



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

“If you cannot be trusted”

The bit of today’s Gospel that everyone remembers is the last sentence: “You cannot be a slave both of God and of money”, but this is the culmination of a passage about trust.

Each year Ipsos MORI conduct a poll on trust; the last one was in November last year, and nurses top the poll as the most trustworthy profession, rising from 94% to 96%. It will be no surprise that politicians are nearly at the bottom of the list; only advertising executives are regarded as less trustworthy than politicians. Marginally higher than politicians come journalists, and yet so many base their political and voting decisions on the basis of what journalists tell us! Judges score much higher, and this week the judges of the Supreme Court are having to come to a decision about the trustworthiness of our Prime Minister.

Sadly, priests and religious leaders have been declining in this league-table, although they remain way, way above the bottom.

God trusted humanity with the care of creation. “Let us make humankind in our own image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth” (*Genesis 1:26*). This was certainly the first act of trust that God made with humanity. The second was the trust to respect the instruction not to eat the forbidden fruit, and immediately mankind revealed his untrustworthiness.

Sadly this set the trend for the rest of history — over and over again mankind has shown that we are not deserving of trust. Cain could not be trusted with the life of his brother, and this lack of integrity has continued down to our own day.

The question of trust is to be found in every area of life. Our care for creation; a sacred trust which God has placed on us; our responsibility for the good of each other, exemplified in the description of the last judgement (*Matthew 25: 31-46*) and the Church’s teaching on the Corporal Works of Mercy; our seeking for peace, as taught by Jesus (*see Matthew 5:9, Matthew 26:52 for example*); the ‘Preferential option for the poor’, as expressed by Pope St John Paul II in his encyclical ‘*Centesimus Annus*’: these are all areas in which mankind needs to act in recognition of God’s trust in us.

There seem to be an almost unending number of social ills all around us. An increase in drug addiction, in mental illness, in knife-crime, in homelessness, in marriage breakdown, in so many and various aspects of contemporary life. All of these are examples of or result from a breach of the trust that God has placed in us.

We need to be wary of imagining a sort of ‘hierarchy of trusts’, in which we consider some trusts to be of greater importance than others. Jesus tells us “if you cannot be trusted in little things, you cannot be trusted in great” (*Luke 16:10*). A breach of trust is a breach of trust, whatever the issue may be.

Returning to early Genesis, we find the care of creation and the care of the life of others to be two very specific trusts that we are given. In both of these contemporary society is found wanting. Whether it be the destruction of the rain forests or our profligate use of fossil fuels, humanity is causing enormous damage to our planet. Our laws on abortion are equally a breach of trust with God. The European Court of Human Rights affords no human rights to the unborn. [Please note, the European Court of Human Rights is NOT part of the European Union; leaving the EU does not affect our being subject to the rulings of this court.] Under British law, unborn children have no human rights at all, and may be put to death.

All these issues are first of all theological — relating to God. It is God who places his trust in us, and it is to him that we must answer for our use of that trust. That is why our first concern must be for evangelisation. A person who truly recognises their relationship with God must always seek not to abuse God’s trust. However, before we can hope to bring others to faith in God, we must first be sure that we ourselves are completely trustworthy. (*See Matthew 7:3-5*)

We can campaign for specific issues that are personally important — pro-life, climate change, refugees, disability rights, homelessness, poverty, crime, opposing tyranny, opposing abuse in all its forms — all these and many others are good in themselves, but all of them revolve around the basic question of trust. The person who has no respect for God will have no respect for the trust that God has put in them.

However, we need to be sure that we do not have a blinkered view of what that trust entails. The issues that one person regards as important may seem less important to another, and the issues we think less important can end up becoming unimportant to us.

For all of us, however, the spread of the Gospel must be important because this underpins all virtues. Alpha has proved itself to be a good way of doing this — not the only way — but as well as being effective it is also a relatively easy way. It is not difficult to invite someone to come to a meal, to watch a film and to talk about it. One of the fundamental principles of Alpha is that anyone can express their opinion, and be heard. They will not be shouted down but respectfully invited to hear other opinions. All are welcome!



