



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

No Greater Love

This is the title of a study course with a video filmed in Jerusalem which will be shown each evening (Monday to Friday) in the week before Holy Week at 7.30 pm, except on Friday when it will be shown after Stations of the Cross.

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a five-part video series that reveals Christ’s amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ’s life in this biblical pilgrimage. It walks step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Mount of Calvary.

Every step of the way, biblical experts reveal how Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ’s suffering and death.

With these insights, we can come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of God’s immeasurable and unconditional love—drawing closer to Jesus than ever have before.

It is authored and presented by Edward Sri, who also led the course on St John that has just been completed by those who came to the Tuesday morning course and also the “Biblical Walk through the Mass” which many have found helpful.

The films show the Biblical background to each scene in Christ’s passion and what was Jesus going through at each moment. We see how the Old Testament foretells Christ’s death, why Christ died for us and what it accomplished. It shows what was the meaning behind of the tearing of the temple veil, the crowning with thorns, and other events during Christ’s Passion.

Most of all, we will encounter God’s love to the fullest.

Pope Benedict XVI invites us to think of the Passion, not just as suffering, but also as the passion of a lover. For in the cross, we see God fully revealed as “a lover with all the passion of a true love”.

Jesus doesn’t want our applause. He wants our hearts. This will help us to draw closer to Jesus in his passion than ever before.

St Oscar Romero

On 24th March 1980 Archbishop Oscar Romero was celebrating Mass in the small chapel of the Divine Providence Hospital, San Salvador in the evening having spent the day in prayer. He had just completed his homily when a car drew up outside the chapel and a man got out. Raising a gun, he took aim and shot the Archbishop through the heart. The man got back into the car and it sped off.

The day before his assassination, he had preached a homily in which he had directly addressed the government in these words: “I beg you. I implore you. I order you. In the name of God: Stop the repression.”

A later investigation named Major Roberto D’Aubuisson, a soldier in military intelligence and leader of a death squad as being responsible for ordering the assassination. The government of El Salvador was in the hands of the “Revolutionary Government Junta”, a violent right-wing group, under whose rule there was mass-murder, torture, executions and unexplained disappearances and Archbishop Romero was one of the few voices raised against this reign of terror. Each week he delivered a homily broadcast by the Church’s own radio station, and listed the names of those who had been murdered or had disappeared. He also had pleaded with

President Carter of the United States who was supporting this government with military aid, and who had ignored his request.

During the Archbishop’s funeral, the Government forces fired gunshots into the crowd of a quarter of a million people; up to about 50 people died.

What had become a civil war between the government and a coalition of left-wing groups continued until 1992, prolonged by aid from the United States government.

St Oscar never aligned himself with those who sought violent revolution — far from it, he opposed violence on either side, and saw himself simply on the side of the people. Today St Oscar is an inspiration to those seeking social justice in every country.

St Oscar Romero was canonised by Pope Francis on 14th October 2018, and his feast-day was set as the day of his death (as is normal). However, in the first year after his canonisation, that day falls on a Sunday, so his feast is replaced by the Sunday. However, we are asked to remember the causes for which he lived and died on this day.

St Oscar Romero; Pray for us



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 24th March 2019

Third Sunday of Lent

Parish Mass Book - Year C

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Priest:

Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015

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Deacons:

Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750

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Rev Rory Stewart (ret) ☎ 408407

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Sunday <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Ivan Watts & Antonietta Mansi The Parish
	11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Stations of the Cross	
Monday The Annunciation of the Lord (Page 156)	9.00 am	Mass	Julia Bloomfield
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Joe Murtagh RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	In Thanksgiving for the Life of Tony Refoy RIP
Thursday Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Mary Rumsey's Intentions
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Jim Quinn RIP Catherine Stratten
	2.20 pm	Healing Mass	
	7.30 pm	Stations of the Cross (St. Gregory's)	
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Jim Quinn RIP
	9.30 am	Confessions	
Sunday <i>4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare)</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Dante Davighi RIP The Parish
	11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Stations of the Cross	

Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £499.59. 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 Extra Collection today:

Disaster Appeal for Cyclone Idai

Second Collection last week:

CAFOD: To be reported soon.

Counters This Week:

M. Murtagh, L. Allen, Anna Smith.

Cleaners This Week:

George & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15.

I Am has sent me to you.

1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12.

The life of the people under Moses in the desert was a lesson to us.

Luke 13: 1-9.

