



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 World on Fire

At the time of writing the forest fires in the Amazon are burning out of control, it would appear that these are the worst fires in a decade. What is clear is that large areas of rain forest are being lost, and that the oxygen supply of the entire world is suffering as a result. In addition, carbon is being released into the air which will increase the problems of climate change.

It is good news that our Bishops have made a commitment to help in the process of halting climate change through the energy supply to our churches and schools.

All our gas and electricity is now entirely supplied from green and renewable sources, and the bishops are pledged to “invite our people to engage in this urgent challenge” (*Guardians of God’s Creation: a statement from the Bishops of England and Wales*).

This invitation from our bishop is aimed at the “diocese, parishes, schools, families and individuals”. Each one of us is asked to reflect on what more we can do to help to recover the stability of the climate.

There are some who deny that climate change is taking place at all, and there are, inevitably, prophets of doom who so magnify the risks that fuel the arguments of the deniers. We all need to be accurately informed about the true situation, and be prepared to listen to rational arguments from respected experts.

As Catholics, we also need to heed the teaching of the Pope and the Church. We should also heed the real experiences of those we know. This summer the monsoon in Kerala has again brought devastating flooding, as it did last year. We should also note that the worst effects of climate change are always felt by the poorest who do not have any option but to stay and face drought or flood, heat or cold, hurricane or tornado while those with the means to move can do so.

The Bishops, in their statement say:

A Catholic Response

It is possible to change course. Scientific research gives us an insight into what our future earth may look like. But all projections depend on the actions that we take today. We must take action urgently. We are aware of the common but differentiated responsibilities, with greater attention given to “the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests.”

(*Laudato Si*, §31, 170) We must face this challenge with confidence in the knowledge that the worst effects this ecological crisis can still be avoided. “Nobody can go off into battle unless he is fully convinced of victory beforehand. If we start without confidence, we have already lost half of the battle and we bury our talents.” (*Evangelii Gaudium* §85)

Central to this challenge will be the development of a Christian spirituality of ecology, and a call to a new lifestyle, beginning in personal and family life. The crisis we face is a summons to a profound interior conversion, whereby the effects of our relationship with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us. (*Laudato Si*, §217)

As disciples, we are invited to be part of the redeeming mission of Christ, and to approach our task with joy and gratitude. “Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.” (*Laudato Si*, §12) Whilst capable of the worst, human beings are also able to start again and choose what is good so as to more fully participate in the drama of salvation history, leading all creatures back to their creator. “...all creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illuminates all things.” (*Laudato Si*, §83)

A Way Forward...

We look to avoid the worst consequences of this ecological crisis by engaging now and over the next decade on this ‘long path to renewal.’

As Bishops, we will review the ‘Call of Creation’ to reflect on our present situation and to promote good practice for diocese, parishes, schools, families and individuals. We need a more considered relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth through the way we manage our resources as a Church.

We, the Bishops of England and Wales commit ourselves and invite our people to engage in this urgent challenge, so that together we show leadership by our actions.

Let us pray for wisdom and courage for the path ahead.”



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS
[Website:](http://www.stgregory.org.uk) www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 25th August 2019
Twenty First Sunday of the Year
Parish Mass Book - Year C
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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

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 Seemark	Michael Connor
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 Dicicco	Eileen Howell
Maurice Murphy	Doris Old
Sylvester Dauksa	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 Stratton	May Eamons
Stephen Aneke	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	Mary Rumsey
Paul Greaves	Michael Rowback
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
N. Donegan	Norma Bryan
Maureen Bell	Deacon Rory
May Murtagh	

Sunday	9.00 am	Mass	Amanda Nilard RIP
<i>21st Sunday of the Year</i>	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday	9.00 am	Mass	Rev. Robin Cooper RIP
Bl. Dominic of the Mother of God			
Tuesday	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Giuseppe Novello & Nicolina Ciccone
St. Monica			
Wednesday	9.00 am	Mass	K.M. Burke
St. Augustine			
Thursday	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Elsie Conway's Intentions
The Passion of St. John the Baptist	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday	9.00 am	Mass	Breda Coleman
SS Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward	2.20 pm	Healing Mass	Valerie Hanson
Saturday	9.00 am	Mass	Betty Mineard RIP
St. Aidan & the Saints of Lindisfarne	9.45 am	Confessions	
Sunday	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
<i>Feast of the Dedication of the Church</i>	11.00 am	Mass	Maria Fennessy RIP

Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £619.86. Thank you!

Standing Order gifts to the Parish:

Each week £390 is given through standing orders.

The value of Gift Aid averages £133 per week.

Counters This Week:

M. Bonner, Mrs Morgan.

Cleaners This Week:

George & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

Isaiah 66: 18-21.

They will bring all your brothers from all the nations.

Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13.

The Lord trains the one that he loves.

Luke 13: 22-30.

Men from east and west will come to take their places.

