



# 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

# First Holy Communion Preparation

It's that time of the year again when we are enrolling children who want to be prepared for their First Holy Communion.

The Catholic Church is very aware that many children who prepare for their First Holy Communion, and come to Mass faithfully during their time of preparation, very quickly seem to give up after the celebration. We are also aware that less than half of those who are prepared for First Holy Communion then go on to seek Confirmation. In fact, only about half of those who are Baptised then go on to prepare for Holy Communion.

In this, the Church cannot attach any blame to the children, and herself needs to recognise her responsibility for this.

An important and significant book was written a few years ago, entitled “Evangelising the Baptised” by Fr Jonathan Cotton. It begins with a quotation from Cardinal Turkson, Archbishop of Cape Coast, Ghana:

“In my humble opinion, the same caution that I express for Africa I see in Europe. Christianity in Europe started on an evangelistic base then developed a catechetics base. And it never found its way back being evangelical. The early years of the Church were all based on evangelisation. When the structures began to evolve and develop it became catechetical, notional — you teach people certain things, they can repeat them, than you baptise them. The emphasis on the thrust of evangelisation — provoking conversation in people — and helping people find a real relationship with a personal God — that gradually was missed out.”

*Interview with 'The Tablet', 10<sup>th</sup> November 2007*

Catechetics = the process of teaching about Jesus and the Faith.

Evangelistic = bringing people into a relationship with Jesus

This is the situation we have inherited, and for many years, the Church sought to remedy the situation with what we hoped would be better catechetics; hardly a year has passed since the late 1960s that a new course has been published, but this has made no perceptible difference. Fr James Mallon has described this as doing what we know doesn't work with increased enthusiasm.

We recognise that what is lacking is evangelisation: fundamentally what Cardinal Turkson calls “a real relationship with a personal God”.

However, it is not enough just to help the children to have this relationship. Jesus told us to “make disciples of *all* people” (*Matthew 28:19*), not just children.

The emphasis of the Church in our present age must be evangelisation. Our Alpha programme is one part of this, but it is increasingly the emphasis of our First Holy Communion course.

Evangelisation must be aimed at people of every age — children, parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts, brothers and sisters — in short, *everyone*.

Today we are asking parents to enrol their children in our First Holy Communion programme. In doing so, parents need to recognise their own responsibility, but above all, what matters is their own “real relationship with a personal God”, and through the coming months we will be seeking to help parents and carers to develop their own relationship with God our Father, through Jesus Christ who was born, lived, taught and died for us, and having conquered death, rose again and remains alive and with us in the Blessed Sacrament, in the words of Holy Scripture and in one another, in the power of the Holy Spirit who continues to inspire and empower us.

## Curry Today!

Come for a Curry lunch today in the hall after the 11.00 Mass, in support of those suffering in Kerala following the floods there. We have had a letter from CAFOD thanking us for our donation of £609.77 which will support the most vulnerable people with food,

blankets, mosquito nets and hygiene training to help stop the spread of disease. Please come today, and enjoy real Indian food and make a generous donation.



22 Park Avenue North  
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: [www.stgregory.org.uk](http://www.stgregory.org.uk)

# Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

## Twenty Fifth Sunday of the Year

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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> 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year	9.00 am	Mass	Ian & Tina Kennedy
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
<b>Monday</b> Our Lady of Walsingham	9.00 am	Mass	Becky Parry RIP
<b>Tuesday</b> Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	The Family of Bernadette & Robert Douglas
<b>Wednesday</b> Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Becky Parry RIP Joanna O'Dwyer RIP
	11.00 am	Funeral Mass	
	11.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion (St Andrew's)	
<b>Thursday</b> St. Vincent de Paul	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Nora Scott's Intentions
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
<b>Friday</b> Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Chris & Lilly Butler Mary Farrell
	2.20 pm	Healing Mass	
<b>Saturday</b> SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	9.00 am	Mass	Maureen Connolly
<b>Sunday</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year	9.00 am	Mass	Patrick Coleman RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

**Your Offering To The Parish:**

Last Sunday's collection was £962.93. 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.

