



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

Calculating the date of Easter

In 325 the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first Full Moon occurring on or after the spring equinox. This makes March 22nd the earliest date for Easter and April 25th the latest. This year Easter Day falls on April 21st, so we are not quite the latest; we have to wait until 2038 for that event!

All the moveable feasts of the Church calendar are dependent on the date of Easter. Ash Wednesday is always 46 days before Easter. The reason for the extra 6 days is that the Sundays are technically “of Lent” but not “in Lent” as we do not fast on Sundays, which are Feast Days.

Pentecost falls 49 days after Easter (therefore on the fiftieth day) and brings Eastertide to its end; the following Sundays are devoted to the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Sacrament (Corpus Christi), and the Friday following Corpus Christi is the feast of the Sacred Heart.

Many (especially those involved in schools) would like to have a fixed date for Easter — the reason for the variable date of Easter is to keep the link with the date of Jewish Passover, which is celebrated on 15th Nisan. Nisan is the first month of the Jewish calendar and begins with the first new moon after the spring equinox, which means that Passover and Easter normally fall at the same time, although this is not always the case.

Impending Lent

The Second Vatican Council, in the important document on the Liturgy speaks to us about the season of Lent:

“The season of Lent has a twofold character: primarily by recalling or preparing for baptism and by penance, it disposes the faithful, who more diligently hear the word of God and devote themselves to prayer, to celebrate the paschal mystery. This twofold character is to be brought into greater prominence both in the liturgy and by liturgical catechesis. Hence:

a) More use is to be made of the baptismal features proper to the Lenten liturgy; some of them, which used to flourish in bygone days, are to be restored as may seem good.

b) The same is to apply to the penitential elements. As regards instruction it is important to impress on the minds of the faithful not only a social consequences of sin but also that essence of the virtue of penance which leads to the detestation of sin as an offence against God; the role of the Church in penitential practices is not to be passed over, and the people must be exhorted to pray for sinners.

During Lent penance should not be only internal and individual, but also external and social. The practice of penance should be fostered in ways that are possible in our own times and in different regions, and according to the circumstances of the faithful.”

(Vatican II, Sacrosanctum Concilium §109, 110)

For us, contrary to what many outside the Church suppose, Easter is the focal point of the year. We spend the time before Easter in

preparing for the celebration, and the days afterwards living the celebration, and the rest of the year meditating on what it means for us.

The restoration of the ‘Baptismal features’ of Lent has been fulfilled in the “Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults”. The first of these is the “Rite of Election” which takes place in the Cathedral on the afternoon of the First Sunday of Lent. This leads on to three themes of the spiritual preparation of those to be Baptised at Easter which are demonstrated in three events recorded in St John’s Gospel; the meeting of Jesus with the woman at the well who thirsts for living water, the healing of the man born blind who exemplifies the enlightenment of faith and finally the raising of Lazarus which foreshadows the resurrection of Christ and the risen life of which Baptism is the entry. Also during Lent is the “presentation of the Creed”, which is preparation for the formal profession of faith in the Baptism at the Easter Vigil and the “presentation of the Our Father” which speaks of the intimate paternal relationship that God seeks with us.

The key passage regarding the ‘penitential elements’ of Lent is that which speaks of how we are led to the ‘detestation of sin as an offence against God’. Lent is not simply about giving something up; it must be about making a lasting change in our life, defeating the power of sin and growing in virtue. To give up chocolate or alcohol does have some benefit, but to give up gossip or bad language or some other sinful behaviour, not just for Lent but for good is to embrace more fully what the season is really all about. These days before Lent begins are an opportunity to consider what each one of us needs most of all to be giving up, or doing extra!



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 3rd March 2019 Eighth Sunday of the Year Parish Mass Book - Year C Page 67

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

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Sunday <i>8th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Patricia Myhook RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Tony Refoy RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Josie Walsh's Intentions
Wednesday Ash Wednesday (Page 69)	7.00 am	Mass	The Parish Margaret & Gordon Muff RIP Rebecca Bryan
	9.00 am	Mass	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Thursday SS Perpetua and Felicity	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Connie Unsworth RIP
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Michael Moriarty RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Nora Scott's Intentions
	9.30 am	Confessions	
Sunday <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	The Grill Family

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 Seamark	Robert Moore
Fr Ed Worthy	Sarah Dunster
Liam Murphy	Kim Do
Margaret Farragher	Sr. Margaret
Dulcie Miranda	Chris Butler
Joan Healy	Lily Butler
Irgard Wrxall	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	Nina Fenlon
Philomena Fraher	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Catherine Stratten	Mary Rumsey
Baby Lorenzo Diccico	

Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £805.02. 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.