Readings for Next Sunday

Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3: 9-11, 16-17; John 2: 13-22.

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During this season of

Human Life; Seafarers;

Ordinary Time, Summer.

Victims of Persecution/Oppression

We are asked to pray for:

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)

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

**Anniversaries:
May they Rest in Peace**

Edwin Stenson	Ellen Jackson
Florence Percival	Michael Spittals
Thomas McKinney	Alfred Lack
Mary Lawrie	Daphne Wimborne
Edmund Barrett	Leonard Rush
Rev. Robin Cooper	John Barry
Evelyn Osborn	Jose Pallett
Harold McLoughlin	Joan Phelan
William Marsden	John Lynch
Norah Coughlann	Roger Green
Joseph Linsky	Marita Nash
Cecil Bailham	Grace Horsley
Patrick Loughran	Eunice Williams

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

FOR AUGUST

That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth."

Notices of Interest

The Repository: Due to further staff illness, I am now desperate for help, especially after the 11am Mass. All stock is priced and it only needs a few moments after Mass. Please help! If you can spare some time, please phone me on 629103, or speak to Fr. Andrew. *Kathleen Healey*



We welcome into the family of the Church
Gigi Marie Hobbs-Awoyemi
Oscar Buist Halling
and Omozoya Robin Ejodame
who received Christian Baptism last week.
Please pray for them and their families.

Bible Alive for September 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.**

Office Notice: Just to let everybody know, the office will be closed until 31st August - wish me good camping weather! *Caryll*



Annual Blessed Tansi Pilgrimage
Mount St. Bernard Abbey, Coleville, LE67 5UL,
Saturday 31st August, 10.30am. Rosary
Procession, Holy Mass, Benediction and Blessing
of the Sick. Please see fliers at the back of the
Church for full details, and contacts for
Northampton.



33rd Rosary Rally and Open Air Mass at
Mount St. Bernard Abbey Leics, LE67 5UL,
Sunday 1st September 2pm. See poster for full
details. Bring a folding chair/seat & picnic lunch.
All welcome.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Exposition begins after the morning liturgy of Word and Communion on Thursdays and continues until 6.45 pm.

Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life: Walsingham, Sunday 6th October commencing 12pm with Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation. Please see poster for full 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 Session will be on Monday 2nd September, 7pm, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion — 2020 For a variety of reasons we will have to limit the number of children in the preparation programme for First Holy Communion in 2020. This will initially be done on a “first come, first served” basis, following the beginning of registration, which will be on 8th and 15th September after either Mass. No registrations will be accepted until then. The main preparation sessions will take place on seven Saturdays leading to First Holy Communion in May 2020.

Confirmation Preparation: Details of the next Confirmation Preparation will appear here shortly.

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 September 7th. All welcome.**

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting September 11th. 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, survivors of abuse, their families & supporters are invited to this Mass. There will be light refreshments after the Mass.

Choir Matters: Practices are usually on the 1st Thursday of the month following evening Mass till 9pm : 30 Aug* (instead of 5 Sep to prepare for the Feast of St Gregory), 3 Oct. Weekly practices start in Nov until Dec to prepare for Christmas. *Alec*

CAFOD Supporters' Event: Come and hear about CAFOD's work in Uganda, our Harvest focus country. You will also hear first-hand experiences from our amazing speakers. Sat 7 Sept, St Mary's Hall, Aspley Hill, Woburn Sands, MK17 8NN; Sat 21 Sept, St Teresa's Hall, 40 Warwick Road, Beaconsfield, HP9 2PL. Both days are from 10:30am-1.30pm (coffee/tea from 10:15 with shared lunch from 1:30pm). Please let us know you are coming on 01494 863 777 or northampton@cafod.org.uk.

Tots @St Gregory's: We are a friendly, welcoming group where all have fun and refreshments are provided. The cost is £1 for each adult regardless of how many children you bring! We run throughout the school terms and begin again on Tuesday 10th September.

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

Alpha in the Autumn The next Alpha will be in the autumn, starting on 17th September and running Tuesday evenings until 3rd December with a break on 29th October. There is also an overnight session from the evening of Friday 8th to after lunch on Saturday 9th November. Many people have spoken of how Alpha has re-vitalised their faith; please think about joining if you haven't already! You can sign up online at: <http://stgregory.org.uk/alpha>. Responding to Pope Francis' initiative of the October Mission Month, you could not just come yourself, but bring a friend as well!



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	Psalm	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
Youth Alpha will also run this autumn: (Start time to be decided)		
Friday 4 th October	Life: Is this it?	
Friday 11 th October	Jesus: Who is Jesus?	
Friday 18 th October	Cross: Why did Jesus die?	
Friday 25 th October	Faith: How can we have faith?	
Friday 8 th November	Prayer: Why and how should I pray?	
Friday 15 th November	Bible: Why and how do I read the Bible?	
Saturday 16 th November	Follow: How does God guide us?	
Friday 22 nd November	Spirit: Who is He and what does He do?	
Friday 29 th November	Fill: How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?	
Friday 6 th December	Evil: How can I resist evil?	
	Healing: Does God heal today?	
	Church: What about Church and telling others?	

