



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 Power of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit features prominently in our readings today — the psalm response reminds us that the words of the Book of the Law (The Torah; the first five books of the Old Testament) are spirit and life. The Holy Spirit who hovered over the face of the earth in creation (Genesis 1:2) was the inspiration of the writing of the law.

The second reading tells us that we are all baptised in the one Holy Spirit, and that it is the Holy Spirit “given to us all to drink” that gives us all our own particular vocation within the Church.

In the Gospel we read of how Jesus, “with the power of the Spirit in him” (Luke 4:14) preaches in Galilee, and in particular in Nazareth where he quotes from Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, he has anointed me”. He goes on to state what might be called his manifesto: “He has sent me to bring the Good News to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour”. (Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 61:1-2)

Having read the Gospel, we can return to the second reading and recognise that just as the Holy Spirit filled Jesus, so too we were baptised into the same Holy Spirit. We must never forget the significance of our baptism.

We remind ourselves of this every time we enter the Church, take Holy Water and make the sign of the Cross. Today St Paul reminds us that we were baptised in the one Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13) and therefore, just as the power of the Holy Spirit filled Jesus, so it also fills us.

The Holy Spirit has the same manifesto today as always, and that which Jesus came to do, the Church must now continue. St Paul tells us that none of us is required to fulfil every part of this, but we are all called to fulfil some part of it.

Each element of the manifesto can be understood in two ways, materially and spiritually. The good news that the Church is called to bring is most obviously understood as the bringing of the Gospel; that God loves us and in Jesus has brought forgiveness and reconciliation and the promise of eternal life. But missionaries have always brought more than just that: missions have included hospitals and medical care, schools and other material benefits. Today and here, the bringing of the Good News is not just the word of the love of God but also that love made visible in our care for the afflicted. Our manifesto is not just words, but actions too (1 John 3:18, Hebrews 4:12).

The proclamation of liberty to captives does not mean unlocking every prison cell, and first of all, relates to the liberty of those held in captivity to sin. The spiritual meaning of this is clear; God wishes to

forgive us. This is beautifully illustrated in the parable which we call the “prodigal son”, but really is about the prodigality of the father. We read that the Father saw the son coming home when he was a long way off (Luke 15:20) and must understand that God is looking for those who have wandered from him to come home.

However, there is also a material way in which we see this element of the manifesto — we must be champions of justice in every area of life, and especially in economic justice. This relates particularly to the last two elements of the manifesto.

The giving of new sight to the blind most obviously relates to physical healing, and we read of a number of healings of Jesus which are giving sight to the blind (Matthew 9:27-31, Mark 10:46-52, John 9:1-7 for example). The Church, in supporting medical work continues this work, but the giving of sight “to the inly blind” (“*Thou whose Almighty Word*”, John Marriott, Hymn 689, verse 2) is the spiritual understanding of this element. The word “see” can mean “understand” as in “I see”, and an important part of the mission of the Church is to help everyone to understand why they were created (God made me to know him, to love him and to serve him in this world, and to be happy with him forever in the next. *Penny Catechism*, §2) and to give meaning to life beyond the simply material.

The “setting the downtrodden free” clearly relates to the mission of the Church in seeking justice and peace for all people, and while in many ways the Church has been active in this, the world is still full of injustice in so many ways. The unjust distribution of wealth and opportunity, of health-care and education are obvious examples of this, and injustice is so often the cause of wars, and wars increase the injustice in that it is predominantly the poorest who pay the highest price of war. Among those who survive, many become refugees and face a further injustice as other countries turn them away or ill-treat them by creating a “hostile environment” for them.

Finally we come to the last element of the manifesto, and this relates to the Old Testament understanding of the year of Jubilee when all debts would be cancelled and there would be a restoration of the equality of creation. Exiles should be allowed home and slaves released. Although the Torah demands this, there is little evidence that it ever took place, hence the significance of Jesus’ proclamation of the “Lord’s year of favour” at his coming.

Each one of us should be able to recognise at least one of these manifesto elements in which we have a part to play, because we are all part of the one body which is Christ, and empowered by the Spirit we are able to fulfil that vocation.



