may keep God's commands: to "love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind and to love your neighbour as yourself" (*Matthew 22:37, 39*). We are also given a new commandment; to love one another. (*John 13:34*)

Our prayer indicates that it is by being "fervent in hope, faith and charity" that we can find the fulfilment of this prayer.

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.

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.

It is by God's grace that this can be accomplished

The word translated as "keeping" is the Latin *perseverant* .which appears in the story of the crowd which remains with Jesus for three days to hear his teaching, and then is hungry, and is fed by Jesus in the multiplication of the loaves (*Matthew 15:32*). We have come to be fed with the bread of life at the Altar. May we have the same perseverance in hearing the teaching of Jesus.

Scripture Readings 21st July 2019, 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Abraham, settled by the oaks of Mamre, near Hebron, south of Jerusalem, gives proper hospitality to his three special visitors. He addresses only one of them as Lord, who promises a son to the couple in their old age. God's covenant promise to Abraham of countless descendants can now begin to come true.

The psalm lists the social virtues necessary to be at one with the Lord, especially justice and charity.

Paul had explained to the Colossians that with Christ's death God's covenant plan is now back on track. Paul sees his afflictions as helping spread the knowledge of redemption and contributing towards the debt Christ has already paid on our behalf.

The Jews believed that God would reveal his secret plans for creation: Paul says these have now been revealed – the mystery is

Jesus the Christ, the man who is the revelation of God, now raised to the new life also promised to us.

In Luke's description of Jesus' visit to Martha and Mary, their brother Lazarus is not mentioned. Like Sarah, Martha is busy preparing the meal. With so much to do she is naturally – but not obsessively – distracted, and asks for Mary's help. But Jesus reminds her that listening to the words of their prophetic guest is more important than domestic perfection.

Psalm Response: **The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

(Gen 18:1-10; Ps 14(15):2-5; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10:38-42)

Chris Oliver



Last Saturday we were privileged to host the Diocesan day in preparation for the Year of the Word, and addressed by Fleur Dorrell who is leading the year on behalf of the Bishops of England and Wales.

We were greatly encouraged to be told that we are already doing well in our study of the Scriptures, and in particular, through the "Bible Timeline" courses. Through the summer we will be resting, but the courses will start again in September; for those who have not yet done any of the courses, the foundation is the basic "Bible Timeline" which takes you through God's plan of salvation from the very beginning right up to the work of the Church as told in the Acts of the Apostles. Most of the course deals with the Old Testament, it is a great help in making sense of what can be very difficult bits of the Bible. Most importantly, it puts events in chronological order so that we can understand the context in which

the different books are written. The second course examines St Matthew's Gospel, and shows how so many of the events of the life of Jesus are in some way foreshadowed or prophesied in the Old Testament. The third course looks at the Acts of the Apostles in detail, because this shows us how the early Church obeyed the command of Jesus to proclaim the Good News. After these three courses, there is a great variety of books to study. Many people have found the study itself to be interesting, not too demanding. (Don't be put off by the words 'study' or 'course', this is not horribly difficult!) What nearly everyone finds is that the small group conversations are what they enjoy most, and give the greatest benefit.

Courses will be advertised very soon; it is really beneficial to start with the "Bible Timeline" course.



The Work of the Holy Spirit

In the last two Days the Holy Spirit has been active in our area in a wonderful way; on Friday through the giving of the Sacrament of Confirmation and on Saturday through the Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr David Donaghue, who is celebrating his first Mass here at St Gregory's today.

We congratulate Anne Kiggundu, Isabella Riñon, Jacob Santos, Jachael Pasion, Jennifer Hartnett, Martha Pieterse, Nithin Lukose, Oliver Eldridge and Orla Wilson who were Confirmed last Friday.

However, this is but the tip of the iceberg in terms of the work of the Holy Spirit. Every day, and every minute of every hour of every day, the Holy Spirit is at work, guiding us, strengthening us and protecting us, whether we recognise it or not.

At every Mass we ask the Holy Spirit to come upon the gifts at the Altar; the bread and the wine, and transform them into the real presence of Jesus Himself. We thank God for this wonderful gift. May we all live in the power of this gift every day and all day.

Other work — not all of the Holy Spirit

Last Wednesday evening the Church was victim of a burglary; while the Church was open the office door was jemmied open, and a burglar stole the entire office safe — a heavy metal box that must have taken considerable strength. We have CCTV pictures of the offender, and the police came and took copies of the film. The Holy Spirit still blessed us — at lunchtime on Friday the police notified us

that the safe had been recovered and a gentleman was assisting them with their enquiries. The most important contents of the safe were also recovered, although the damage will need to be repaired.

Thank be to God for this, and thanks also to a vigilant civilian who noticed an unlikely-looking person pushing a barrow containing a safe, and contacted the police.