



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

Do as you would be done by

The Gospel for today has the important teaching of Jesus, sometimes known as the “Golden Rule”: “Treat others as you would like them to treat you”. This is an ethical principle which is common to nearly all religions and philosophies, and makes a good norm for behaviour, although it needs to be applied with wisdom. (Someone who loved football and would love to be given a ticket to a match cannot assume that everyone would like the same gift!)

Charles Kingsley, in his book “The Water Babies” has two sisters, Mrs Doasyouwouldbedoneby and Mrs Bedonebyasyouldid. Tom, a small boy is forced to work as a chimney-sweep; he escapes from his cruel master but falls into a river, and is transformed into a water baby. The story continues with Tom’s moral education. A fairy, Mrs Bedonebyasyouldid has the responsibility of punishing those who did bad things, she is described as cruel and ugly, and she inflicts inhumane punishments on those who do wrong. She has a sister who is as beautiful as she is ugly. She says that she must remain until “people behave themselves as they ought to do”. Then, she says: “I shall grow as handsome as my sister, who is the loveliest fairy in the world; and her name is Mrs. Doasyouwouldbedoneby.”

While there is wrong in the world, there needs to be some system of discouraging those who are tempted to evil, but in a perfect world, everyone would treat others as they themselves would wish to be treated.

It is a sad reality that there is much that is wrong in the world and the news media are full of reports of such events. We are all too aware of the reality that within the Church there have been terrible crimes committed, and this week-end there is a meeting of bishops from all over the world with the Pope to take “concrete and effective measures” to “confront this evil” (*Pope Francis, 21st February 2019*).

An honest acceptance of the evil that has happened is vital, as is the appropriate compassion and help to survivors, as well as appropriate punishment for offenders; but equally important is the determination that this can never happen again; the world of Mrs Doasyouwouldbedoneby.

During his pontificate, Pope Francis has been giving regular teaching to the clergy about their responsibility. One of his first statements: that the shepherd should smell of the sheep was quoted by Cardinal Tagle in the opening addresses of the meeting.

That we should be reading this Gospel passage for this Sunday is one of those many coincidences of appropriateness, and it is easy to

make the connection; we need to read further into the words of Jesus.

Jesus of offering a whole new way of thinking in this passage which is a continuation of the “sermon of the plain” which we began hearing last Sunday. It is exactly parallel to St Matthew’s “sermon on the mount”, but Matthew, writing to Jewish readers includes a piece which Luke (writing to Greeks who would not be familiar with the Old Testament) omits: “You have heard it said, ‘eye for eye, a tooth for a tooth’, but I say to you, do not resist an evildoer.” Both Matthew and Luke record: “If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well.” (*See Matthew 5:38-39 and Luke 6:29*). Eye for eye and tooth for tooth is the old Law of Tallion which is found in the “Code of Hammurabi”, a Babylonian law dating from around 1754 BC, and became incorporated into Jewish Law. The purpose of this law is to restrict the retaliation that is lawful — the punishment should not be greater than the crime.

Jesus restricts retaliation even more than that — we should not retaliate at all! But in a perfect world there should be no need for retaliation because we should all be living perfectly. This is the world of Mrs Doasyouwouldbedoneby!

However, the ugliness of Mrs Bedonebyasyouldid must be acknowledged. Punishment is not a pleasant business. It is sometimes argued that that severe punishment acts as a deterrent persuading potential criminals to keep to the law, but the number of those in prison tells a different story. Mrs Bedonebyasyouldid says that she will become beautiful when everyone behaves themselves as they ought to do. The ugliness of punishment will disappear when there is no more crime, and in spiritual terms, what God desires for us is that there should be no more sin. Heaven is that place of beauty where there is no sin; by contrast, hell is a place of unremitting ugliness!

We are asked to pray for Pope Francis and all those at the Vatican meeting; for all victims and survivors of abuse and for us all that we may help to foster an environment of safety for all people,

We should also pray that all people may seek to live a life of grace in obedience to the commands of God. Most importantly, we should pray that we ourselves should live such a life, because we are told that we must not judge or condemn others lest a similar fate befall us.

While the principle of “Do to others what you would like them to do to you” needs interpretation with wisdom, it is a good starting point in our dealings with others.



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

Sunday 24th February 2019 Seventh Sunday of the Year Parish Mass Book - Year C Page 65

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
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Sunday <i>7th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	Tony Refoy RIP
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	John Murnaghan RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Catherine Clarke
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Eileen Murray RIP
Thursday Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Bridget & Patrick Philbin
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday St. David	9.00 am	Mass	Francis Francis
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	For All Who Prayed for Philomena Fraher
	9.30 am	Confessions	
Sunday <i>8th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Patricia Myhook RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £596.20. 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.

Appeal This Week:

Karuri Project

Counters This Week:

M. Bonner, Mrs Morgan, I. Wraxall.

Cleaners This Week:

Aideen & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

1 Samuel 26: 2-23.

The Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand.

1 Corinthians 15: 45-49.

We who have been modelled on the earthly man will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Luke 6: 27-38.

Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.

Readings for Next Sunday

Ecclesiasticus 27: 4-7; 1 Corinthians 15: 45-58; Luke 6: 39-45. (Page 67)

During this season of

Peace on Earth; Christian Unity;

Ordinary Time, Winter,

Victims of Trafficking;

to pray for:

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)

**Fairtrade Fortnight begins on Monday
Please buy fairtrade products**



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 Seemark	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	Nina Fenlon
Philomena Fraher	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Catherine Stratten	Mary Rumsey
Baby Lorenzo Diccico	

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

James Minahan	John Page
Ann O'Connell	Mary Bernie
Thomas O'Shea	Gertrude O'Neill
Frank Hasdell	Mary Doherty
John Dillon	Patrick Moran
Francis White	Margaret Gayton
Catherine Behan	Richard Power
Catherine Jones-Shaw	Peter Douglas
Kazimierz Skorzewski	James Davies
David Neville	Lewis Higgins
Mary Connor	Tom McAllister
Rachel Rushton	Jessie Bare
Patrick Graham	Bridget Philbin
Teresa Cullis	Margaret Cassidy
Michael Head	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

**That Christian communities,
especially those who are
persecuted, feel that they are
close to Christ and have their
rights respected.**

Notices of Interest

The Repository: The Repository has now reverted to its normal pattern - open after Sunday Masses . St. Patrick's Day and Easter cards are now available *Kathleen Healey*



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

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.**

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children-Defending Life From Conception to Natural Death. The society is on the brink of establishing the only branch in Northampton, to be based here, in the Parish. However, in order to do so it needs someone to take on the role of secretary. Is this something you would be willing to do? The role would not be onerous and would not take up much time. You do not need any previous experience and there will be lots of support available. Please consider yourself for this role. If you are willing to do so then please contact William Currie on wpcurrie@btinternet.com.

Life in the Spirit: Lenten Retreat at Sacred Heart Church Hall, Pyramid Close, Weston Favell, Northampton NN3 8DP. Every Wednesday from 6th March to 24th April 2019. Each session starts at 7.00pm in the Church Hall. 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.

24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Great Billing: The Diocesan Shrine and parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour will be hosting a 24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration of the Lord on 15th-16th March. The Eucharistic Adoration begins with a Holy Mass at 10am on Friday 15th March and will be concluded with Mass on Saturday 16th March at 10am. Come let us worship the risen Lord "in Spirit and Truth." (John 4:24).

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!**

Life House Quiz Night: Tickets for the Fish & Chips and Quiz night on 1st March will be on sale in the foyer next to the repository shop after 9.00am and 11am masses from Sunday 3rd February. Tickets cost £10. Ticket numbers are limited so please buy as early as possible. Suitable donated raffle prizes will be gratefully received and can be given to the ticket sellers.

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!

New Parent & Baby Group at St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School, Grange Road. Wednesdays, 9.15am – 10.15am. £1 per adult. Refreshments provided by the PTFA.

Fitness & Pilates for Mid Life & Beyond! Classes Wed, 10.30am & Mon, 6.30pm (from 25th March) in the Church Hall with Theresa, who is fully qualified & insured. For further info, please contact Theresa on 07773577804

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!

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

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

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

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

Choir Matters: Next Practices are: 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 7.00 pm, Monday 25th February 2019, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion — 2019 Next session will be 2nd March. Please note that this is a whole-day session, and is of vital importance in the programme. Remember also 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: The trip to "Flame" is on March 2nd: coach leaves at 8.45 am **DON'T BE LATE!**

Catholic Basics Course: Part Two: Church 11 April, Part Three: The Moral Life 16 May, Part Four: Prayer 13 June. After a very successful launch, join us for another day of engaging teaching with opportunities for interaction and discussion. Cost: £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged). Price includes a full lunch. No qualifications needed - just interest, good will and a sense of humour! Part 2: CHURCH April 11 2019, 10am-3pm (arrive 9.30am for refreshments). NORES Centre, Holy Ghost Parish, 33 Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD. To book, contact admin@nores.org.uk or phone Jackie on 01582 723312.

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>

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 Míle Fáilte. For further info please phone Pat Franks on 07710624921

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The origin of this prayer goes back to the seventh century, and in the Papal Missal of Pope Hadrian I, it was said every day.

The prayer relates our pondering; our thinking; our prayer to our words and our actions.