There are jokes about asking ten members of organisations their opinion and getting eleven answers!

Those who take that joke seriously may find the idea that all faithful Christians are united in a single purpose difficult to recognise.

At its highest level, our common purpose is to love God's command and to desire what he promises.

What there is disagreement about is exactly what God actually *does* command. All too often, people are willing to follow their own ideas about this.

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness will be found.

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.

We are foolish if we think we know better than God; have a better understanding than what Jesus teaches us; are wiser than the teaching of the Gospels.

There are so many uncertainties in this world, but the Christian Gospel gives us the authoritative teaching of God. So many who have previously chosen to follow their own route have later come to realise that God's way is the best way.

We pray that our hearts, and therefore our decisions may be aligned to the ways of God.

Scripture Readings 25th August 2019, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

After lamenting the disasters God has sent on the Israelites because of their sins, third Isaiah sees hope in God's renewal of his covenant promise and in the "new heavens and the new earth" which God is creating. Jerusalem will prosper and all nations will be invited to God's holy mountain Jerusalem. God's glory will be seen by all, and all nations will worship him.

This shortest of all the psalms calls on all mankind to praise the Lord for his kindness to us and for his faithfulness to his promises.

Hebrews quotes from the Book of Proverbs that a son should expect to be disciplined by his Father. So we should not be discouraged when God disciplines us: rather we should rejoice that God shows in this way that we are his beloved sons. We must

persevere, enduring our sufferings, turning away from sin and accepting the works God calls us to do.

Chapter 13 of Luke's gospel emphasises the need to repent, to change our mind-set about God. After Jesus healed a crippled woman on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler was outraged to be told his understanding of the Sabbath was hypocrisy. But we also have great difficulty in accepting God's ways. Today's reading insists that entering the kingdom is difficult.

Palm Response: **Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News.**

(Is 66:18-21 Ps 116(117) Heb 12:5-7, 11-13 Lk 13:22-30)

Chris Oliver

A Thank-you Letter from CAFOD

Thank you to all parishioners at St Gregory the Great for your generous support for CAFOD that year and for your latest donation of £233.04 which we received on 22nd July.

Your gift will support people like Lemukola from Uganda, whose wife became ill with Hepatitis E after drinking river water.

Thanks to donations from CAFOD supporters like you, our partner organisation Caritas Moroto were able to repair a broken borehole in Lemukola's village. They also trained local mechanics how to fix the pump should it break down again, so no-one in Lemukola's village has to drink dirty water.

Lemukola says: "When the borehole was mended, life changed. Now we can get water whenever we want and the spread of

diseases has stopped. We can bathe, cook, water the animals and wash clothes whenever we want. It feels good to have safe water so near."

Thanks to your compassion, people like Lemukola can now live healthy and happier lives as they no longer have to worry about access to water.

CAFOD

There are still over 700,000,000 people in the world who do not yet have access to clean water. Our regular monthly CAFOD giving is helping to reduce that number. Many thanks to all regular supporters; If you are not already, please help!

October — Mission Month

Many parents will be thinking about the preparation of their children for First Holy Communion or for Confirmation. It is good to remember that prayer which was said at the Baptism of your child, that you will be: "the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith. May they also be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ our Lord".

Our First Holy Communion preparation this year will involve parents (or, at least, one parent!) in the process more than ever before.



Many parents feel that this may be too difficult a task. Many think that they do not know enough themselves to teach their children, or just feel overwhelmed by the prospect. There is an excellent little book available to help, recommended by Pope Francis himself.

YOUCAT for Kids is an introduction to the Catholic faith for children, filled with bright colours and drawings, and easy-to-understand answers to tough questions, like: "Why do I exist?" and "Why do some people not believe in God?" The authors of *YOUCAT for Kids* tested the answers with groups of children to make sure they understood what was being explained. There are copies at the repository — do have a look.

St John tells us that three of the apostles came from the city of Bethsaida (Peter, Andrew and Philip) (*John 1:44*). We know that Bethsaida was on the shores of the Sea of Galilee but its exact location has been debated by experts for many years.



Recent archaeology has made a significant discovery. During the summer a mosaic floor and carved stones have been discovered, and the building has been identified as the church which was described by Bishop Willibald in the year 725 as having been built over the house of Peter and Andrew.

This discovery confirms that the location of Bethsaida is the current El-Araj. It provides yet more evidence of the accuracy of the Gospels. There are some who dismiss the whole of the Bible as fiction; even denying that Jesus ever existed, but here we have modern archaeology supporting the evidence of the Gospels.

By knowing the Scriptures better we can be more able to explain to sceptics and dis-believers that our faith is not a fantasy, but that modern science agrees with what we read in the Bible