Appeal This Week:

Karuri Project

Counters This Week:

C.P., L. Allen.

Cleaners This Week:

Kathleen & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

Ecclesiasticus 27: 4-7.

Do not praise a man before he has spoken

1 Corinthians 15: 45-58.

He has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 6: 39-45.

A man's words flow out of what fills his heart.

Readings for Next Sunday

Joel 2: 12-18; 2 Corinthians 5: 20- 6: 2; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18. (Page 69)

During this season of

Candidates for the Sacraments;

Lent, we are asked

The Needy and Hungry of the World;

to pray for:

Penitents and Wanderers.

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)

**Fairtrade Fortnight continues this week:
Please buy Fairtrade products**



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

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Jane Toone	Dorothea Welby
Nora McMahan	Kate Pond
Susan Henry	Joseph Hefferman
Mary Weston	Margaret Kirwan
Giovannina Irons	Mary Letts
Alice Hardy	Eleanor Haynes
Paul O'Boyle	Eric Supple
Cecil Maulgue	Brian Usher
Jacqueline O'Toole	Betty Fryer
Patricia Coyle	Frederick Barker
Louise Nienhaus	Sarah Mattock
Peter Harris	Walter Belgium
Jeanette Charalambou	Antony Barnett
Patrick Brennan	Patrick Burke
Thomas Mullahy	Grace Cobb
Fr. Damien Walne	Marjorie Hill

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
FOR MARCH**

**That Christian communities,
especially those who are
persecuted, feel that they are
close to Christ and have their
rights respected.**

Notices of Interest

The Repository: The Repository has now reverted to its normal pattern - open after Sunday Masses. St. Patrick's Day and Easter cards are now available *Kathleen Healey*



We welcome into the family of the Church Anastasia Maria Zanoceanu who received Christian Baptism last week. Please pray for her and her family.

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.**

Thank you! To everyone who supported the **Hope Centre Sleep Out this year - I raised £2500.00.** Your Generosity is gratefully appreciated Thank you again, Siobhan O'Donovan.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children- Defending Life From Conception to Natural Death. The society is on the brink of establishing the only branch in Northampton to be based here, in the Parish. However, in order to do so it needs someone to take on the role of secretary. Is this something you would be willing to do? The role would not be onerous and would not take up much time. You do not need any previous experience and there will be lots of support available. Please consider yourself for this role. If you are willing to do so then please contact William Currie on wpcurrie@btinternet.com.

Life in the Spirit: Lenten Retreat at Sacred Heart Church Hall, Pyramid Close, Weston Favell, Northampton NN3 8DP. **Every Wednesday from 6th March to 24th April 2019.** Each session starts at 7.00pm in the Church Hall. All welcome!

24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Great Billing: The Diocesan Shrine and parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour will be hosting a **24 Hour Eucharistic Adoration of the Lord on 15th-16th March.** The Eucharistic Adoration begins with a Holy Mass at 10am on Friday 15th March and will be concluded with Mass on Saturday 16th March at 10am. Come let us worship the risen Lord "in Spirit and Truth." (John 4:24).

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!**

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!

New Parent & Baby Group at St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School, Grange Road. Wednesdays, 9.15am – 10.15am. £1 per adult. Refreshments provided by the PTFA.

Fitness & Pilates for Mid Life & Beyond! Classes Wed, 10.30am & Mon, 6.30pm (from 25th March) in the Church Hall with Theresa, who is fully qualified & insured. For further info, please contact Theresa on 07773577804

YOUCAT for Kids is a great new tool for catechists, parents and carers as they pass on the faith to children. A rescheduled YOUCAT for Kids session will take place from 7.45pm-9pm on Thursday 28th March in the Sacristy at St Gregory's Church. This book is a wonderful resource for parents and teachers — we do have copies for sale in the repository.

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!

Blessed Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group continues monthly on 1st Saturday of each month in the Sacristy at 10am. (Next meeting is April 6th) All welcome.

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

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.

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.

Northampton Notre Dame Association: 12th March 2019, 2.30-4.30pm at St. Matthews Church Room. Talk by Kathleen Fisher on the work of The Life House followed by tea and chat. All Welcome.

