



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

Twin Apostles

This Sunday the Church celebrates the double-festival of SS Peter and Paul, who are regarded and the twin founders of Christian Rome.

If we can call them ‘twins’, they are certainly not identical — in so many ways they are diametrically different. Peter, the barely educated fisherman, Paul the university graduate. Peter, the impulsive and impulsive, Paul, the thinker and planner.

We can learn much from the diversity of these two heroes of our faith. Bishop Robert Barron in his book and film series, “Catholicism” calls Peter and Paul “The Indispensable Men”, and quoting the great theologian on the 20th century, Hans Urs von Balthasar, explains that “Peter, who led the original band of the twelve, stand for office, structure, hierarchy — all the ways that the Church is organised to achieve its purpose. Paul, who went to out to the nations as an evangelist to the Gentiles stands for mission, the engagement of the culture and proclamation. Without Petrine discipline the Pauline work would be unfocussed and continually in danger of dissolution. Without the Pauline energy, the Petrine work would devolve into cold management and ecclesiastical bureaucracy. The two together, in tensive harmony have propelled the Church through the centuries and around the world.” (*Robert Barron, Catholicism, page 141*)

This idea of ‘tensive harmony’ is very important. In physics there are two types of stress, tension and compression. All physical structures rely on these stresses for their stability. The structure of the Church also relies on different qualities and abilities. Tension is sometimes seen as a damaging factor in human structures. However this is a misunderstanding of a basic law of physics!

It is the tension in the rubber band that makes the wind-up aeroplane fly. Without that tension it stays still. It is tension that makes things happen. So the idea of ‘tensive harmony’ is, in fact, a manifestation of the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing the Church to life.

We can sometimes get upset when there appears to be tension in the Church. Certainly the news media love to find controversy, and because they do not understand the way in which the Church works, such tensions will be wrongly reported. Indeed, even the Catholic newspapers and magazines can give highly misleading reports on controversial issues. It is good to read such reports with a large sack of salt!

Just as in the Church at a whole, so within a parish and a pastoral area there needs to be different qualities. The Gospels tell us of how the Master distributes talents (*See Matthew 25:14-30*). We are told of the quantity of talents, but not their nature. In biblical times a talent was a measure of weight, and could be the weight in gold, silver or any other substance (about 25 kilos). So today and for us, talents (in the modern sense of the word) are given in different quantity and different forms, but the moral of the parable still applies — we are expected to use our talents, our gifts and abilities, and not bury them in the ground.

Next Saturday at the Pastoral Area reflection day we are invited to see how the different talents that we have can work together in ‘tensive harmony’ to move the Church forward in her mission and worship.

Each one of us has been given talents in one form or another, and as St Paul used his for the spread of the Gospel; as St Peter used his for the governance of the Church, so together we can use our diverse and varied talents to further the Kingdom of God in this area.

Neither St Peter nor St Paul was content with simply maintaining what they had. The first letter of Peter is a call to grow in holiness, not to remain as they were; St Paul was constantly on the move seeking new converts to the faith.

Non-identical twins are known as ‘fraternal’, and in the context of our twin Apostles, this speaks to us of our own brotherhood / sisterhood in the body of Christ, the Church. There was an disagreement between our twin Apostles (*See Galatians 2:11-14*), but they found resolution (*See Acts 15:7-12*), and soon after Paul sets off on his next missionary journey.

One fruit that must come from our Day of Reflection is a further impetus to our own mission, and the works of our twin Apostles should be an inspiration to us, that we may grow in holiness and that the Church may grow in numbers. This will be achieved in many different ways, and using the combined talents of the entire Church.

“She’s the girl that makes the thing that drills the hole that holds the spring that drives the rod that turns the knob that works the thingummy-bob”, sang Gracie Fields. Our own individual contribution may seem small and insignificant; but even apparently small actions can make an enormous difference.



Sunday 30th June 2019
SS Peter and Paul
Parish Mass Book - Year C
Page 105

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

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

Sunday <i>SS Peter & Paul</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Dec'd Members of the Rumsey Family
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Derek Hodgkinson RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Peter Redmond RIP
Wednesday St. Thomas	9.00 am	Mass	Sylvia Palmer RIP
	5.00 pm	Reception of the body of Michael Coneys	
Thursday St. Elizabeth of Portugal	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	
	10.30 am	Funeral Mass	Michael Coneys rip
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	Peter Redmond RIP
Friday Bl. Thomas Belson	9.00 am	Mass	Jean
Saturday St. Maria Goretti	9.00 am	Mass	Michael Curran's Intentions
	9.45 am	Confessions	
Sunday <i>14th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Dolly Mansi RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

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	Robert Moore
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 Diccico	Eileen Howell
Maurice Murphy	Doris Old
Sylvester Dauksta	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 Donnely
Catherine Stratten	May Eamons
Stephen Aneke	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	Mary Rumsey
Paul Greaves	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
N. Donegan	Norma Bryan

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £448.05. Thank you!
Standing Order gifts to the Parish: Each week £380 is given through standing orders.
Gift Aid benefits to the parish: The value of Gift Aid averages £133 per week.
Second Collection Last Week: Day for Life. £191.66. Thank you!
Second Collection This Week: Peter's Pence.
Counters This Week: Mrs Quinn, A. Gibson.
Cleaners This Week: Kathleen & Another.

