



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

Forward Planning

We are frequently advised to plan for the future; to build up our pension fund, to make a will or to care for our health. The Gospel also advises us to plan for the future; not so much financially as spiritually.

The month of November is the month of the Holy Souls, and as we pray for those who have gone before us, we also remember that we are sure to follow them.

While we may hope that this may not be soon, just as in sorting out a pension, it is never too early to start!

The Feast of All Saints provides us with a good basis for this. Throughout the year the Church offers us a whole array of Saints whose holiness has been recognized and have been officially canonised. This does not mean that the Church agrees with everything that they did or said. There are some who, before their conversion led ‘colourful’ lives, and some who, even in their Christian life, made choices that we now think of as wrong. For example, for many centuries slavery was seen as acceptable and during that time even saints conformed to the ideas of their age.

We find among the Saints a great variety of expressions of holiness; both man and women, rich and poor, clever and not, young and old; in fact, different in every way except in that they all did their best to live close to God. The characteristic common to all the saints was a life of holiness, of virtue.

Our “forward planning” must be, then, to grow in virtue. The Catechism of the Catholic Church has a long section on virtue, and begins with this:

Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (*Philippians 4:8*)

A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions.

The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God. (*St. Gregory of Nyssa, De beatitudinibus,*) (CCC §1803)

The passage quoted from Philippians reminds us that holiness lies not simply in avoiding sin. That is not what the saints are particularly known for; it was in the exercise of virtue.

Virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do good.

The human virtues are stable dispositions of the intellect and the will that govern our acts, order our passions, and guide our conduct in accordance with reason and faith. They can be grouped around the four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

Prudence disposes the practical reason to discern, in every circumstance, our true good and to choose the right means for achieving it.

Justice consists in the firm and constant will to give God and neighbour their due.

Fortitude ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good.

Temperance moderates the attraction of the pleasures of the senses and provides balance in the use of created goods.

The moral virtues grow through education, deliberate acts, and perseverance in struggle. Divine grace purifies and elevates them.

The theological virtues dispose Christians to live in a relationship with the Holy Trinity. They have God for their origin, their motive, and their object - God known by faith, God hoped in and loved for his own sake.

There are three theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity. They inform all the moral virtues and give life to them.

By **faith**, we believe in God and believe all that he has revealed to us and that Holy Church proposes for our belief.

By **hope** we desire, and with steadfast trust await from God, eternal life and the graces to merit it.

By **charity**, we love God above all things and our neighbour as ourselves for love of God. Charity, the form of all the virtues, "binds everything together in perfect harmony" (*Col 3:14*).

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon Christians are **wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord**. (CCC §1833 – 1845)



Sunday 27th October 2019
Thirtieth Sunday of the Year
Parish Mass Book - Year C
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 Northampton. NN3 2HS
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Priest:
 Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
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Sunday <i>30th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Gina & Luigi Mansi
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday SS Simon & Jude	9.00 am	Mass	Janie Lynskey RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Rosa Anyile RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Jobin Reena's 14 th Wedding Anniversary
Thursday Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass (Vigil Mass)	Padraic McAndrew RIP
Friday All Saints (Page 120)	7.00 am	Mass	Michael Fraher RIP
	9.00 am	Mass	Dec'd Legionaries
	7.00 pm	Mass	The Parish
Saturday All Souls (Page 123)	7.00 am	Mass	Holy Souls
	9.00 am	Mass	Pope's Intentions
	9.45 am	Confessions	
Sunday <i>31st Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Sheila Bull RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £686.09. 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 Recently: CAFOD (Harvest) £890.30. Thank you!
Second Collection this Week: Red Boxes (Missio)
Second Collection Next Week: Bishop's Maintenance Fund.
Counters This Week: M. Murtagh, L. Allen, Anna Smith.
Cleaners This Week: Pru & Another.

Readings and Rotas for this Sunday

Ecclesiasticus 35: 12-14, 16-19. *The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds.*
2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18. *All there is to come is the crown of righteousness.*
Luke 18: 9-14. *The publican went home at rights with God.*

Readers: **9am:** Heather McClue & Pru Hill ;
11am: Patrick Yau & Jim Alibone

Eucharistic Ministers: **9am:** Theresa Hudson, Kryisia Wilson, Anne Gibson, Paul Sefton; **11am:** Rose Ogbata, Maureen Moriarty, Denise Johnson, MGM.

Readings and Rotas for next Sunday

Wisdom 11: 22-12; 2 Thessalonians 1: 11-2; Luke 19: 1-10. (Page 92)

Readers: **9am:** Tony Wittich & Jehanne Houghton;
11am: Frances Nyaley & Maureen Moriarty
Eucharistic Ministers: **9am:** Anne Gibson, Pru Hill, Dorothy Pallett, HW;
11am: Michael White, Anna White, Denise Johnson, MGM

During this season of Ordinary Time, Autumn, Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest;
 The Spread of the Gospel; Victims of War
We are asked to pray for: 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

We are advised that publishing the names of the sick on the internet could be contravening GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and so must not appear on the web-site.