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 27th January 2019

Third 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

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|---|----------|--|---------------------|
| Sunday <i>3rd Sunday of the Year</i> | 9.00 am | Mass | Anna Falcone RIP |
| | 11.00 am | Mass | The Parish |
| Monday St. Thomas Aquinas | 9.00 am | Celebration of Word & Communion | |
| Tuesday Feria | 9.00 am | Celebration of Word & Communion (Followed by prayers for the sick) | |
| Wednesday Feria | 9.00 am | Mass | Carmel McDonagh RIP |
| Thursday St. John Bosco | 9.00 am | Celebration of Word & Communion | |
| | 6.45 pm | Benediction | |
| | 7.00 pm | Celebration of Word & Communion | |
| Friday Feria | 9.00 am | Mass | James Dowling RIP |
| Saturday The Presentation of the Lord (Page 148) | 9.00 am | Celebration of Word & Communion | |
| | 9.30 am | Confessions | |
| Sunday <i>4th Sunday of the Year</i> | 9.00 am | Mass | Brendan Moan RIP |
| | 11.00 am | Mass | The Parish |

Masses to be said by Fr. Andrew in Palazzola: Egan Family's Intentions; Dennis Costello RIP; Monica Manuel RIP; George & Anu Varghese's 20th Anniversary.

- Your Offering To The Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £790.25. 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.
- Second Collection Last Week:** The Life House: To be reported next week.
- Second Collection Next Week:** APF Appeal
- Counters This Week:** C.P., L. Allen.
- Cleaners This Week:** Pru & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

- Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10.** *Ezra read from the law of God.*
- 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30.** *You together are Christ's body.*
- Luke 1: 1-4, 4: 14-21.** *The text is being fulfilled today.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Jeremiah 1: 4-5, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 12: 31-13: 13; Luke 4: 21-30. (Page 58)

- During this season of Ordinary Time, Winter, to pray for:** Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; Victims of Trafficking; 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)

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

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Broughton | Millicent Chappell |
| Frank O'Callaghan | Sylvia Lea |
| Cuthbert Joseph | Albert Yates |
| James Flannery | Tery Murphy |
| Joseph Byrne | James McCabe |
| Maurice Hanlon | Peter Curran |
| Catherine O'Regan | Terry Easton |
| Catherine Griffin | Ada Letchell |
| Doris Verney | Dolores Watts |
| Josephine Stevens | Mary Atherley |
| Richard Calnan | Elsie Coulson |
| Clementina Kennedy | Francis Glayne |
| Michael Bartella | James Nolan |
| Michael O'Doherty | Lewis Williams |
| Margaret Brennan | Margaret Reed |
| James Dowling | John Curley |

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

For a generous welcome to the victims of human trafficking, enforced prostitution, and violence.

Notices of Interest

Congratulations to Maria and Alex Heath on the birth of Mateo Elijah, born last Monday. Although both remain in hospital, they are doing well. Please continue to hold them in your prayers.

The Repository: The Repository has now reverted to its normal pattern - open after Sunday Masses. *Kathleen Healey*

Prayer List for the Sick: Would everybody please scan through the 'sick list' to see if all the names still need to be on there. Many thanks. *Caryll*

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.**

The Big Sleep Out this year will be **this Friday, 1st Feb, Abington Park**, by the Park Café. Please can you sponsor Siobhan O'Donovan who will be sleeping out this year? Even a small amount will be most useful. Sponsor forms will be at the side and back doors of the Church if you would like to support her in this amazing way to highlight the plight of our homeless neighbours. All proceeds will, of course, go to the Hope Centre. **If you would like to join Siobhan, you will be very welcome** – it'll give her someone to talk to & increase awareness! If you are interested, please contact Caryll in the office & she will pass on your details to Siobhan.

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

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.

Extra Adoration: From 4th February to 9th February there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every day from 9.30 am to 6.00 pm. This is to pray for priests (both existing and vocations).

Tour of Our Lady of Walsingham: The Diocese of Northampton is first for the Dowry Tour of Our Lady of Walsingham in 2019! From Thursday 7th February to Saturday 9th February 2019 in the **Cathedral Church of Our Lady & St. Thomas. The full schedule is available in the Porch.**

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!**

Save the Date: Quiz night including fish & chip supper be takes place on **Fri. 1st March 2019**, 7pm in St Gregory's Church Hall in aid of the Northampton Life House. Tickets cost £10 and will be available shortly after Christmas.

Vacancy: There will be a vacancy for a School Improvement Director for St. Luke Academies Trust, Kettering/Corby. for September 2019. Please see details in the Lobby.

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!

Fitness & Pilates for Mid Life & Beyond! Classes Wed, 10.30, in the Church Hall with Theresa, who is fully qualified & insured. For further info, please contact Theresa on 07773577804

Congratulations to Thomas Becket Catholic School on their placing in the Secondary Schools league table published last week, where it comes higher than most of the other schools of the town and has shown significant progress. We wish Mark McLaughlin every blessing and continued success as headteacher.

Alfred Harrison, dearly loved husband of the late Marie and father to Theresa, Anne, Lorraine and Fiona died on January 10 2019 after a short illness.

Many will remember him for his work for the St Francis Children's Society.

His mortal remains will be brought into the Cathedral, Barrack Road, Northampton at 5pm on Tuesday 29 January with his funeral following at 12.30pm on Wednesday 30 January. All are welcome to attend. Please direct all enquiries to Hollowell Funeral Directors, Beech Avenue, Northampton.

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

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

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

Choir Matters: Next Practices are: Thursday Feb 7, 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 7pm, 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: Next session is on 9th February.

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

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The description of Jesus as God's "beloved Son" takes us back to two weeks ago, when, at his Baptism, we hear the voice from heaven say "You are my Son, the Beloved" (*Luke 3:22*).

While we pray that we may "abound in good works", we also acknowledge that before this can happen, our actions must be directed by God.

Almighty ever-living God,
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,
that in the name of your beloved Son
we may abound in good works.

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.

If we make this prayer with sincerity, we are asking God that we may be obedient to the will of God.

We should remember another time when there was a voice from heaven: "This is my Son, the beloved. Listen to him." (*Luke 9:35*). We must indeed listen to him.

Scripture Readings 27th January 2019, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

In 538 BC King Cyrus of Persia helped the Israelites to return to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon. There Ezra and Nehemiah shared the tasks of re-establishing the Jewish state and religion. Nehemiah rebuilt the city's walls and administration. In today's reading we hear about Ezra's formal reading of the Jewish Law, and the people's joyous celebration of God's gift of the Law.

The psalm praises God's moral law – and asks forgiveness for our transgressions.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians he compares a community to the human body. Every Christian becomes part of Christ's body by baptism. So all gifts come from the spirit; all gifts are necessary; all contribute to the good of the whole community. All Christians are equally valuable and wanted by God.

Our reading of Luke's Gospel over the ordinary Sundays of Year C now resumes, to be interrupted only for Eastertide. First we are reminded of Luke's reason for writing a gospel: he is carefully putting into an orderly sequence what he has heard from eye-witnesses, so that his hearers may "realise the certainty of the teachings" they have received. Today's reading then continues from the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, including his self-proclamation in his home town. Next week we hear his neighbours' reactions.

Psalm Response:

**Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life.**

(Neh 8: 2-10; Psalm 18(19); 1 Cor 12: 12-30; Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21)

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

Saints of the Week

St Thomas Aquinas

Thomas was born in Roccasecca in central Italy in 1225, and after studying at the university of Naples, and there decided to join the recently-formed Dominican order. His family disapproved of this and kidnapped him and held him captive for a year. He escaped and went to Paris where he continued his studies.

After a number of teaching appointments, in 1265 he was summoned to Rome to serve as the Papal theologian, and it was during this time that he wrote his most famous book "Summa Theologiae" which to this day remains the at the foundation of Catholic philosophy and theology.

In 1263 a priest travelling on pilgrimage to Rome was having doubts about the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Having stopped overnight at Bolsena, he said Mass the following morning and found that following the consecration, the host started to bleed. As a result of this miracle, Pope Urban IV instituted the feast of Corpus Christi, and asked Thomas to write hymns to honour the Blessed Sacrament. Best known among them are "Tantum Ergo" and "O Salutaris", both parts of longer hymns. Another Eucharistic hymn of St Thomas, "Lauda Sion" is sadly seldom sung although it remains as an optional text in the Mass for Corpus Christi.

In 1273 Thomas had a mystical experience in which Christ said to him: "You have written well of me". Following this, he never wrote anything else, and the following year he died.

St John Bosco

John Bosco was born in August 1815, just two months after the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, but the Napoleonic wars had ravaged the area of northern Italy and his parents village of Becchi, not far from Turin, in the province of Asti (famous for its sparkling wine!). Not only did the villager suffer from the devastation of war; there was also a drought and famine. To add to the family's difficulties, his father died when he was two, leaving his mother with three young children to care for and bring up.

As a child he saw a travelling circus and was enthralled by the conjurers and their tricks, and he set out to learn how to do them himself. He used them to entertain his friends, but then used the opportunity to invite them to pray with him. It was while doing this that he realised that God was calling him to be a priest.

Lacking any formal education, he found a priest ready to teach him, and at the age of 20, was able to enter the seminary, and was ordained in 1841 and sent to a parish in Turin, which was, like so many cities, in the throes of the industrial revolution, with much poverty and slum housing.

Using his ability to perform, he attracted the attention of the street children, and sought to bring them to Christ. He was a follower of the gentle way taught by St Francis de Sales, and founded the order now called the Salesians of Don Bosco, and opened a number of schools. One of his principles states: "Young people must not only be loved; but they must know they are loved."