**Special Collection Last Week:**

Home Missionary Society £255.39. Thank you!

**Counters This Week:**

Paul & Clare Sefton, C. Stratten.

**Cleaners This Week:**

Big Clean.

**Readings for This Sunday**

Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20.

*Let us condemn him to a shameful death.*

James 3: 16- 4: 3.

*Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.*

Mark 9: 30-37.

*he Son of Man will be delivered.*

**Readings for Next Sunday**

Numbers 11: 25-29; James 5: 1-6; Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48. (Page 76)

**During this season of**

Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest;

**Ordinary Time, Autumn,**

The Spread of the Gospel;

**we are asked**

Prisoners & their Families;

**to pray for:**

Victims of War; 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.**

**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 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
Frank Burke	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 Wollard	Rita Barry
Dolores Behan	Vera Curly
Richard Redmond	Chau
Teresa Redmond	Damien Darkko
Br Paul Greaves	Michael Graney
Paul Mandel	Fr. John O'Brien
Tony Refoy	Candy Docherty
Leo Bell	Elaine Donnely
Jennifer Ogbata	May Eamons
Constance Unsworth	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	N. Donegan
Philomena Fraher	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Nancy Ginnelly	Mary Rumsey
Maire West	Owen
Stephen Aneke	

**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 Kelly
Edna Perkins	Francis Barker
Martin Cawley	Mercy Bransom
Rudolf Wloczyw	Mary Hopkins
William Valentine	Keith Jones
George Lewis	

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER**

**That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice.**

# Notices of Interest

**The Repository** is open in the Foyer after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards & other devotional items. We still welcome offers of help, especially after 11 o'clock Mass.  
Kathleen Healey. Tel 629103.



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Fyon Bernie Simpson  
who received Christian Baptism last week.  
Please pray for him and his family.



Congratulations to  
James Francis Harding and  
Cherrie-Louise Jamieson  
Who were married last weekend.  
Please pray for them.

**Bible Alive** for September & October 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.**

**Communion to those with limited mobility:** Holy Communion is brought to those in the FRONT ROW on EITHER SIDE and to wheel-chair users, but not anywhere else in church.

**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.

**Modern Day Slavery & Trafficking:** Northampton Justice & Peace Commission Conference on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October at St. John's Parish Hall, 296 Sundon Park Road, Luton LU3 3AL, 10.30am – 1.30pm, followed by a shared lunch. Speakers will be Sr Patricia Mulhall csb & Michael Duthie (Deputy Director Santa Marta Group); both have a wealth of experience in these areas. For more details contact Stephen Forster (01494) 875485, [franforster@gmail.com](mailto:franforster@gmail.com). If you'd like to share a lift, please contact Frank 07712160064 or [frank\\_sudlow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:frank_sudlow@yahoo.co.uk)

**Choir Matters:** Practices will be after Thurs. evening Mass on Oct 4, Nov 1 (Holy Day: All Saints), Nov 8, 15, 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 20, not Jan 3. New members always welcome as are the old ones!  
*Alec*

**Pilgrimage to Walsingham — Reparation and prayer for the sanctity of life.** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018; coach leaves from the Cathedral at 7.30 am, Sacred Heart, Weston Favell at 7.40 am. To book, ring Caroline (07753105918). Cost £15.00

**Walsingham Annual Pilgrimage for the Sanctity of Life:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October, led by Archbishop Kevin McDonald. All are warmly invited to unite in the day of prayer. For further details, see poster on the noticeboard.

**NORES day retreat:** As part of the Diocesan Year of Prayer and Vocation, NORES are offering a day retreat called 'Your God will be my God' and will be based on the Book of Ruth. The retreat will be at The Bridgettine Guesthouse, Fulmer Common Rd, Iver Heath SL10 0NR on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 11am-4pm, and is £30 per person, which includes lunch, tea and coffee. For further details, please contact NORES on [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or on 01582 723312

**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!

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting 10<sup>th</sup> October.** All welcome.

