



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

APF Red Box Appeal

This week-end we welcome Fr Donie O'Connor MHM to give the five-yearly appeal. Thank you to all parishioners who already give to the Pope's official charity for overseas mission — Missio — and Britain's own missionary order, the Mill Hill Missionaries, through the Red Box.

There will not be a second collection, but if you do not currently have a Red Box, please do consider taking one. It would be fantastic if every home had a Red Box to help care for our Church family throughout the world.

Missio works in some of the poorest areas of the world; currently in 157 countries, mainly in Africa, Asia and the Indian sub-continent, and is supporting 1,069 dioceses. As well as proclaiming the Gospel in these places, the local Church is also the most effective means for the humanitarian aid given through CAFOD to reach those in greatest need, so our giving through CAFOD is made more effective by our giving in the Red Box.

Below is an interview reprinted from “Mission Today” (Autumn 2018). This is a reminder that buying fairly-traded coffee can not only support the important objective of bringing about a more just world, but can also support the mission of the Church!

Coffee: a ray of hope

Bishop Markos Gebremedhin is the head of the vicariate of Jimma Bonga in south-western Ethiopia, where many ethnic groups and religions coexist. He explains why the Menja are destroying their own way of life and how the church is trying to help them to live with dignity.

Can you describe the Menja's situation?

The Menja are the original settlers of this region. However, because they live differently from the other groups of people here, they are discriminated against. They have no opportunity for education. Economically speaking, they are very poor. Many make their living from cutting down trees in the rainforest and turning them into charcoal that they sell in the cities.



Won't this destroy the forest and their way of life?

Because the people here are very poor, they live in the here and now, with no vision of the future. We want to help them to develop new ideas about how to use the available natural resources effectively and manage the rainforest sustainably, instead of destroying it.

Does coffee represent an opportunity for the Menja?

Absolutely! Coffee is an attractive product on the global market. We work out sustainable projects for people. When we teach them how to grow coffee, they gradually become able to make a living. We've established a coffee plantation on the church grounds, where we employ the poor.

During the harvest time, they pick coffee and earn a wage. We use the proceeds from selling the coffee to help them, too.

Can you describe how you help the people in your vicariate?

We can be found in every district of our vicariate, proclaiming the Good News, looking after the poorest and the needy, and engaging in peace-building work between opposing groups of people. Many of the Menja are unable to send their children to school because they don't have enough money, so we help them by providing nursery places and helping with school visits. We have a boarding school for disadvantaged boys and girls from rural regions. We also look after older people, homeless people and orphaned children.

Has the Church's work changed the Menja's lives?

Many of those who are now part of the Church have seen positive changes in their lives. They have a better understanding of family life; their family relationships have become more loving. The Menja see that people from their community, just like others, can go to school and get ahead in life. That gives them hope. Thanks to the work of everyone in the Church, where everyone really does give their very best to convince other communities that everyone is equal before God, the Menja have seen significantly greater acceptance. We were all created by God. **We are all one.**

You can find more information or set up a Direct Debit online at www.missio.org.uk/about-apf

Notices of Interest

Important this week

From Monday to Friday this week there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm, praying for priests. Everyone is welcome. Please come!

Baby Loss Matters: LIFE organisation is arranging a memorial at the side altar from Saturday 2nd until Sunday 10th February, where those who have lost a baby can spend some time in prayer and reflection. Prayers will be offered for those who have suffered loss and support literature will be available.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Jonas Adam Nikiel
And Kiana Claire Dsouza
who received Christian Baptism last week.
Please pray for them and their families.

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

Refreshments After 9am Mass: We urgently need kind volunteers to help with tea & coffee after 9am Mass on Sundays. It's half an hour at most, after Mass, just to serve any who want to come and mingle over a cup of tea/coffee – and have a couple of biscuits to go with it! Everything will be set up before Mass, so it's just a matter of pouring the drinks & pointing people in the right direction for a snack. Proceeds go to several good causes over the year, & these are listed in the kitchen. If only 6 people volunteer, that will mean you only need help once every 6 weeks! Please speak to a member of the clergy if you're interested.

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.**

Margaret Refoy & Family would like to thank you most sincerely for your kindness, sympathy and Mass Intentions, which have been a source of great comfort to them at this sad time.

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*

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

Choir Matters: Next Practices: 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*

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!

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.

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!**

Life House Quiz Night: Tickets for the Fish & Chips and Quiz night on 1st March will be on sale in the foyer next to the repository shop after 9.00am and 11am masses from Sunday 3rd February. Tickets cost £10. Ticket numbers are limited so please buy as early as possible. Suitable donated raffle prizes will be gratefully received and can be given to the ticket sellers.

