



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

Christ is our King

We are in the throes of the election campaign, and also of a royal ‘scandal’, and it is a good time to consider who actually rules our life.

We claim ourselves as subjects of Jesus, and this needs to inform the whole of our life, and the decisions that we make, including our use of the power of our vote.

In 1925, the world found itself in deep unrest. During the pause between the great World Wars, it was clear that the precarious peace that existed between the nations could not last. Surely conflict would come again, plunging the world deeper into misery. In response to this anxiety, Pope Pius XI instituted a new liturgical feast, one that would proclaim Jesus as the true ruler of all, Christ the King. He wrote that “these manifold evils in the world were due to the fact that the majority of men had thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law out of their lives; that these had no place either in private affairs or in politics: and...that as long as individuals and states refused to submit to the rule of our Saviour, there would be no really hopeful prospect of a lasting peace among nations” (*Quas Primas I*). Without Christ as King, the world must devolve into misery and chaos, and it is only when he is proclaimed as the ruler over all that peace can come into the world.

Although the Church has always proclaimed the kingship of Christ over all peoples and all nations, this kingship is not limited to the political realm, as the Jews at the time of Jesus assumed of the coming Messiah. After all, Christ himself said that “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36). No, his kingship means that first and foremost he reigns over the hearts of men, and kingship is given to Christ not because of anything he does but because of who he is.

Although Christ’s kingship is not outwardly political, it does have political ramifications, as Pope Pius XI understood.

Those rulers who allow Christ to reign in their hearts and their nations will rule differently than those who do not, understanding the inherent dignity of all men and women and striving to protect that dignity through their policies, with far-reaching consequences in the political affairs of the nations.

In our modern world which rejects Christ’s Kingship, both in the individual’s heart as well as over nations, we must make Christ our king, and allow him to rule over every aspect of our lives.

(From an article by Eric Sammons)

This is why our Bishops frequently produce guidance before elections to help us to decide where to cast our vote. However, it is seldom the case that we can wholeheartedly and unreservedly support one political party or one particular candidate. Someone who supports pro-life issues may not support care for refugees (every bit as much a life

issue as abortion or euthanasia); there are many other matters in which a party or candidate may partly be in accord with Catholic teaching but also oppose it in some areas.

The Scottish Bishops have issued a Pastoral Letter in which they highlight five areas of concern:

Human Life; abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia

Marriage and the Family

Poverty; the Stewardship of Creation, International Aid

Freedom of Religion and Conscience

Nuclear Weapons and the Arms Trade

It would clearly be wrong (indeed sinful) simply to vote for the party which is promising to make me richer. Election promises are, in any case like piecrust (easily made, easily broken), but simply to vote in self-interest is not to acknowledge Christ as King, but to make self the most important person — self-worship!





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

Sunday 24th November 2019
Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King
Parish Mass Book - Year C
Page 99

Priest:
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: priest@stgregory.org.uk
Deacons:
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
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Rev Rory Stewart (ret) ☎ 408407
Pastoral Assistant:
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Sunday <i>Christ the King</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Gina & Luigi Mansi RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday St. Alnoth	9.00 am	Mass	Tim Rean RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Rosa Anyile RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Joan Billingham
Thursday Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Michael Fraher RIP
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Joseph & Stephen Sexton RIP
	2.20 pm	Healing Mass	Goretti-Smith's Intentions
Saturday St. Andrew	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	John Savage RIP
Sunday <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Dante Davighi
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £576.54. 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: Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. £221.34. Thank you!
Counters This Week: Paul & Clare Sefton, C. Stratten.
Cleaners This Week: Big Clean.

Readings and Rotas for this Sunday

2 Samuel 5: 1-3. *They anointed David King of Israel.*
Colossians 1: 11-20. *He has created a place for us.*
Luke 23: 35-43. *Lord, remember me when you come in to your kingdom.*

Readers: **9am:** Marcel Brown, Stephen Pieterse;
11am: Chris Oliver, EM.
Eucharistic Ministers: **9am:** Paul Sefton, Pru Hill, Krysia Wilson, Dorothy Pallett;
11am: Rose Ogbata, Maureen Moriarty, Michael White, Anna White.

Readings and Rotas for next Sunday

Isaiah 2: 1-5; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 37-44. (Page 26, Year A)

Readers: **9am:** EC, Heather McClue;
11am: Francess Nyaley, Jim Alibone
Eucharistic Ministers: **9am:** Chris Bird, Anne Gibson, Liam Condron, Krysia Wilson
11am: Michael White, Anna White, Denise Johnson, Mari Luz Martinez.