**Blessed Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group** continues monthly on 1st Saturday of each month in the Sacristy at 10am. (Next is **October 6<sup>th</sup>**) All welcome.

**Northampton Notre Dame Association:** 25<sup>th</sup> September 2.30-4.30pm at St. Matthews Church Rooms, **Tea Party.** All Welcome

**Becoming a Catholic:** For adults interested in becoming Catholic the parish runs Journey in Faith process (RCIA). This is also offered for adults who are Catholic but have not received all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist. Please speak to Alex Heath who leads the Journey (07963032175), Fr Andrew or Maria Heath.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next Baptism Preparation will be advertised here shortly. Please meet in the Church.

**First Holy Communion — 2019** Registration for preparation for First Holy Communion in 2019 will be after either Mass today. Full programme available soon.

**Confirmation Preparation:** Information about next year's Confirmation preparation will be published soon. Keep looking!

**First Holy Communion registration today:** It is important that those children wishing to prepare for First Holy Communion register this week after either Mass. Registration will take place in the hall. When you register, you will be given a list of dates and other important information. **Late registration causes extra work for the catechists and, after the course starts, may not be possible at all.**

**5<sup>th</sup> N'pton St Mary's RC Scout Group:** Did you or your family ever belong to the 5<sup>th</sup> Northampton St Mary's RC Scout Group? If so, the group wants to contact you about its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations starting with Mass & a reunion, which takes place at 2pm Sat, Oct. 20 @ Scout Camping Ground, Overstone. Although the 5<sup>th</sup> St Mary's is attached to the Cathedral, most of the time it was the only Catholic Scout group in town & attracted members from all over Northampton. Please email former leader Pat Percival on [patpercivalnn@aol.com](mailto:patpercivalnn@aol.com) or message her on 07526 661228.

**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

**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!

**60 Miles by Road and Rail - a play at the Royal Theatre.** It's 1968 and Northampton is on the verge of great change: it is becoming a 'New Town'. The Northampton Development Corporation has been established. An advertising jingle is soon to be re-released as a pop record. But as thousands of families flock in from London, some are concerned that Northampton's identity is starting to slip away...., Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September starting at 7.45 pm. Tickets are now on sale at £10 each from the theatre box office.

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**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>

## Scripture Readings 23rd September 2018, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Wisdom was the last book of the Old Testament to be written, probably in Alexandria about 50 BC. Written in Greek, it is not in the Hebrew Scriptures and is therefore treated as apocryphal in non-Catholic bibles. The wicked are blinded by their thoughts: "haphazard were we born", they thought, and we leave no trace when we die, "because no one returns." So "let us enjoy the good things that exist" and "oppress the righteous", simply because "he annoys us". But Wisdom responds: "God formed man to be imperishable; in the image of his own nature".

The psalm implores God's help against our enemies, confident that he will help.

James' letter continues emphasising we must show our faith in good works, for which we need "wisdom from above". We must

"show works in the meekness of wisdom", not in "jealousy and selfish ambition". "Friendship with the world is enmity with God".

In the Gospel Jesus uses a quiet moment on the way back from the Transfiguration to tell his disciples again that he will be killed and "after three days he will rise", but as yet they cannot understand. He then insists that his way is to "be last of all and servant of all", giving welcome to the least significant, even little children. God's wisdom is not the world's wisdom.