Charity Concert in aid of CAFOD: Frid. May 3rd, 7.30pm–10pm, St. Francis & Therese Church, Hunsbury, NN4 0RZ, featuring Tad Newton's Jazzfriends. Tickets £12.50 (inc. free glass of wine), bar & raffle. See poster for details.

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

The Big Sleep Out: Siobhan O'Donovan wishes to thank everyone who sponsored her for the Sleep Out on Friday night to raise money for the Hope Centre. She will be standing at the back of the church and Michael Skelding will be at the side door to collect the sponsorship money and tick your name off the list. Thank you all very Much for your Support Siobhan O'Donovan.

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

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

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 Display Area.

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

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 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 are 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.

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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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>

This prayer dates from about 200 years earlier than most of the opening prayers in our present Missal; around 570, and is much simpler in form.

It is also a prayer whose translation is very difficult. The word “honour” is far too weak. The Latin word is “veneremur” which we recognise in the second line of “Tantum ergo”, and thus relates to our adoration of God in the Blessed Sacrament.

Grant us, O Lord our God,
that we may honour you with our mind,
and love everyone in truth of heart.

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.

Likewise the word translated as “mind” relates to much more than our mental activity; but covers heart, soul, conscience and intention — in other words our whole interior life.

The heart of this prayer is that we may fulfil the command of the Lord: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind and love our neighbour as ourselves. (*Matthew 22:37-39*)

Scripture Readings 3rd February 2019, 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

In 626 BC Jeremiah was appointed by God to be his prophet during the forty troubled years before the exile. Israel had fallen away from God’s covenant, worshipping pagan gods. Jeremiah warned them that unless they turned back to the Lord, Jerusalem would be destroyed – as it was by Babylon. But the prophet’s life is not easy, even though sure of God’s support, and Jeremiah suffered much at the hands of his own people.

The psalmist implores the Lord’s help in affliction, confident he will be heard.

Paul has emphasised to the Corinthians that the different abilities of each member are essential to the work of the church. In today’s beautiful reading he contrasts these diverse skills with the overriding virtue of love, needed by everyone. And more important than the gift of tongues, which the Corinthians valued highly.

In Luke’s gospel Jesus continues from last week’s reading, saying the text he had read from Isaiah is being fulfilled as he is speaking. With these words He inaugurates the time of fulfilment of the Jewish Scriptures. But his words were seen as unexpectedly gracious for a mere carpenter’s son. He could work no miracles there in his home town. He tells them Gentiles will prove more receptive to the word of God. Jerusalem would be destroyed yet again.

Psalm Response: **My lips will tell of your help.**

(Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; Psalm 70(71); 1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Luke 4:21-20)

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 Agatha	St Paul Miki	St Jerome Emiliani
Agatha was around 15 when she was arrested for being a Christian under the persecution of Decius in 251. She lived in Sicily and was buried in Catania. It is said that an eruption of Mount Etna was stilled in the year after her death through her intercession. Devotion to her spread quickly, and her name is included in the First Eucharistic Prayer.	Paul Miki was educated in one of the colleges set up by the Jesuit Mission of St Francis Xavier, and joined the order in 1580. By this time there were about 130,000 converts, and the Emperor began a persecution, with 26 Christians being crucified in Nagasaki in 1597. Three and a half centuries later, an even greater slaughter would write Nagasaki into world history.	Born in 1481, Jerome became a soldier in the Venetian army with no thought of religion, but when he was captured his time as a prisoner caused him to turn to God. On his release he studied for the priesthood, and in 1532 he and two other priests established the Somascan order with a mission to care for orphans and give them an education. Fr Lourdes, who visits us here is a member of the Somascans.



The Dowry Tour of Our Lady of Walsingham — at the Cathedral

Thursday 7th February	5.00 pm	Shrine and Exhibition open	Friday 8th February	3.45 pm	Angelus Promise and Rosary
	6.00 pm	Rosary & Litany of English Saints		5.00 pm	Rosary for the conversion of England
	7.00 pm	Opening Mass		6.00 pm	Angelus & Talk on the Dowry of Mary
	8.00 pm	Talk on the Dowry of Mary		7.00 pm	Mass
	8.40 pm	Sung Litany of Our Lady and Salve		7.45 pm	Eucharistic Healing Service
Friday 8th February	8.45 am	Holy Hour (Confessions at 9.15 am)	Saturday 9th February	9.00 am	Rosary for the renewal of family life
	10.00 am	Mass		9.50 am	Angelus Promise
	11.00 am	Talk on the Dowry of Mary		10.15 am	Talk on the Dowry of Mary
	Noon	Angelus		11.00 am	Confessions and Adoration
	3.00 pm	Divine Mercy devotion		Noon	Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham

