



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

The Body of Christ

On the feast of Corpus Christi in 1978 Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger celebrated Mass in the Marienplatz in Munich where he was Archbishop. His homily is included in his book: “God is Near Us”, published by Ignatius Press. What follows is based on that homily.

There are three distinct components to the celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi; Standing before the Lord, Walking with the Lord and Kneeling before the Lord.

Standing before the Lord.

From the earliest days of the Church, congregations were drawn from many different backgrounds, having only one thing in common — their love and service of God revealed in the person of Jesus. In his choice of the Apostles Jesus shows that people’s backgrounds, ethnicity, education, previous life or political views are of no significance. All of them had their relationship with Jesus, and it was this, not any other quality or characteristic that bound them together.

In the letter of James and in St Paul’s letters we see that sometimes the early Church struggled with this, but it was recognised that the wealthy and the poor were beside each other; the rich must not be held in higher regard than the poor (*James 2:1-4*). St Paul tells the Corinthians not to quarrel among themselves (*1 Corinthians 1:10-13*) even though they are each different people. They are all called into fellowship with Christ. (*1 Corinthians 1:9*).

Initially the Church was concerned that each town should have only one Christian community, and all were gathered around the one bishop of that town, but as towns grew bigger and more people became Christian, the idea of parishes became established and that a town might have many different Eucharistic communities. However the original concept of the single Christian community in each town was never forgotten, and the feast of Corpus Christi where parishes join together for a single celebration is one example of this principle. Last week we celebrated the anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral and this is an obligatory feast in every parish of the diocese, reminding us of this essential unity across the entire diocese. Together we stand before the Lord; men and women, rich and poor, clever and not-so-clever, gathered from every ethnicity and skin-colour, speaking many different languages. We celebrate this in the procession at Billing on Sunday afternoon.

We should remember this at every Mass; that we are standing together before the Lord. We do this because we are fellow-followers of the Lord. At some point in our life we, each one of us, made a

conscious decision that we are a disciple (one who learns) and that we would follow where Jesus leads us.

Walking with the Lord.

When we come to receive Holy Communion we walk in a procession (please, not a queue!); walking *to* Jesus. The Corpus Christi procession takes this one step further (or rather, many steps!). We are now not walking *to* Jesus, we are walking *with* Jesus. This is, or should be, a parable for our whole life; a walk *with* Jesus. In this the Church is offering us a new interpretation of the Exodus story, of Israel’s wandering in the wilderness. God was leading them in the form of a pillar or cloud or of fire. In this journey the people were fed with Manna “Bread of angels” (*See psalm 78/77:24-25*). Yet the Old Testament teaches us, and Jesus himself reminds us that “man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (*Deuteronomy 8:2-3, Matthew 4:4*). In Jesus we have the “Word made flesh” (*John 1:14*), thus we are led by Him who is both Bread and Word.

After his resurrection we have a beautiful picture of walking with the Lord on the road to Emmaus (*Luke 24:13-35*) where the disciples come to understand the mystery of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection as they walk with him. In the light of this mystery he gives us the pattern of life; how we should walk day-by-day and how our steps, our words and our actions should be guided.

Kneeling before the Lord.

At the end of the procession we kneel to receive the Lord’s blessing. Above all, we kneel in adoration. St Paul tells us of the importance of recognising the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament (*See 1 Corinthians 11:29*), and when the Apostles recognised the risen Jesus they “fell down before him” (*Matthew 28:27*).

We too fall down in adoration before Jesus, crucified, risen, ascended and now truly present to us under the forms of bread and wine. However, this is more than simply abject servility.

We remember that Jesus himself knelt down before his disciples at the last supper and washed their feet. He said that he is “among us as one who serves” (*Luke 22:27*), and has told us that we must “wash one another’s feet” (*John 13:14*). We are required to see Jesus in those who are in need (*See Matthew 25:40*), and in this response, Jesus will be living in us.

What we experience in the Corpus Christi procession points to our daily Christian life. May we live Corpus Christi every day!