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.

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

Please pray for the sick

To comply with GDPR the names of the sick are not published on the web-site, but are to be found on printed copies in church.

Please pray in general for the sick.

(There was a notice seen in a church newsletter asking the prayers for all who were sick of the parish; we hope there are none such here!)

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Hrynhorn Pleskanka	Helen Ledwith
Stefan Kustoszyn	Herbert Woolard
Dmytro Semianiw	Oger Salter
Francis Walker	Harry Bosworth
Conal Carney	Dorothy Pallett
Christopher Paintin	Olive Blackiston
Mary McCallig	Patrick Ryan
Mary Harnett	Frederick Barker
James McNally	Tom Fitzgerald
Joan Dolman	Bill Lowdon
Catherine Hewitt	Christina Murray
Monica Payne	Elisabeth Kent
John Reilly	Herbert Sellers
Francis Mangan	Mary Worby
Susan Murphy	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

Notices of Interest

The Repository: From this Sunday, the Repository will be selling Christmas cards & other goods in the Hall after both Masses. We still need offers of help to man (or woman) the stalls at this busy period! Please phone me on 629103, or just turn up! *Kathleen Healey*

Bible Alive for December 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 will 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. **Throughout the winter, this will be in the Sacristy, which should be more comfortable.**

Mass, Rosary and Exposition offered for Vocations at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Great Billing, **Monday 2nd December at 6pm.** Please join us and 'Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send labourers into the vineyard'. Refreshments available afterwards.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation Session will be on Monday 2nd December, 7pm, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion — 2020 The preparation has now started, & no more registrations can be accepted. All families should have the full programme; the next preparation day is November 23rd, & this is a longer session, beginning at 10.00am at St Gregory's school, Grange Road. This is preparing for First Reconciliation, & it is essential that children attend this session. It is also essential that children attend Mass each week.

Confirmation Preparation: Those interested in Confirmation in 2020 are invited to join the Youth Alpha programme. This isn't a compulsory part of the preparation, but it's an excellent & enjoyable prelude. Young people in Year 7 & above wishing to be Confirmed, should collect & complete a registration form from the hall after Mass. Forms will be available from 6th October. Please then attend one of the registration sessions after Masses on Sunday 10th or 17th November. (8am at St Anselm's, 9.15am at Our Lady's, 10.30am Sacred Heart and 9am and 11am at St Gregory's). Classes begin in January 2020 & will generally be held on Saturday afternoons leading to Confirmation in July. If you have problems attending registration, please email Kathleen on kathfish@hotmail.com

Choir Matters: To prepare for Christmas & Epiphany Masses & carols, there are extra practices after Mass on Thurs. evening till 9pm. These are Nov. 28, Dec 5, 12, 19 then Feb 6 (no monthly practice on Jan 2). New singers always welcome & we gained one recently! *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.

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 warmly welcome newcomers!

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group meets 1st Saturday of every month in the Sacristy, 10am. **Next meeting December 7th.** All welcome.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets 2nd Wednesday of every month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting December 11th.** All welcome.

Autism Awareness Course: Saturday 30th November, 10am-2.30pm, St. Mary's Parish Hall, Woburn Sands, MK17 8NN. To book, please contact Lorraine on 01604 723516 or see poster for details.

Advent Penitential Services: This year these services will be on Monday 16th December, 7pm, at the Cathedral and Tuesday 17th December, 7pm, here, at St. Gregory's.

Advent Retreat 'Saying "YES" to God': Sacred Heart are having a retreat day on Sat. 30th Nov with Mass at 9.30 & continuing until 3pm. You are warmly invited to join them! Celebrated by Fr David Donaghue, a new priest, it promises to be a special day with a varied programme, including confession. Lunch (soup, french bread & cheese) provided by the parish but donations of cakes or puddings would be very welcome!

Christian Counselling Courses at The Manna House will be running in the New Year. Level 2 "Introduction to Christian Counselling" will start on 9th January and Level 3 "Advanced Christian Counselling" will start on 2nd March. Full details, including prices etc are available in the Lobby area.

Tots @ St Gregory's: If you have charge of a pre-school baby or child on Tuesday mornings, come to Tots @ St Gregory's which runs in the parish hall, 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.