Psalm Response: **The Lord upholds my life**

(Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; Psalm 53(54); James 3:16 - 4:3; Mark 9: 30-37)

*Chris Oliver*

## St Gregory's School: Celebrating 50 years of service to our community

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School are excited to be celebrating our 50th anniversary of serving our community. To mark the occasion, Bishop Peter will be celebrating mass at school on October 11th at 7pm. All members of our school community, especially past pupils and staff, are invited to attend. In order to prepare for the event, we are asking anyone who may have old photos, memories or memorabilia they would not mind sharing

with us to get in touch. If you know anyone who was part of our school community throughout the 50 years, please do either let them know or pass on their details to us so that we can invite them. You can get in touch with us on [50thcelebrations@sgcps.org](mailto:50thcelebrations@sgcps.org) or through the school office on 01604 403511. We will continue to pray for you all and any prayers you send our way will be gratefully received.

The argument between faith and works which became such a field of conflict at the time of the reformation, and which is resolved in the letter of James is a futile business.

We pray today that we may keep God's precepts, and that this will merit us eternal life.

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 keeping of God's precepts is summed up in loving God and loving neighbour, and this love cannot merely be a mind full of good intentions.

Love for God is put into action through worship and prayer, and love for neighbour is put into action through our works of mercy, both corporal and spiritual..

### An hour of Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

On Sunday 30th September Sacred Heart are holding a led hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 6-7. It will include music, silence and shared prayer. This is in response to the Bishops of England and Wales encouraging us to spend more time in the Eucharistic presence of the Lord and it will include materials prepared for the recent 'Adoremus' conference. Please do come, you will be most welcome.

### INTERNATIONAL FAMILY ROSARY

Some of you will remember that Sacred Heart ran an event called this in May, indeed several people from St Gregory's attended and will remember what a popular and blest time of prayer it was. Because of that, they are running it again in October so please put dates and times in your diary and come along. We would also welcome offers to say a decade in a language of your choice or from your own cultural background and if you can offer this please contact Jean - 07980866516 [merrimans@hotmail.com](mailto:merrimans@hotmail.com). The dates are all Fridays - 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th and we will begin at 7pm. It will be followed by a time of refreshments, which we are hoping people will bring, reflecting the international theme!

## OPEN DAYS AT ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thursday  
18<sup>th</sup> October  
2.00 pm – 3.0 pm

Wednesday  
14<sup>th</sup> November  
9.30 am -11.30 am

Thursday  
22<sup>nd</sup> November  
9.30 am – 11.30 am

Thursday  
22<sup>nd</sup> November  
6.00 pm – 7.00 pm

"Deciding where to educate your child is one of the most important decisions you will ever make as a parent. I have had the priviledge of leading St Gregory's since September 2016 and can testify to the fabulous school community that it is" *Niamh Rolph, Headteacher*

"I like the ethos behind the school. The school holds a great sense of community and belonging. I believe this school can help my child to be the best he possibly could be end enable him to settle easily, quickly and to be happy whilst learning." *A Parent*

# Autumn Courses

**Alpha** An excellent introduction to Christianity — this is an opportunity to come and bring a friend

On Monday evenings at St Gregory's, starting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, and continuing on 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October (22<sup>nd</sup> is in school holiday-time), 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November with an overnight away-time on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Matthew** Study in more detail the Gospel of Matthew and see how the Old Testament is fulfilled in the new.

On Wednesday evenings at Sacred Heart, starting on September 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm — There is a course book which costs £27

**Acts of the Apostles** See how the Gospel was spread in the early years of the Church, bringing the centre of Christianity to Rome.

On Tuesday mornings at Sacred Heart starting at 10.15 on September 4<sup>th</sup>. — There is a course book which costs £27

**Ephesians** Study one of the beautiful letters of St Paul and discover the life of the early Church in Ephesus

On Tuesday mornings until Christmas at St Gregory's starting at 10.00 am — There is a course book, exact price uncertain, probably about £20

**Psalms** We read from the psalms at every Mass — it was the hymn-book that Jesus used. Let them come to life for you.

On Monday afternoons at St Gregory's from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm. — There is a course book, exact price uncertain, but probably about £20

**John** The fourth Gospel gives a unique insight into the nature of Jesus, of God Himself; of the Holy Trinity and our salvation

On Tuesday mornings at St Gregory's after Christmas, starting on 8<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00 am.