Sunday 23rd June 2019
Corpus Christi
Parish Mass Book - Year C
Page 32

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

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>Corpus Christi</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Roy Sedgwick RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	3.00 pm	Corpus Christi Procession (Billing)	
Monday The Nativity of St. John the Baptist (Page 102)	9.00 am	Mass	Peter Redmond RIP
	1.15 pm	Funeral Mass	Keith Pullen RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Rita & Anthony Bonner's Intentions
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Philomena Fraher RIP
Thursday St. Cyril of Alexandria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	Peter Redmond RIP
Friday The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	9.00 am	Mass	Anna Maria & Richard O'Neill's Intentions
	2.20 pm	Healing Mass	Lilly Butler
Saturday The Immaculate Heart of Mary	9.00 am	Mass	Chris Butler RIP
Sunday <i>SS Peter & Paul</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Dec'd Members of the Rumsey Family
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

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	James Power
Owen	Khanh Phan
Kath Seamark	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 Diccico	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 Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
N. Donegan	Norma Bryan

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £487.92. 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 This Week: Day for Life.
Second Collection Next Week: Peter's Pence.
Counters This Week: C.P., L. Allen.
Cleaners This Week: Aideen & Another.

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Bridget Cahill	Roy Sedgwick
Joseph McLoughlin	John Corr
Mary Manger	Josephine Moran
Michael McCaughey	Sybil Mack
Elizabeth Littlewood	Marion Moore
Giovanni Sacco	Colin Green
Francis Lane	Mollie Collins
Frederick Perkins	Sean Allen
Agnes Newman	Mary Stacey

Readings for This Sunday

Genesis 14: 18-20. *He brought bread and wine.*
1 Corinthians 11: 23-26. *Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup.*
Luke 9: 11-17. *They all ate as much as they wanted.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Acts 12: 1-11; 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16: 13-19. (Page 105)

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

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JUNE

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

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

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 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.**

Choir Matters: Brilliant news! Deacon David will celebrate his first Mass at St Gregory's on July 21 at 11:00 Mass. Our next choir practice (July 4) will focus on that event. Our already much praised choir would benefit from others joining us so that we become even better and improve what we deliver at David's very special and blessed event. Help us do justice to his celebration. *Alec*

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children-protecting life from conception to natural death: Please take the time after Mass to sign a card asking the Home Secretary not to allow the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill to be hijacked by the pro-abortion lobby. They are seeking to attach an amendment to the bill, which would decriminalise abortion in Northern Ireland, England and Wales. Removing criminal sanctions from abortion will not protect women from abusive men.

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

Climate Lobby in London - 26 June: Join CAFOD & many other charities at an unforgettable event in London on 26 June. It's time to confront this climate & environmental crisis & tell our leaders that Britain should no longer contribute to the destruction of our common home. You can make a difference by joining in. Please register if you would like to attend (see <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-lobby> for more details).

33rd Rosary Rally at Mount St Bernard Abbey: This begins with Mass at 2.00 pm on Sunday 1st September. See the poster for more information.

Our Common Home There will be a special day of prayer and celebration of creation on Sunday August 4th, which will focus on the CAFOD climate change campaign. Keep a watch-out for more information about this.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7.00 pm on Monday 8th July in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion — 2020 Enrolment for next year's First Holy Communion preparation will be in September.

Confirmation Preparation: Check your programme!

Job Vacancies: There are advertisements for various job vacancies; part-time housekeeper for Northampton Cathedral, Full-time Youth Ministry Co-ordinator with (NYMO) based at Luton, Parish Youth Minister. Full advertisements on the notice-board in the display area. Further info. can be found on the diocesan website: www.northamptondiocese.org/vacancies

CAFOD:

You are invited to be part of our amazing education programme which inspires students to act on their sense of justice. A background in education is not necessary. We are looking for people with good interpersonal skills, a passion for CAFOD's work and who can connect well with children and young people. You will be asked to go into Catholic schools in the locality to deliver prepared assemblies and/or workshops about once a term. All necessary training, travel expenses and resources will be provided and you will have the ongoing support of a local team.

Support local volunteers

CAFOD is looking for Parish Volunteer Coordinators to inspire and support local volunteers. This is a rewarding opportunity for people who are keen to work with other volunteers in their community raising awareness of the church's role in fighting injustice and poverty. Help us build a strong network – stronger than poverty and injustice.

For both roles, please get in touch with

Deborah: northampton@cafod.org.uk 01494 863777

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.

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 July 6th. All welcome.**

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting 10th July.** 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 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.

Bible Timeline - Spreading the Word of God's Kingdom: Sat. 13th 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.

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 (subsidised) to an actual cost of £295. More information can be found at www.nymo.org or call Fiona on 01582 720627

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.

This is a well-known prayer, being used at Benediction on the Blessed Sacrament, and in terms of most of the prayers in the Missal, is relatively recent, dating from the thirteenth century. (Most date from the sixth.)