22 Park Avenue North
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Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 22nd September 2019
Twenty Fifth Sunday of the Year
Parish Mass Book - Year C
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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

Sunday <i>25th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	Nancy Ginelley RIP
Monday St. Pio of Pietrelcina	9.00 am	Mass	Connie Unsworth RIP
Tuesday Our Lady of Walsingham	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Greta Smith's Intentions
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Jozef Luha
Thursday SS Cosmas & Damian	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Paul & Clare Sefton's Intentions
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday St. Vincent de Paul	9.00 am	Mass	Christine Strong RIP Rory Stewart
	2.20 pm	Mass	
Saturday St. Wenceslaus	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	James Lynskey RIP
Sunday <i>26th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Dante Davighi RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £520.10. 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.
Second Collection Last Week: Home Mission Sunday £102.81. Thank you!
Counters This Week: M. Murtagh, L. Allen, Anna Smith.
Cleaners This Week: Pru & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

Amos 8: 4-7. *Against those who "buy up the poor for money".*
1 Timothy 2: 1-8. *There should be prayer offered for everyone to God.*
Luke 16: 1-13. *You cannot be the slave of both God and money.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Amos 6: 1, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6: 11.16; Luke 16: 19-31. (Page 80)

During this season of Ordinary Time, Autumn, Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest;
We are asked to pray for: The Spread of the Gospel; Victims of War
Prisoners & Their Families; Young People.

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)

Pastoral Area Meeting. The new Pastoral Area team met for the first time this week with the main item on the agenda being to address the needs set out at the group meeting held at Wellingborough on 6 July 2019. Good progress was made on communication and youth and various actions have been defined and agreed by those present. We will keep you informed with progress.

Hall Keys: Please, please, please, will everyone who has used the hall in recent months, and was given a key to get in, please make sure that you have returned it to the office. There are a number missing, and they are very expensive to replace. Thank you. Caryll.

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	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
May Murtagh	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
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
Margaret M	Breege Manix
Frances Duffus	

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Florence Haggett	Henry Labrum
Bernard Spice	Carol Allen
Sean Green	Jozef Grabowski
Thomas O'Connor	Muriel Golding
William Jackson	Joseph Mack
Percy Hopkins	Veronica Attwell
John Whatton	Cheron Kely
Edna Perkins	Francis Barker
Martin Cawley	Kenneth Howell
Mercy Branson	Mary Hopkins
Rudolf Wloczyk	Keith Jones
William Valentine	George Lewis

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.

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

Notices of Interest

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*



Congratulations to
Michael Moran and Louise Macken
Who were married at the weekend.
Please pray for them.

Bible Alive for September & October 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.**

The Hope Centre are looking for empty ice cream tubs and margarine tubs (NOT yoghurt pots). Please continue to donate only the large ice cream tubs and margarine tubs, as these can be used for placing dinners and puddings in for the homeless. Thank you!

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.

Rotas for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for the period October - January have now been issued to all those on email. Hard copies are available in the sacristy for all others.

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.

LUX.VOX – a weekend for young people aged 11-18! 31st Jan-2nd Feb 2020 – Please contact fiona@nymo.org or call 01582 720627 for more details.

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 today and next Sunday after either Mass. The main preparation sessions will take place on seven Saturdays leading to First Holy Communion in May 2020.

Confirmation Preparation: Those interested in Confirmation next year are invited to join the Youth Alpha programme.

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 October 5th. All welcome.**

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting October 9th.** All welcome.

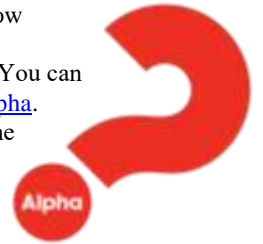
Mass for Victims & Survivors of Abuse, their families and supporters at St Mary's in Woburn Sands at 12 noon on 12 October 2019. All victims, survivors of abuse, their families & supporters are invited to this Mass. There will be light refreshments after the Mass.