Choir Matters: Next Practices are: 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!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7.00 pm, Monday 25th March 2019, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion — 2019 Next session will be 30th March. The session starts at 2.00 pm, and parents are asked to stay until, about 2.45 pm. 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: The trip to "Blaze" is on March 23rd. coach leaves at 8.45 am **DON'T BE LATE!**

277 **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>

Catholic Basics Course: Part Two: Church 11 April, Part Three: The Moral Life 16 May, Part Four: Prayer 13 June. After a successful launch, join us for another day of engaging teaching with opportunities for interaction and discussion. Cost: £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged). Price includes a full lunch. No qualifications needed - just interest, good will and a sense of humour! Part 2: CHURCH April 11 2019, 10am-3pm (arrive 9.30am for refreshments). NORES Centre, Holy Ghost Parish, 33 Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD. To book, contact admin@nores.org.uk or phone Jackie on 01582 723312.

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

By and large, the translations from the Latin are much more accurate in the present edition of the Missal. This week's prayer, although a better translation than the previous one, still has a curious omission. More literally, we pray that the may be directed by God's rule which is peaceful 'for us'. In this form, we are not so much praying for world peace (absence of war), but for peace for the Church.

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that the course of our world
may be directed by your peaceful rule
that your Church may rejoice,
untroubled in her devotion.

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.

This prayer is particularly appropriate for our present times, and reminds us that the Church exists primarily to praise God and to bring people into a living and loving relationship with him.

In spite of the many difficulties which the Church faces, including many brought on by failings among Christians, yet we pray that we may still rejoice in Christ's victory, and not be distracted from our duty and joy in praising God and practicing our faith.

Scripture Readings 3rd March 2019, 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

The Wisdom book called Ecclesiasticus or Sirach was written in Hebrew about 200 BC by Ben Sira, a Jewish sage, and later translated into Greek. It was not translated into Latin by Jerome, but the Greek version was accepted as canonical by the early Church, and there are many allusions to it in the new Testament. At a time of increasing pagan Greek influence, Ben Sira showed that Israel's religion was still a firm basis for moral living. He gives many practical examples, helping Christians of every age to apply moral truths to their own times. Today's reading reminds us not to judge a person before hearing them speak.

The psalm extols God's justice: crime may appear to be rewarded but wrong-doers will be punished in eternity.

Paul concludes his teaching to the Corinthians on the resurrection of the body with these triumphant words from Isaiah and Hosea: "Death is swallowed up in victory"; "Death, where is your sting?" After death our mortal nature puts on immortality. We must therefore never give up hope, confident in the victory God gives us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Luke's gospel Jesus ends his sermon on the plain, which included the beatitudes, by reminding us how our actions and words reflect what is in our hearts.

Psalm Response: **It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.**

(Sirach 27:4-7; Psalm 91(92); 1 Cor 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45)

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

Northampton Prayer and Praise

MONDAY 1st APRIL 7.30 pm

ABINGTON AVENUE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

157 Abington Ave, Northampton NN1 4QA

This month we will be praying in particular for
the police force and crime prevention in Northampton.

Refreshments from 7.00 pm

ALL WELCOME

Saints of the week: Felicity and Perpetua

Perpetua and Felicity were early martyrs of the Church in Carthage (in modern Tunisia) who died under the persecution in the reign of the emperor Septimus Severus in the year 203.

Unlike so many of the early martyrs of the Church about whom little is known, we have a full report of the sufferings of these because Perpetua herself recorded the events up to her death.

Perpetua was a well-educated lady of a wealthy family, and at the age of 22 made the decision to become a Christian against the wishes of her father who was a pagan.

While still preparing for baptism she was arrested along with four others, including a slave-girl, Felicity, who was eight-months pregnant, and found the stifling and over-crowded prison particularly unpleasant. Perpetua said of this prison that "she had never known such darkness". However, friends were able to pay to have them removed to a more humane prison. Perpetua had been baptised just before she was put in prison, and she prayed

frequently, and had such a good effect on this gaoler that later he became a Christian.

Felicity, meanwhile went into labour and gave birth to a healthy daughter who was adopted by a Christian family in Carthage.

The form of martyrdom to which they were sentenced was to be thrown to wild beasts, and the guards wanted them to be dressed in clothes designed to honour the pagan deities, but Perpetua refused, saying: "We came to die out of our own free will so we wouldn't lose our freedom to worship our God. We gave you our lives so that we wouldn't have to worship your gods." They were allowed to keep their own clothes, and an eye-witness described her as she came into the arena: "she walked with shining steps as the true wife of Christ, the darling of God."

The beasts failed to kill Perpetua and Felicity, and eventually they were put to death by the sword.

Perpetua emerges as a feisty lady who knew her own mind and was not to be dissuaded. She and Felicity are patrons of expectant

mothers. May their prayers support all who look forward to the birth of a child, and especially any who are facing pressure to have an abortion.