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Michael Frawley	James Keenan
Peter Carroll	Susan Black
Albert Vanderawan	Rosella Maritz
George Brown	Michael Connelly
Alwin Perkins	Brian Hill
Joan Billingham	Horace Edwards
Wanda Gineikis	Mary Conway
Catherine Galvin	Charles Ponting
Robert Turvey-Hardy	Eileen Clarke
Charles Traynor	Gerald Walsh
Ifeoma Akubue	Patrick Treacy
William O'Neill	Mary Lord
Elaine Patching	Mary Stratten
Leslie Richardson	Ada Frost
Dorothy law	Mei Lo
Janet Gibbins	

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: Due to staff illness, I am now desperate for help, esp. 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*

Bible Alive for November 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.**

Safe Haven: Thank you very much for the magnificent support for the Safe Haven Syrian Refugee Scheme last Thursday. The sum of £770 was raised by both those who attended & donations from those unable to come in the morning. Margaret Williams sold Tradecraft goods to the value of £394.65. Your generosity is wonderful. Kevin & Aideen Fogarty

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.**

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, and no more registrations can be accepted. All families should have the full programme; the next preparation day is on November 23rd, and this is a longer session, beginning at 10.00 am and is at St Gregory's school, Grange Road. This is the preparing for the First Reconciliation, and 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: Practices are usually on the 1st Thurs of the month following evening Mass till 9pm. To prepare for Christmas & Epiphany, Masses & carols, there are extra practices. These are on Nov: 7, 14, 21, 28, Dec: 5, 12, 19 then Feb 6; no practice Jan 2. New singers always welcome. Happy New Year. *Alec*

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.

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 November 2nd.** All welcome.

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

Thurs 31 October: Night of Light - Celebrating the Eve of All Saints: 7pm Vigil Mass of All Saints. 7.30-10pm - An evening of prayer which will include exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Monday 18th November at 7pm there will be a special Mass to remember all those who have died. Relatives of those who have been buried from this Church in the last year will have receive an invitation to the Mass. Anyone else who would like a loved one remembered in this Mass is asked to give their name in to the people welcoming you at the door as you arrive for the Requiem Mass. All the names received will be read out. This is an opportunity to remember those who have died & to support those in the Parish community who have lost loved ones. Refreshments will be available in the hall afterwards.

Advent Retreat 'Saying "YES" to God': Sacred Heart are having a retreat day on Sat. 30th Nov, 10am-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 of soup, french bread & cheese provided by the parish but donations of cakes or puddings would be very welcome!

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.

LUX.VOX – a weekend for young people aged 11-18! 31st Jan-2nd Feb 2020 – Please contact fiona@nymo.org or call 01582 720627 for more details.

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 8th November
 Friday 15th November
 Friday 22nd November
 Friday 29th November
 Friday 6th December
 Friday 11th December



There will be food and drink at each meeting!

Our prayer links to the thoughts on the front page of this newsletter: we are reminded of the text: “And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)

They are known as the “Theological Virtues”, of this the Catechism of the Catholic Church says:

Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise.

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.

”The theological virtues are the foundation of Christian moral activity; they animate it and give it its special character. They inform and give life to all the moral virtues. They are infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children and of meriting eternal life. They are the pledge of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the faculties of the human being. There are three theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity.” (CCC 1813)

Scripture Readings 27th October 2019, 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Sirach was a Jerusalem sage writing about 180 BC. His wise maxims are much used by the Church. God does not approve “the gifts of the godless, nor for their many sacrifices does he forgive their sins”. God is just, “he hears the cry of the oppressed”. God’s justice will be seen, he will wreak “vengeance upon the proud”.

The psalm urges us to praise the Lord, especially for his rescue of us. We should therefore keep his commandments.

Paul tells Timothy to expect a time to come “when people will not tolerate sound doctrine” “and will stop listening to the truth”. In every age Christians have experienced this happening. Paul is facing death alone. But God has not deserted him, enabling him to speak out at his trial, sending the gospel message to yet more Gentiles, even at this late hour.

In Luke’s gospel Jesus continues his teachings on prayer. After last week’s parable about the persistent widow comes this strong condemnation of insincere prayer. We should not imagine that the Pharisee was bad: he is a good man, conscientiously observing his religion. Yet Jesus says the tax collector went home justified “**rather than**” the Pharisee. Not “more than”! Why? Because the tax collector was humble enough to admit his need of God and of his mercy.

Psalm Response: **This poor man called; the Lord heard him.**

(Sir/Eccle'us 35:12-14,16-19 Ps 33(34) 2 Tim 4:6-8,16-18 Lk 18:9-14)

Chris Oliver

The Season of Creation

Actions to Live Simply :

Tip No. 9: Solidarity with the poor: Buy Fairtrade flowers and fruit at Co-op and Aldi to ensure growers are paid sufficient to feed & house family, pay for schooling and have a community centre.

Tip No. 10: Living Sustainably with creation: Gardeners Reuse Plastic deep trays for seed trays (make drainage holes).

PRAYER

CREATOR GOD

You gave us responsibility for the earth
A world of riches and delight.
Create in us a desire to live sustainably,
So that those who follow after us
May enjoy the fruits of your creation

Do you have an inventive, 'plastic Reuse', idea?

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

Training in Proclamation



St Gregory’s is a very difficult church acoustically in that the echo which makes music such a pleasure also makes it very difficult to hear the spoken word.

Even the most experienced find proclamation of the Scriptures technically difficult here. Over the years many experts have been called in to advise over sound systems, and all agree that having many small loudspeakers such as we have is the best solution. However, even with the best system in the world, St Gregory’s is difficult! That is why we all need help to be better.

There will be sessions for this on Monday and Tuesday evenings of this week, starting at 7.00 pm. Ideally all who proclaim the Scriptures should come at least to one of the sessions, which are planned to end no later than 9.00 pm. Both new and experienced proclaimers are asked to attend —we can all learn from each other.

Bishop Peter has said that he expects all who proclaim the Scriptures to have had training in this time of preparation for the “Year of the Word” which will begin in December.



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)