Choir Matters: Practices are usually on the 1st Thursday of the month following evening Mass till 9pm: 3 Oct. & then weekly practices until Dec to prepare for Christmas. *Alec*

Tots @St Gregory's: If you have charge of a pre-school baby or child on Tuesday mornings why not come along to Tots @ St Gregory's which runs in the parish hall from 9:30 - 11:30? We are a friendly, welcoming group where all have fun & refreshments are provided. The cost is £1 for each adult regardless of how many children you bring! We run throughout the school terms and begin again on Tuesday 10th 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 this Tuesday and running on 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!



Helpers needed for Alpha: If you are able to offer help for the Alpha course starting on Tuesday, please talk to Maria Heath. Those who have helped in the past will tell you that they greatly enjoyed the experience — there was always laughter coming from the kitchen!

Autumn Courses at St Gregory's:

Monday at 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Catholicism	starts 16 th September
Monday at 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm	Acts	starts 16 th September
Tuesday at 10.00 am – 12 noon	Psalms	starts 24 th September
Tuesday at 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm	Alpha	starts 17 th September
Wednesday at 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Matthew	starts 18 th September

Autumn Course at Sacred Heart:

Tuesday at 10.15 am	Bible Timeline	starts 17 th September
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More information on local courses can be found at:

www.bible-groups.info/timeline

Youth Alpha will also run this autumn: (5.30 pm – 7.00 pm)

Friday 4 th October	Life: Is this it?
Friday 11 th October	Jesus: Who is Jesus?
Friday 18 th October	Cross: Why did Jesus die?
Friday 25 th October	Faith: How can we have faith?
Friday 8 th November	Prayer: Why and how should I pray?
Friday 15 th November	Bible: Why and how do I read the Bible?
Saturday 16 th November	Follow: How does God guide us?
	Spirit: Who is He and what does He do?
	Fill: How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
Friday 22 nd November	Evil: How can I resist evil?
Friday 29 th November	Healing: Does God heal today?
Friday 6 th December	Church: What about Church and telling others?

Jesus summarised the Law as love of God and of neighbour (*Matthew 22:37-39*), in part quoting a passage familiar to all Jews from Deuteronomy 6:5; as we saw in last week's opening prayer.

The full depth of these commands is what occupies much of the teaching that Jesus gave during his public ministry, and not least, in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (*Luke 10:25-37*)

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.

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.

The expression 'keeping the precepts' derives from John 15:10, "If you keep my precepts" (more usually translated as "If you keep my commandments", "you will remain in my love.")

It is because of this love that we hope for eternal life.

Scripture Readings 22nd September 2019, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Amos was a shepherd from Judah who around 760 BC prophesied doom to the northern kingdom Israel, largely because of its social injustice. Israel under Jeroboam was very prosperous, but when it was overrun by Assyria 40 years later the prophet's warnings were remembered. It was not just the ways the rich cheated the poor – inflating the currency and giving short measure. Worse was their belief that sacrifices and fasting would absolve them from God's blame: sacrifice without justice is meaningless.

The Psalm urges praise for God at all times and in all places for he who is supreme over all stoops down to raise up the poor.

In our modern liturgies we follow all of Paul's advice to Timothy: we lift up our hands in the traditional manner to offer prayers of petition, intercession and thanks, and we pray for secular

authorities – "so that we may live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet". We should reject false gods like riches or possessions. There is only one God, and Christ Jesus, our one High Priest, is the only mediator between us and God.

In the Gospel Jesus also warns us not to be seduced into worshipping money. Jesus says though the steward was "dishonest", his motive was right: to gain friends who would help him later.