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

John Fallon	Bernard Doyle
Bridget Flynn	Anne Luck
Freda Garratt	Toylie Noel
Patrick Kelly	Kathleen O'Connor
Michael Prendiville	Patrick Melarkey
Gina Sabatini	John Gorddard
Tony Franks	Mary Wright
Alice Curran	Michael Eyles
Thomas Hastings	Margaret Carey
Paul Kendal	Margaret Holland
Harry Ponting	Elizabeth Jeffrey
Dhania Sawh	Irene Idczak
Maureen McGrath	Clara Johnson
Vincent Crowley	Frank Staples
Maria Ortuno-Piera	Michael O'Brien
Ellen Baxendale	Maria Hnatyszyn
John Kingston	

Readings for This Sunday

Acts 12: 1-11. *Now I know the Lord did save me from Herod.*
2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18. *All there is to come now is the crown of righteousness.*
Matthew 16: 13-19. *You are Peter, and I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven..*

Readings for Next Sunday

Isaiah 66: 10-14; Galatians 6: 14-18; Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20. (Page 48)

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

POPE'S PRAYER
INTENTIONS FOR JULY

That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.

Notices of Interest

The Repository: The Repository is open after both Sunday Masses. Confirmation cards are now on sale. *Kathleen Healey*

David Donaghue's First Mass: As I am sure you are all aware, David celebrates his first Mass here on Sunday 21st July, 11am. There will be a buffet afterwards to help him celebrate, and we need volunteers to provide home cooked or bought food! There will be a list in the lobby area (by the side of the glass doors) of what will be needed, and if you can help, please sign your name by the side. If there is something you wish to supply that isn't on the list, please do let me know & it can be added! Just give me a ring on 07818441480.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Yassi Camilla Arellano
who received Christian Baptism last week.
Please pray for her and her family.

Bible Alive for July 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.**

Choir Matters: Brilliant news! Deacon David will celebrate his first Mass at St Gregory's on July 21 at 11:00 Mass. Our next choir practice (July 4) will focus on that event. Our already much praised choir would benefit from others joining us so that we become even better and improve what we deliver at David's very special and blessed event. Help us do justice to his celebration. *Alec*

Accommodation Needed: A sister needs to rent a one bedroom flat anywhere close to Northampton General Hospital, or in town. If you can help, please speak to Fr. Andrew.

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!

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

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

33rd Rosary Rally at Mount St Bernard Abbey: This begins with Mass at 2.00 pm on Sunday 1st September. See the poster for more information.

Our Common Home There will be a special day of prayer and celebration of creation on Sunday August 4th, which will focus on the CAFOD climate change campaign. Keep a watch-out for more information about this.

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 July 6th. All welcome.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. Next meeting July 10th. All welcome.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7.00 pm on Monday 8th July in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion – 2020 Enrolment for next year's First Holy Communion preparation will be in September.

Confirmation Preparation: Check your programme!

Job Vacancies: There are advertisements for various job vacancies; part-time housekeeper for Northampton Cathedral, Full-time Youth Ministry Co-ordinator with (NYMO) based at Luton, Parish Youth Minister. Full advertisements on the notice-board in the display area. Further info. can be found on the diocesan website: www.northamptondiocese.org/vacancies

CAFOD:

You are invited to be part of our amazing education programme which inspires students to act on their sense of justice. A background in education is not necessary. We are looking for people with good interpersonal skills, a passion for CAFOD's work and who can connect well with children and young people. You will be asked to go into Catholic schools in the locality to deliver prepared assemblies and/or workshops about once a term. All necessary training, travel expenses and resources will be provided and you will have the ongoing support of a local team.

Support local volunteers

CAFOD is looking for Parish Volunteer Coordinators to inspire and support local volunteers. This is a rewarding opportunity for people who are keen to work with other volunteers in their community raising awareness of the church's role in fighting injustice and poverty. Help us build a strong network – stronger than poverty and injustice.

For both roles, please get in touch with

Deborah: northampton@cafod.org.uk 01494 863777

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 and survivors of abuse, their families and supporters are invited to this Mass. There will be light refreshments after the Mass.

Individual Meetings for Victims and Survivors, with Bishop Peter. Bishop Peter is offering to meet with victims & survivors, families & supporters from May 2019 & continuing on a bimonthly basis. For more details or to book a meeting with the Bishop, contact the safeguarding office on: 01604 723514.

Bible Timeline - Spreading the Word of God's Kingdom:

Sat. 13th July, 10am – 4pm at St. Gregory the Great. Includes presentation & testimonies, prayer & Mass. Morning & afternoon tea & coffee – please bring a packed lunch. No charge, but a collection will be made to defray costs. Please see poster for full details.

