



# 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

## Two Important Things

Today we have a Pastoral Letter from our Bishop about the “Extraordinary Month of Mission” which Pope Francis has designated for this coming October.

Tomorrow is the feast of St Jerome, and it is the day on which Cardinal Nichols will launch the “Year of the Word”, which will officially begin at the beginning of Advent and run throughout 2020.

These two are not in competition with each other, rather they complement each other. One of the best-known sayings of St Jerome is “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ” (*from his commentary of the book of Isaiah*), and the heart of mission is bringing people into a closer relationship with Christ.

The important common factor in this is that it is addressed to all of us. At Mass, the scriptures are read to all of us. All the faithful are expected to hear the Word of God in Scripture read to us, and the concept of “active participation” of which the Second Vatican Council speaks means that the hearers need to be as active in their hearing as the reader is in the proclaiming. Likewise, the mission of the Church must be the concern of us all.

Traditionally, there have been two ways in which all Catholics have supported mission. One is financial; with little collection boxes in homes for Mission societies or religious orders. More recently, the Red Box had brought most of these mission collections together, and as a parish we are one of the most generous supporters of the Red Box appeal in the diocese. The second vital support for Mission is through prayer; one of the special prayer intentions for this time of the year is for “The Spread of the Gospel” (*See the back page of this newsletter*), and we pray daily that we may “confidently and humbly” proclaim “the Good News of Jesus Christ”. (*See our Parish Vision above*).

This brings us to what prayer actually is. We can misunderstand prayer as us simply asking God to perform certain miracles that we desire, but that is not really good enough. St Ignatius gives us a description of a form of prayer: “A kind of talk friends have with one another, or perhaps like the way a servant speaks to his master, asking for some kindness or apologising for some failure, or telling him about some matter of business and asking for his advice” (*Spiritual Exercises §54*).

The key in this is “asking for his advice” — if we ask for advice, we need also to listen to that advice, we need to listen to God. That is a

fundamental part of prayer, and one of the ways in which we hear God speak to us is through the Scriptures.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of the different ways in which the words of the Bible can speak to us.

“According to an ancient tradition, one can distinguish between two *senses* of Scripture: the literal and the spiritual, the latter being subdivided into the allegorical, moral and anagogical senses. The profound concordance of the four senses guarantees all its richness to the living reading of Scripture in the Church. The *literal sense* is the meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture and discovered by exegesis, following the rules of sound interpretation: “All other senses of Sacred Scripture are based on the literal.”

The *spiritual sense*. Thanks to the unity of God’s plan, not only the text of Scripture but also the realities and events about which it speaks can be signs.

1. The *allegorical sense*. We can acquire a more profound understanding of events by recognizing their significance in Christ; thus the crossing of the Red Sea is a sign or type of Christ’s victory and also of Christian Baptism.
2. The *moral sense*. The events reported in Scripture ought to lead us to act justly. As St. Paul says, they were written “for our instruction”.
3. The *anagogical sense* (Greek: *anagoge*, “leading”). We can view realities and events in terms of their eternal significance, leading us toward our true homeland: thus the Church on earth is a sign of the heavenly Jerusalem.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church §115-117*)

In order to grasp the spiritual meanings of the Bible passages that we are reading, we need to read in a prayerful way. This means that we need to give time for this; it cannot be done hurriedly. What we must expect in this is to hear the advice of our friend and master; in other words, we must expect God to be telling us to **do something!**

So we return to the two important things; our attention to the Bible and our involvement in the Mission of the Church. Both of these demand both what we have traditionally given; prayer and financial support. However, God may be asking us for something more than this. Through Alpha we are seeking to be an active missionary parish, as encouraged by Pope Francis (*See Evangelii Gaudium §28*).

The fundamental “Important Thing” is that this involves us all, and we all need to be asking God: “What do you want **me** to do?”



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

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019**  
**Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year**  
**Parish Mass Book - Year C**  
**Page 80**

**Priest:**  
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015  
E-mail: [priest@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:priest@stgregory.org.uk)  
**Deacons:**  
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
E-mail: [mvf@btinternet.com](mailto:mvf@btinternet.com)  
Rev Rory Stewart (ret) ☎ 408407  
**Pastoral Assistant:**  
Maria Heath ☎ 07952 040830  
E-mail: [maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk)

<b>Sunday</b> <i>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Dante Davighi RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday St. Jerome	9.00 am	Mass	G. Cooney's Intentions
Tuesday St. Therese of the Child Jesus	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Dunleu & Dorgany's Intentions
Wednesday Holy Guardian Angels	9.00 am	Mass	Peter & Alice Curran
Thursday St. Thomas de Cantelupe	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	O'Donovan Family's Intentions
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday St. Francis of Assisi	9.00 am	Mass	Christine Strong RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Eric Hasdell RIP
	9.45 am	Confessions	
<b>Sunday</b> <i>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Stephen Healy RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

**Your Offering To The Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £. 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 Next Week:** CAFOD. (Family Fast Day 4<sup>th</sup> October)  
**Counters This Week:** M. Bonner, Mrs Morgan.  
**Cleaners This Week:** George & Another.

**Readings for This Sunday**

**Amos 6: 1, 4-7.** *Those who sprawl and those who bawl will be exiled.*  
**1 Timothy 6: 11.16.** *Do all that you have been told until the Appearing of the Lord.*  
**Luke 16: 19-31.** *Good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus.*

**Readings for Next Sunday**

**Habakkuk 1: 2-3, 2: 2-4; 2 Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14; Luke 17: 5-10.**  
**(Page 82)**

**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.

**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)

**Hall Keys:** Please, please, please, will everyone who has used the hall in recent months, and was given a key to get in, please make sure that you have returned it to the office. There are a number missing, and they are very expensive to replace. Thank you. Caryll.

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

Flowers in front of the Altar are given by Mrs Irene Howell  
in thanksgiving for the prayers offered for her by the congregation.

**Please pray for the sick**

Sylvia Marlow	Kelly-Ann
Cecilia Pereira	Robert Fleming
Fr Philip Swingle	Joan McAllister
Michael Spowart	Jean O'Neill
Dominic Nicholls	Clara Korejwo
Alf Shipman	James Power
Owen	Khanh Phan
Kath Seamark	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
May Murtagh	Eileen Howell
Maurice Murphy	Doris Old
Michael O'Dea	Rita
Lorraine Woolard	Erica Campbell
Frances Duffus	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 Stratten	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
Margaret M	Breege Manix
Caterina Bradshaw	

**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

Frederick Boswell	Rita Quigley
Richard White	Anne Brannigan
Bernard Fossey	Margaret Murphy
Roland Williams	Richard Walker
Christopher Doyle	Mark Collins
Jack Quigley	Patrick Coleman
Maria Crake	Elizabeth Allan
William Currie	Frances Keegan
Wladislaw Idczak	Margaret Garvey
Gertrude Culverhouse	Dorothy Marriott
Valerie Curran	Henry Thompson
Dorothy Dorman	Zdzislaw Xwicien
Kathleen Neeson	Daniel Aneke
Mary O'Carroll	Martin Marcano
Harold Slatter	Margaret Forsyth
Brendan Duffy	Jean West
William Ridgeway	Kathleen Flynn
Brendan Clancy	Beatrice Dunn
Elizabeth Booth	Mary Boland
Winifred Dawkins	Christian Howe
Eric Hasdell	Reginald Streeter

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER**  
That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.

# 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*

**Bible Alive** for October 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 can 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.

 **Rosary:** If you wish to have the Rosary said in your home during October, please fill out the form in the lobby area. Two members of the Legion of Mary will come on the day and time you prefer. Thank you.

**Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life:** Walsingham, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October commencing 12pm with Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation. Please see poster for full details.

**Rotas for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers** for the period October - January have now been issued to all those on email. Hard copies are available in the sacristy for all others.

**Choir Matters:** Practices are usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month following evening Mass till 9pm : 3 Oct. & then weekly practices until Dec to prepare for Christmas. *Alec*

**Safe Haven Coffee Morning** (Syrian Family Sponsorship scheme) at 337 Billing Road East, NN3 3LL on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October from 10.30am. Traidcraft Stall, Christmas Cards, Crafts & Gifts, Raffle. Kevin & Aideen Fogarty.

**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.

**LUX.VOX** – a weekend for young people aged 11-18! 31<sup>st</sup> Jan-2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2020 – Please contact [fiona@nymo.org](mailto:fiona@nymo.org) or call 01582 720627 for more details.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next Baptism Preparation Session will be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 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 today and next Sunday after either Mass. The main preparation sessions will take place on seven Saturdays leading to First Holy Communion in May 2020.

**Confirmation Preparation:** Those interested in Confirmation next year are invited to join the Youth Alpha programme.

**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 October 5<sup>th</sup>. All welcome.**

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting October 9<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Mass followed by Rosary for Vocations at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour**, Great Billing on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 6pm. Please join us to ‘pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers’ & in loving memory of Fr Damien Walne. Refreshments to follow. All welcome.

**There will be a Charismatic** Mass at St Edmund Campion Church, Henshaw Road, Wellingborough on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm, Fr Martin Gyan Obeng will be celebrating the Mass. There will be refreshments afterwards. All welcome.

**Tots @St Gregory's:** If you have charge of a pre-school baby or child on Tuesday mornings why not come along to Tots @ St Gregory's which runs in the parish hall from 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 and begin again on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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

**Helpers needed for Alpha:** If you are able to offer help for the Alpha course starting on Tuesday, please talk to Maria Heath. Those who have helped in the past will tell you that they greatly enjoyed the experience — there was always laughter coming from the kitchen!

## Autumn Courses at St Gregory's:

Monday at 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Catholicism	starts 16 <sup>th</sup> September
Monday at 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm	Acts	starts 16 <sup>th</sup> September
Tuesday at 10.00 am – 12 noon	Psalms	starts 24 <sup>th</sup> September
Tuesday at 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm	Alpha	starts 17 <sup>th</sup> September
Wednesday at 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Matthew	starts 18 <sup>th</sup> September

## Autumn Course at Sacred Heart:

Tuesday at 10.15 am Bible Timeline starts 17<sup>th</sup> September

**More information on local courses can be found at:**

[www.bible-groups.info/timeline](http://www.bible-groups.info/timeline)

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

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October Come and find out more about Alpha, and also, parents are welcome.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December



There will be food and drink at each meeting!

**Gerard Mannion RIP** Gerard died on 21st September in Georgetown Washington DC . where he was a Professor in Theology. Gerard grew up in Northampton and attended Good Shepherd , St Davids and Thomas Becket schools. He was the son of Michael and Theresa Mannion Nephew of Winnie and John Kelly & Paddy & Bridie Mannion.

This prayer is full of references to the Scriptures. The word 'manifest' has many references, although the most obvious is in the old name of the feast of the Epiphany; the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.

"For it is always in your power to show great strength, and who can withstand the might of your arm? But you are merciful to all, for you can do all things, and you overlook people's sins, so that they may

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to be treasures of heaven.

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.

repent. For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made, for you would not have made anything if you had hated it. You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord, who love the living. (*Wisdom 11:21, 23, 24, 26*)

There is a progression from repentance and forgiveness to hastening (following fast!) and finally to heaven — our pilgrimage..

## Scripture Readings 29th September 2019, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Amos warns both the northern kingdom, Israel, ie Samaria, and the southern kingdom, Judea, with its capital Zion or Jerusalem, that the idle rich in both kingdoms will be the first to go into exile. 40 years later, in 721 BC, Samaria was conquered, and later Judea followed into exile.

The Psalm, echoed by Mary in Luke's Magnificat, confirms that God's justice will prevail: the hungry will be fed, the blind given sight, but the wicked will lose out.

Instructing Timothy how to organise the early Christian church, Paul also insists the rich should use their wealth for good deeds. Christians should ideally aspire to show the Christian virtues as examples to all, and so witness to the truth, until our Lord Jesus Christ returns to appear in glory as King of kings. And Paul insists

that only God "has immortality": we do not simply have souls that live on after death – our creed says we believe in "the resurrection of the body", a gift from God in which our whole person, body and soul, lives for ever.

The Gospel graphically illustrates the dangers of riches: the rich man, who is not named, asks that the poor man – who is named – Lazarus – be sent to relieve his torments in hell. Abraham tells him the rich should listen to the prophets.

Psalm Response: **My soul, give praise to the Lord.**  
(Amos 6:1, 4-7, Ps 145:6-10, 1 Tim 6:11-16, Lk 16:19-31)

*Chris Oliver*

# The Season of Creation

### Living Simply:

Tip no. 1: Solidarity with the poor: share your weekly shop by bringing a tin of food to Mass for the Hope Centre.

Tip no. 2: Solidarity with the poor: Include in your weekly shop one more Fairtrade item than usual.

**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 Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC), is the oldest pro-life campaigning and educational organisation in the world.

It was founded in January 1967 to oppose the abortion bill being debated in Parliament at the time. That bill would go on to become the 1967 Abortion Act, while SPUC became the UK's first and largest pro-life group.

SPUC is a grassroots organisation. With over 100 branches and 45,000 supporters across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland it is the largest pro-life group in the UK.

**Abortion is the biggest killer of children in the world today, and has tragically claimed the lives of over 9 million children in the UK since the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act.**

SPUC works to protect human lives at the national and local level, and to build a society free from abortion.

As well as fighting abortion, the society also campaigns against other direct threats to the lives of vulnerable individuals, such as euthanasia and embryo abuse. It recognises the need to have a consistent life ethic - to value the lives of all human beings equally - and the foundation of this must always be recognising the humanity of the child in the womb.

There is now a branch of SPUC in Northampton that meets regularly here at St Gregory's. In order to find out more about the work of the society and current pro-life campaigns and for further information please feel free to contact William Currie at [wpcurrie@btinternet.com](mailto:wpcurrie@btinternet.com)



# The Year of the Word