Psalm Response: **Praise the Lord who raises the poor.**

(Amos 8:4-7 Ps 112(113):1-8 1 Tim 2:1-8 Lk 16:1-13)

Chris Oliver

The Season of Creation

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

Safeguarding

The National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) has just produced its annual report, and much of what it says is of importance to us all. It begins with an important statement by Chris Pearson, the Chair of the Commission: "It is important to highlight that safeguarding structures and arrangements to protect children, young people and adults at risk from harm are not an 'add on' to the work of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, they are expected to be intrinsic to the very fabric of the Church." He continues: "All those involved at every level of safeguarding in the Catholic Church in England and Wales need to recognise that we can never be complacent. Clear leadership throughout the Church is crucial". His forward ends: "Too often safeguarding is perceived as reactive, sometimes something to be feared. Safeguarding is about keeping people safe from harm, but it is also about positively promoting and celebrating what is done well and the value of every human being."

There are three arms to the Church's safeguarding strategy; the NCSC has an overall remit to keep everyone safe within the Church through developing a culture of sensitivity throughout the Church; through ensuring that the best practice is in place across the whole of the Church and that there is no place in which a lower standard of safeguarding is accepted and seeking to improve the standard of safeguarding across the entire Church.

One of the ways in which we hope to improve the entire process of safeguarding is through the "Survivors Advisory Panel". There was a great deal of valid criticism of the Church in not being sensitive to the needs of survivors and victims of abuse, and being more concerned about the reputation of the Church than about the well-being of victims. This is an area in which (belatedly) the Church is trying to address. In our own Diocese, the Mass for Victims and Survivors at Woburn Sands on 12th October is one example of this.

The third arm of the Church's strategy is through the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) which has a direct involvement in ensuring that the improvements are put into practice at a Diocesan and parish level, and in religious communities.

One aspect of safeguarding that sometimes causes concern is the "DBS" process (Disclosure and Barring Service) which checks that those who work in the Church do not have any criminal convictions for any offence which might make them a potential risk to anyone with whom they might be in contact through the Church. This cannot be a guarantee, but is the first line of protection against abuse.

We are fortunate in our local Parish Safeguarding Representative, Mrs Carol McNeil, but it is important that we all realise that safeguarding is the responsibility of us all, for the sake of our children, vulnerable adults, indeed, of us all.

The Year of the Word



Earlier this year there was a survey conducted by the Bishops entitled “Our Bible and You”. There were over 1,600 responses, and the summary of the results has been published.

One of the serious findings is that 41% of those who responded said that are not sure where to begin with the Bible. It is precisely these that the Bible Timeline courses are designed to help. Anyone who feels that they are part of that 41% is particularly recommended to join the course that starts on Tuesday morning at Sacred Heart (10.15 am).

Another of the findings of the survey is that only 34% see the Bible as important to the Catholic Faith. An important passage from the documents of the Second Vatican Council states:

“The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she venerates the Body of the Lord, in so far as she never ceases, particularly in the Sacred Liturgy, to partake of the Bread of Life and to offer it to the faithful from the one table of the Word of God and the Body of Christ. She has always regarded, and continues to regard the Scriptures, taken together with Sacred Tradition, as the supreme rule of her faith” (*Vatican II, Dei Verbum §21*).

More encouragingly, a small majority (51%) of Catholics say that they read the Bible daily outside Church. There are many ways of personal Bible reading; one is to follow the daily readings of the Church with a weekday Missal or through one of the many smartphone apps or online guides such as Universalis, or Laudate.

It is not generally recommended to start at the beginning with Genesis and plan to continue until reaching Apocalypse. This is because the books of the Bible do not appear in exactly chronological sequence, and some sort of a guide is really necessary. Again, this is where the Timeline course is a great help.

It is probably better to study one book of the Bible at a time with the help of a commentary — again, see the courses on offer opposite.

It is good to see that 84% of respondents say that it is important to our faith to tell others about Jesus. As we are on the brink of starting our new Alpha course, and that next month has been dedicated as an “Extraordinary Mission Month” by Pope Francis, this is very welcome. The Bible is a wonderful treasure of the Church, and not one to be hidden away like an investment in a bank vault. It is like the pounds that the servants were given (*Luke 19:11-27*). It is not for hiding or burying!