Summer Camp: NYMO, our diocesan youth ministry office, wish to invite all young people of secondary school age, to this year's Summer Camp. With the opportunity to sleep in a castle and experience amazing outdoor activities, alongside a day at Alton Towers and a mystery day out! All this alongside daily Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration. Cost is a minimum donation of £205 (9subsidised) to an actual cost of £295. More information can be found at www.nymo.org or call Fiona on 01582 720627

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.

Then current Missal has revised the prayer for SS Peter and Paul, no longer specifically referring to the martyrdom of the Apostles, and instead speaks of the 'noble and holy joy of this day'.

The word 'noble' is not own which is in common usage in English; Latin word which is translated as 'noble' technically means 'to be venerated', which is even more obscure!

O God,
who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul
give us the noble and holy joy of this day,
grant, we pray, that your Church
may in all things follow the teaching
of those through whom she received
the beginnings of right religion.

Who lives and reigns with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

This day remains a Holy Day in the Church, and in many countries is a public holiday, a day of joy, not only spiritual joy in the feast, but the joy of a day without work.

The purpose of the prayer is that we may remain faithful to the teaching of the Apostles, both as individuals and collectively as the Church, particularly recognising the specific teaching of the founders of the Church in Rome.

Scripture Readings 30th June 2019, SS Peter & Paul, Year C

This is the last chapter in Acts about the Jerusalem church before Paul's missionary journeys. Peter's third arrest is this time by Herod who is the grandson of the Herod when Jesus was born. The story of Peter being freed from prison is so lovingly told that the parallels with Jesus' arrest may be missed. Like Jesus, Peter was arrested during the Passover, and was also taken for a ghost, here by the maid, Rhoda, who shuts the door in his face. The angel who proclaimed Jesus to be risen, and who frees Peter, goes on to strike Herod dead.

The psalm thanks the Lord for help in difficult times, urging us to glorify the Lord, who is always ready to give comfort.

A rather lonely Paul, abandoned in prison, writes these encouraging words to Timothy, whom Paul has commissioned to take over his

ministry. Paul urges him to keep on preaching the true Christian message in its entirety. But Timothy will therefore suffer and need always to rely on the Lord's strength.

Today's gospel is Matthew's version of Jesus asking who people say he is. It is similar to Luke's version. But Matthew inserts the well-known commissioning of Peter to be the rock of the Church, the only reference in all the gospels to the whole Church.

Psalm Response: **From all my terrors the Lord set me free.**
(Acts 12:1-11; Ps 33(34); 2 Tim 4:6-8; 17-18; Matt 16:13-19)

Chris Oliver

Pastoral Area Reflection Day: July 6th

Next Saturday is the day of an important event; the title given is "Reflection Day", but it is more than just looking in a mirror!

When we pray the prayer at the end of Mass we speak of "our hopes and plans". The purpose of this meeting is to look a little further into the future and begin to consider plans for the next five years or so.

Increasingly it will be necessary that neighbouring parishes work together as we become used to having fewer priests, and various different lay ministries will need to develop. Avril Baigent, who is leading this for the



Diocese will guide us for the day; it is important that each parish is well represented.

The event will be at St Edmund Campion school, Henshaw Road, Wellingborough NN8 2BE, and will begin at 10.30 am and end at 4.00 pm. A sandwich lunch will be provided for all those who attend. Please come if you possibly can.



Last week in this section of the newsletter the importance of the quality of the proclamation of the Scriptures was emphasised.

If the sections of the Bible that are proclaimed cannot be heard clearly, there is no chance that they will be understood; this must call into question the point of the readings!

This is why there are regular opportunities for training for those who proclaim the Scriptures. We should never be content with second-best in this regard. It should not be necessary for anyone to follow in the Mass Book to be able to understand the sections of the Bible that are proclaimed at Mass. However, it has to be admitted that the acoustics of St Gregory's church do not make this an easy task, and the sound-system is not always working at peak performance.

The other side of the coin is the people who listen to this

proclamation. "Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy" (*Vatican II, Sacrosanctum Concilium §14*). Listening with active participation is impossible if what is proclaimed cannot be heard, so the first responsibility of the proclaimer is to be able to be heard!

Merely being heard is not enough; being understood requires first that the proclaimer understands what is being proclaimed, and secondly, that the understanding is communicated. This is not a skill that everyone naturally has, but it can be taught and learned. In our preparation for the "Year for the Word", we will offer this training to all who have this important ministry.



Preparation for First Holy Communion in 2020

For a variety of reasons including the shortage of space and health and safety concerns surrounding this, 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 shortly after the beginning of the autumn school term. It is also

important that the children themselves desire to come to Communion. Please keep a look-out in the newsletter for details. No registrations will be accepted until September. The main preparation sessions will take place on five Saturdays leading to First Holy Communion in May 2020.