The word "Mysteries" was one of the words used by the early Church for the Mass; we pray that we may "revere the sacred mysteries" that we celebrate at every Mass.

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your body and blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption.

Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

This is what we now call "active participation" — a full, deliberate and conscious engagement with the celebration of the Mass.

In so doing, we pray that we may experience the fruits; that is to say, that in sharing in the Sacred Mysteries, we may become fruitful Christians, bearing the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. (*Galatians 5:22*)

Scripture Readings 23rd June 2019, Corpus Christi, Year C

In Eucharistic Prayer I – the Roman canon – we hear these words just after the Consecration: "the bread and wine offered by your priest Melchizedek". Melchizedek, the Canaanite priest-king of Jerusalem, offered food and drink to Abram and his 318 retainers as they returned from victory, blessing Abram in the name of the one God they both believed in. Abram accepted Melchizedek's blessing and gave him a tithe. Their shared meal confirmed them both as God's people.

When David captured Jerusalem he took over this priest-kingship. Hence today's psalm praising David, appointed by God as a "priest for ever of the order of Melchizedek", while also asserting the dignity of the Messiah as both king and royal priest.

The author of Hebrews saw Melchizedek's priesthood as superior to the Levitical priesthood and saw Jesus, descendent of David,

with his gift of bread and wine to his disciples, as succeeding to this ancient priesthood.

Paul had told the Corinthians to stop misbehaving during the Eucharist. He then gave this earliest description we have of its institution during the last meal Christ shared with his disciples before Calvary.

Melchizedek's offering of food to Abram is echoed in the feeding of the 5,000 in the Gospel, anticipating Christ giving himself to us as heavenly food in the Eucharist.

Psalm Response:

**You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old.**

(Genesis 14:18-20 Psalm 109(110):1-4 1 Cor 11:23-26 Luke 9:11-17)

Chris Oliver

Corpus Christi Procession at Great Billing

As Catholics we know that we are part of something much bigger than our parish or congregation; we are part of the universal Church. We must never become merely 'parochial', with our Christian experience limited to our own parish and church. The local manifestation of the Church is the Diocese, and within our diocese, parishes are grouped into 'Pastoral Areas'. Our Pastoral Area, which encompasses us, Sacred Heart at Weston Favell, Our Lady's at Billing with St Anselm's at Earls Barton, Our Lady's at Wellingborough with St Edmund Campion and St Peter's at Rushden is under the patronage of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour.

Bishop Peter has encouraged the parishes in each pastoral area to work together "confidently and humbly proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ". Our Corpus Christi procession at Billing is one way in which we pray together, walk together, witness together and grow together.

Come rain or shine, we walk with Jesus! This is the occasion for all those who have received Holy Communion for the first time to walk in front of the Blessed Sacrament, and it always an occasion of great joy. The procession begins at 3.00 pm. All our First Holy Communion children are invited to take part, as is everyone. Remember this is today!

Pastoral Area Reflection Day: July 6th

Bishop Peter has asked all Pastoral Areas to have a "Reflection Day", to consider pastoral provisions for the future. This is not to do with the deployment of priests; rather it is to do with the third part of the "Together in Faith" campaign which was the development of Lay Ministry. We will be led by Avril Baigent, and it is important that each parish is well represented.

The event will be at St Edmund Campion school in Wellingborough, and will begin at 10.30 am and end at 4.00 pm. A sandwich lunch will be provided for all those who attend. Please mark this date in your diary.



It is a fundamental part of every service in church that we read from the Scriptures. But this is no mere 'reading'; it is a proclamation. This requires two vital components. It requires that the proclaimer truly understands what it is that is being proclaimed. Only

when it is truly understood can it be effectively proclaimed, because only then will it be proclaimed with confidence.

That is why we regularly have training courses for those who proclaim the Scriptures in Church and is part of the value of the Bible Timeline courses. They need to understand the meaning of the words that they are proclaiming.

The second vital component is the skill of being able to speak the words in a way that can be understood. There was a time when the Scriptures were proclaimed in Latin at Mass, even though many, perhaps most of the congregation could not understand the language. The Church technically always insisted that the readings should be understood; she just took a long time to recognise that most people were not fluent in Latin!

However, an indistinct pronunciation or incoherent proclamation is no more understood than Latin or Greek. This coming autumn there will be a major course for **all** readers.



Facebook page: St Gregory's has a page on Facebook, and frequently carries news before it gets into the

280

newsletter as well as reminders for events.
Address:
<https://www.facebook.com/StGregsNorthampton>