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Readings for Next Sunday

Joshua 5: 9-12; 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21; Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32. (Page 80)

During this season of

Candidates for the Sacraments;

Lent, we are asked

The Needy and Hungry of the World;

to pray for:

Penitents and Wanderers.

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)

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

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 Seamark	Robert Moore
Fr Ed Worthy	Sarah Dunster
Liam Murphy	Kim Do
Margaret Farragher	Sr. Margaret
Dulcie Miranda	Sylvia Clark
Joan Healy	Lily Butler
Irgard Wraxall	Rachel
Baby Lorenzo Diccico	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 Tylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Catherine Stratten	Mary Rumsey

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Harry Clarke	William Grant
Charles O'Connell	Violet Josselyn
Eric Murphy	Gioseppa Sautto
William Lynch	Anastasia James
Patrick Tydings	Mary Kelly
Marion Jeffrey	Patrick Loughran
Margaret Madden	Isabel Charlsley
Margaret Kelly	Norah Barrett
T. Leo Parker, Bishop	Cecilia Harrison
George Witzzuk	Penelope Beadon
Mary Friary	Bernard Mace
Mollie Wilkinson	Mary Amos
Elizabeth Casey	Ivan Watts
Bernard O'Donovan	Noel Doherty
Peter Mbamara	Barry Smith
Patricia Phillips	Stephen Roland
Lena Marcano	George Watson
Josephine Troop	Agnes Stanton
James Derring	Magda Toth
Teresa O'Hara	

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. Easter cards are now available *Kathleen Healey*



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

Bible Alive for Lent 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.**

SPUC-Defending Life From Conception to Natural

Death: The inaugural meeting of the new Northampton branch of the SPUC will take place on Sat. 30th Mar, 10am, in the Sacristy, St. Gregory's Church. Everyone with an interest in the Society and its' work is invited to attend. It's hoped that future meetings will be on a week day eveing, so please do not be put off by this weekend start! In this increasingly secular world where the sanctity of life is being threatened at every level, it is important that like-minded people get together to campaign for change, offer each other support & fulfill our Christian duty to Christ. If you have any questions prior to the meeting or want to know more about the society before committing yourself, then please contact William via wpcurrie@btinternet.com. Thank you.

CAFOD/Supporting Children With Cancer UK: Charity concert at St. Francis & St. Therese Church, NN4 0RZ, Friday May 3rd. Tickets £12.50 (including free glass of wine). Bar & Raffle. Full details on the notice board.

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!

Northampton Prayer and Praise: Monday 1st April 7.30 pm; Abington Avenue United Reformed Church, 157 Abington Ave, Northampton NN1 4QA. This month we will be praying in particular for the police force and crime prevention in Northampton. Refreshments from 7.00 pm **ALL WELCOME!**

Thanksgiving Mass for the Mayor's Charity, the Hope Centre and the Homeless. Bishop Peter will be celebrating Mass on Wednesday 3rd April at 7.00pm in the Cathedral. The Mayor Tony Ansell and other Civic guests will be attending. A collection will be taken during the Mass for this charitable work. All are welcome.

A Day of Reflection for Catholic Women: Our Lady of Grace, Squirrel Lane, High Wycombe, HP12 4RY. Saturday 6th April 10.30am to 3pm. See Poster for full details.

Mass For Married Life: Saturday 6th April at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Woburn Sands, MK17 8NN. Gathering from 11.30am. Mass at 12 noon, Celebrant Bishop Peter Doyle. See poster for full details.

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 April 6th) All welcome.

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

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!

Choir Matters: Next Practices are Thursdays in Lent to prepare for Easter: Mar 28, Apr: 4, 11. These start after evening Mass and finish at 9pm. *Alec*

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

YOUCAT for Kids is a great new tool for catechists, parents & carers as they pass on the faith to children. A rescheduled YOUCAT for Kids session will take place from 7.45pm-9pm on Thursday 28th March in the Sacristy at St Gregory's Church. This book is a wonderful resource for parents and teachers — we do have copies for sale in the repository.

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.

Piano Concert by Margaret Fingerhut Wednesday 1st May, 7pm, at Northampton School for Girls in aid of Northampton Town of Sanctuary. Tickets £12.50. See poster for details.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7.00 pm, Monday 25th March 2019, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion — 2019 Next session will be 30th March. The session starts at 2.00 pm, and parents are asked to stay until, about 2.45 pm. 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:

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>

Catholic Basics Course: Part Two: Church 11 April, Part Three: The Moral Life 16 May, Part Four: Prayer 13 June. After a 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.

This short prayer encapsulates so much of the spirit of the season of Lent. It dates back over 1,300 years.

It brings together the three precepts of Lent, prayer, fasting and almsgiving with the other Lenten purpose of penance.

More than this, it provides a relationship between them, that exercising the precepts of Lent, we find ourselves better able to resist temptation.

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy.

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.

There is also a suggestion that the precepts of Lent are a form of penance.

We can also see them as a form of taking our minds away from sin: "Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things . . . and the God of peace will be with you.

(Philippians 4:8-9)

Scripture Readings 24th March 2019, 3rd Sunday in Lent, Year C

The book of Exodus describes how a group of Hebrew slaves becomes a nation unified by faith in the one God, who made a covenant with them. After killing an Egyptian, Moses fled across the Red Sea. He was given refuge by Jethro, marrying his daughter, Zipporah. In today's reading Moses is called by God to his life's task of leading the Hebrews to the promised land. God reveals his name as "being": he exists and involves himself with us.

All creation is invited to join in this psalm – a tender hymn of thanksgiving for the Lord's mercy, which is so great because he knows man's frailty.

Paul warns the Corinthians not to be over confident in their faith. Even with God's continual support and unifying nourishment, the Israelites many times fell away from the covenant and into

idolatry. Paul goes on to urge respect for the Eucharist. The sacraments help us to live our lives of faith, but salvation is not automatic.

In Luke's Gospel Jesus continues teaching his disciples on the journey to Jerusalem. He uses examples of sudden death that his hearers would be aware of, to urge repentance and keeping one's life oriented towards God at all times. With the parable of the fig tree Jesus says God is patient, but judgement will come.

Psalm Response: **The Lord is compassion and love.**

(Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15; Psalm 102 (103); 1 Cor 10: 1-6,10-12; Luke 13: 1-9)

Chris Oliver

Disaster in Mozambique

One of the realities of natural disasters is that it is the poor who suffer most. It is their homes that are the most vulnerable; it is they who have least reserves to fall back on; it is they who are most likely to be at risk from illness and lack of food. It is also the case that the areas of greatest poverty and deprivation are usually also the least well protected against these disasters.

Floods and winds flattened Beira, an 'economic lung' of Mozambique, before moving to Malawi and Zimbabwe, affecting more than 2.5 million people.

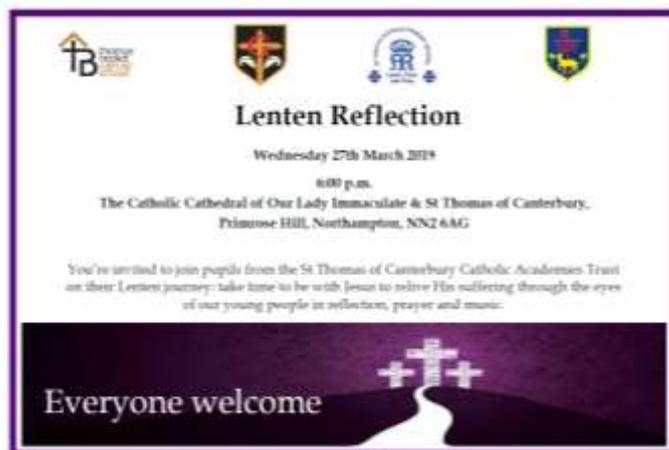
A priest in Mozambique has given a graphic account of the devastating impact of the cyclone amid reports that up to 1,000 people have been killed.

"Beira is no longer a city. It has been destroyed almost entirely. From the airplanes, the city presents itself as a large lake, from which emerge buildings without ceilings. You don't see streets, houses, fields. A lot of people have lost their lives. Above the houses or above the trees, many people were asking for help, which nobody heard. They were carried away by the fury of the rivers entering the city."

The region, which is now mostly under water, has "no telephone, communications and no drinking water", as 125 mile-per-hour winds, heavy rains, and flooded rivers continue to destroy the country's infrastructure."

Pope Francis expressed his "pain and closeness to those dear people".

Whether or not this cyclone is caused by climate change, it is undeniable that 'extreme weather events' are becoming more frequent as global warming increases, and natural caution should give us cause to support efforts to reduce carbon emission.



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
Please come and bring a friend!