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! Ceáid Mile Failte. For further info please phone Pat Franks on 07710624921

Transport: There are a number of people of reduced mobility who would appreciate a lift to Mass. In particular, anyone who comes from the Parklands area to the 11am Sunday Mass & has a spare seat in their car, please speak to Fr Andrew. Also, anyone who can offer lifts to those wanting to come to the Healing Mass on the last Friday of most months, please speak to Maureen Salter or Fr Andrew.

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

A change to the Youth Alpha dates: (5.30 pm – 7.00 pm)

Friday 29th November
Friday 6th December
Friday 11th December



There will be food and drink at each meeting!

There will be Carols and Mince Pies at Thomas Becket Catholic School on Wednesday 4th December at 12.30 pm and in particular those who take Communion to the elderly are invited to come.

The rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Eve Mass will be during the Children's Liturgy at 9.00 am Mass on Sunday 22nd December.

When Pope Pius XI established the feast of Christ the King in 1925, the opening prayer ended with the petition: "that all the families of nations, fragmented by the wounds of sin may come under his gentle rule".

When the Missal was revised in 1970 those words, which reflected the state of the world after the First World War were replaced with words drawn from the documents of the Second Vatican Council. However, there is a relevance in the original petition of the prayer.

Almighty ever-living God,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,
grant, we pray,
that the whole creation, set free from slavery,
may render your majesty service
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.

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

Although we are mercifully spared war on the scale of 1914-1918, we live in a world in which there are wars .in 2018 more than 76,000 people died in warfare across the world.

We recognise that in a world which in large measure lives by a different standard, the "gentle rule" of Christ would bring about greater peace. As we "proclaim your praise" in Church, may we also proclaim your Gospel to the world..

24th November 2019, Christ the King, Year C Ordinary Time, Year C

The Books of Samuel, Kings and Judges, tell of Israel's history from when they entered Canaan about 1200 BC, up to their exile to Babylon in 587 BC. After the death of Saul, David became King of Judah. In today's key reading David then becomes King of all Israel. He goes on to capture the 1,000 year-old city of Jerusalem, and makes it his capital. He then brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, making it also Israel's religious centre.

The Psalm celebrates arriving in Jerusalem, goal of pilgrims and seat of government.

The letter to the Colossians was written because they thought that angelic beings and other spiritual powers were either rivals to Christ or were needed to supplement Christ's work. Paul says this detracts from the person of Jesus Christ, who possesses the totality of power

needed to gain our freedom, "the forgiveness of sins". The hymn praises Christ, who is the image of the unseen God. He existed before all things, which were created in him, and He is supreme over all creation. He has reconciled all things, the whole cosmos, by "the blood of the Cross".

In Luke's Gospel the crucified Jesus is recognised as King, both by the good thief and in the inscription written by Pilate, a Gentile.

Psalm Response:

**I rejoiced when I heard them say:
"Let us go to God's house".**

(2 Sam 5:1-3 Ps 121(122) Col 1:12-20 Lk 23:35-43)

Chris Oliver

The Season of Creation

Actions to Live Simply :

Communication with eye contact melts 'Stranger fears'.

Tip No. 17: Live sustainably with creation: Plant a small tree to celebrate a Baptism or First Holy Communion or Just For future generations (to clean the air).

Tip No. 18: Solidarity with the poor: the world's poor, often live with only one light. Change to LED bulbs, which use the least electricity.

PRAYER

God of peace and justice,
you give us the capacity to change,
to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom.
Create in us a desire to act in solidarity,
so that the pillars of injustice crumble
and those now crushed are set free. Amen

In order to reduce the carbon footprint of the parish through the winder the Thursday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be in the Sacristy. This should also make it more comfortable for those praying, and (as a spin-off benefit) reduce the heating bill for the parish
The parish is also investigating the possibility of rainwater harvesting for flushing the toilets.

**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**

The Year of the Word



Next Sunday there will be a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Peter about the "Year of the Word" and a little booklet from the Bible Society.

This would not be happening without the generous support of the Bible Society, and there is one annual event which supports this, and it will be on Monday December 9th at 7.30 pm. at Christchurch on Wellingborough Road.

It is always a memorable occasion; the choir is provided by Northampton School for Girls, the readers are from St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, and there are popular congregational carols as well as some choir pieces.

It takes a traditional form, based on that at King's College, Cambridge, and while long before Christmas, it is a good preparation for the celebration.