St Paul writes: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you.

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.

wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him."

(Colossians 3:16-17)

Good deeds begin with God through our prayer, and end with God by being pleasing to Him.

Scripture Readings 24th February 2019, 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

In the first book of Samuel, Saul, Israel's first king, became unreasonably jealous of David, his anointed successor, and tried to kill him. Saul entered a cave where David and his men were hiding, but David merely cut off a piece of Saul's cloak. Then David crept into Saul's camp but only took away his spear. David believed it wrong to kill an anointed king, preferring to put his trust in God.

The psalm offers grateful thanks and praise to God that his mercy is so great because of our frailty.

In last Sunday's reading Paul had insisted to the Corinthians that Christ's resurrection is essential to our faith. In today's reading Paul quotes Genesis saying that the first Adam became a living soul. But the last Adam, Christ, became a life-giving spirit. Therefore, after the earthly man, there must be a heavenly man,

whose body is animated by the Holy Spirit. Now we are modelled on the earthly man, subject to natural death. After the resurrection of the body we will be modelled on the heavenly man.

In Luke's Gospel Jesus takes David's restraint further: do good to your enemies, do not judge or condemn lest you suffer the same. In the Lord's Prayer we ask for forgiveness, but the pre-condition is that we forgive others.

Psalm Response:

The Lord is compassion and love.

(1 Sam 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23; Ps 102(103); 1 Cor 15: 45-49; Luke 6: 27-38)

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

Saint of the week: St David

ST. DAVID was son of Xantus, prince of Ceretica and St Non, now Cardiganshire, born about the year 500. He was brought up in the service of God, and being ordained priest, retired into the Isle of Wight, and embraced an ascetic life, under the direction of Paulinus, a learned and holy man, who had been a disciple of St. Germanus of Auxerre. He studied a long time to prepare himself for his ministry. Eventually he preached the Gospel to the Britons. He built a chapel at Glastonbury, a place which had been consecrated to the divine worship by the first apostles of this island. He founded twelve monasteries, the principal of which was in the vale of Ross, near Menevia, where he formed many great pastors and eminent servants of God.

By his rule he obliged all his monks to assiduous manual labour in the spirit of penance: he allowed them the use of no cattle to ease them at their work in tilling the ground. They kept silence except on occasions of absolute necessity, and they never ceased to pray, at least mentally, during their labour. They returned late in the day to the monastery, to read, write, and pray. Their food was only bread and vegetables, with a little salt, and they never drank anything better than a little milk mingled with water.

After their repast they spent three hours in prayer and adoration; then took a little rest, rose at dawn, and continued in prayer till they went out to work. Their habit was of the skins of beasts.

He spoke eloquently at the Synod of Brevi in 550, as a result of which he was appointed bishop of Caerleon, but he asked that the Cathedral be at Menevia, now called St David's.

Giraldus Cambrensis, one of the great historians of Wales tells us that St David was the great ornament and pattern of his age. He spoke with great force and energy; but his example was more powerful than his eloquence; and he has ever since been the glory of the British church. He remained Bishop of Menevia many years; and having founded several monasteries, and been the

spiritual father of many saints, both British and Irish, died about the year 589.

The monastery is said to have been "filled with angels as Christ received his soul." His last words to his followers were in a sermon on the previous Sunday. The Welsh Life of St David gives these as, "Lords, brothers and sisters, Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed, and do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about. And as for me, I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us." "Do ye the little things in life" ("Gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd") is today a very well known phrase in Welsh.

He was buried in his church which hath since taken his name, with the town. Near the church stand several chapels, formerly resorted to with great devotion: the principal is that of Saint Non, mother of Saint David, near which is a beautiful well, still frequented by pilgrims. Another chapel is sacred to St. Lily, surnamed Gwas-Dewy, that is, St. David's man; for he was his beloved disciple and companion in his retirement. He is honoured there on the 3rd, and St. Nun, who lived and died the spiritual mother of many religious women, on the 2nd of March.

The three first days of March were formerly holidays in South Wales in honour of these three saints; at present only the first is kept a festival throughout all Wales.

During the 10th and 11th centuries the Cathedral was regularly raided by Vikings, who removed the shrine from the church and stripped off the precious metal adornments. In 1275 a new shrine was constructed, the ruined base of which remains to this day, which was originally surmounted by an ornamental wooden canopy. It was at this shrine that Edward I came to pray in 1284. During the reformation Bishop Barlow (1536-48), a staunch Protestant, stripped the shrine of its jewels and confiscated the relics.

Since the restoration of the Catholic dioceses, the Cathedral of the new Catholic Diocese of Menevia has been in Swansea, and the Church of Wales has its Cathedral in St David's.