



# 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

# Bible Society

Not long after Fr Andrew came to St Gregory's, to his great surprise, he was asked to join the local committee of the Bible Society. This was an honour, and reflected two significant changes over the previous decades.

First, although the official teaching of the Catholic Church has always valued the Bible, since Vatican II the reality of this is more and more evident at the parish level.

Secondly, when the Bible Society was founded (as the British and Foreign Bible Society) it was consciously a Protestant organisation, but in this ecumenical age, it has significantly changed, and has many Catholic members of staff. In the coming “Year of the Word”, the Bible Society is providing the majority of the funding.

Over the past years, at St Gregory's, the money from refreshments after Mass from after the CAFOD harvest collection until the beginning of Advent has been given to the Bible Society; it is the funding for the annual Bible Society Carol Service. This takes place at Christchurch on Wellingborough Road, usually on the second Monday of December, and at which the choir of Northampton School for Girls sing under the excellent direction provided by the Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust, and students from St Gregory's Catholic Primary School read the Scriptures.

## The Founding of the Bible Society

In 1800 a 15-year-old Welsh girl named Mary Jones trekked 26 long miles through the rugged terrain of north Wales to buy a Welsh Bible. Mary was so determined to have a Bible of her own, in her own language, that she saved up for six long years before her walk to Bala.

With the help of Revd Thomas Charles of Bala, who arranged lodgings for Mary and sold her three Bibles for the price of one, Mary Jones' determination was rewarded. Her story – and her unswerving desire to get hold of God's written word – soon became the talk of the churches in the area.

Inspired by Mary's story, and by the recent arrival of reduced-price Bibles for Welsh speakers, Revd Joseph Hughes asked a daring question to other church leaders: ‘If for Wales, why not for the kingdom? And if for the kingdom, why not for the world?’

That question, posed at a meeting of the Religious Tract Society on 7 December 1802, would reverberate across Wales and, ultimately, the

world. It was the moment that set in motion the founding of what is now the Bible Society.

Captured by the vision of God's word being available for all people of the kingdom and wider world, William Wilberforce with a number of friends decided to do what they do best – they decided to act. They made this vision part of their campaign to ‘make goodness fashionable’ – in the hope of inspiring people to fall in love with the Bible and a Biblically-inspired lifestyle.



On 7 March 1804, at a meeting of around 300 at the London Tavern in Bishopsgate, Wilberforce and the campaigning groups he was a part of formed the British and Foreign Bible Society. At this moment, they could only begin to imagine what this society would achieve in the coming years.

Since that day over 200 years ago, the British and Foreign Bible Society has become Bible Society – a charity committed to offering the Bible to the world.

It has won the admiration of royalty, from Edward VII through to our current monarch, Elizabeth II. The work has survived, even thrived, through the unfolding events of two World Wars. They persevered to find openings in Communist Russia and the Cultural Revolution of China. They established local Bible Societies in 146 countries of the world, to undertake the same work in their locations.

Today, they stand on the shoulders of these giants of the past – Mary Jones, Revd Joseph Hughes, William Wilberforce and others – committed to faithfully living out their belief that the Bible should be made available for every man, woman and child in the world.

As well as funding the “Year of the Word”, the Bible Society supports the work of the Catholic Church in many mission areas by providing Bibles in local languages. It is interesting that most of William Wilberforce's children became Catholics, influenced by St John Henry Newman – one of his descendants is a priest in the diocese of Plymouth!



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[Website: www.stgregory.org.uk](http://www.stgregory.org.uk)

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019**  
**Thirty First Sunday of the Year**  
**Parish Mass Book - Year C**  
**Page 92**

**Priest:**  
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<b>Sunday</b> <i>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Sheila Bull RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday St. Charles Borromeo	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion. (Followed by prayers for the sick)	
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	
Thursday St. Willibrord	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	
	6.45 pm 7.00 pm	Benediction Celebration of Word & Communion	
Friday Bl. John Duns Scotus	9.00 am	Mass	
Saturday Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	
<b>Sunday</b> <i>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Carlo Marchese
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

**Please pray for the sick**

Due to GDPR, the names of the sick are only in the printed edition

**MASSES TO BE OFFERED BY FR. ANDREW IN ROME THIS WEEK:** [Ann Ganderton RIP](#); [Skye, Ariel & Liora Isaac - thanksgiving](#); [Catherine Clarke](#); [Hynek Hlustik RIP](#); [Tony Refoy RIP](#).

**Your Offering To The Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £436.02. 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 Last Week:** Mission Sunday. £259.32. Thank you!  
**Second Collection This Week:** Bishop's Maintenance Fund.  
**Second Collection Next Week:** Kiltegan Fathers  
**Counters This Week:** M. Bonner, Mrs Morgan.  
**Cleaners This Week:** George & Another.

**Readings and Rotas for this Sunday**

**Wisdom 11: 22-12.** *You are merciful to all because you love all that exists.*  
**2 Thessalonians 1: 11-2.** *The name of Christ will be glorified in you and you in him.*  
**Luke 19: 1-10.** *The Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.*

**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, Marie Luz Martinez

**Readings and Rotas for next Sunday**

**2 Maccabees 7: 1-2, 9-14; 2 Thessalonians 2: 16-3: 5; Luke 20: 27-38. (Page 94)**  
**Readers:** **9am:** Praveen Matthew & HW;  
**11am:** Susan Yau & Jim Alibone.  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** **9am:** Theresa Hudson, Kryisia Wilson, Tony Wittich, Margaret Wittich;  
**11am:** Michael White, Anna White, Phillip Ndekwe, Maggie Ndekwe

**During this season of Ordinary Time, Autumn, We are asked to pray for:** Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest; 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.

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

**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

Hilda Lyon	Mary Lyon
Norah Bull	Mark Hubbard
Edith Eze	Sheila Bull
Mary Lehane	Aranka Olchvary
Maud Passey	Thomas Pepper
Sarah Griffin	Salvatore Oliva
Thomas Tynan	William Moore
Giovanni Dichiarra	Ellen Butters
Catherine Page	Giovanni Triore
Muriel Williams	Richard Partridge
Kathleen Williams	Patrick Simpson
Stefani Martyniak	Colin Mays
Joyce Harrold	William Coulton
George Lewin	Margaret Coll
Margaret King	Eileen Loughran
Stephen Folon	Anthony Refoy
Ann Ganderton	

**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:** From Sunday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, the Repository will be selling Christmas cards & other goods in the Hall after both Masses. We still need offers of help to man the stalls at this busy period - please help! Phone me on 629103, or just turn up! *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.**

**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. **Throughout the winter, this will be in the Sacristy, which should be more comfortable.**

**The Prayer Group**, during the winter months, will meet during Adoration in the Sacristy from 2pm until 3.15pm. Everyone welcome.

**Red Boxes:** The Autumn collection starts next Sunday Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your boxes/envelopes to the Sacristy next Sunday or when convenient. If you need it collecting from your home please ring Des & Mary on 416474. Many thanks.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next Baptism Preparation Session will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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*

**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.

**Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group** meets 1st Saturday of every month in the Sacristy, 10am. **Next meeting December 7<sup>th</sup>.** All welcome.

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

**Autism Awareness Course:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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. 30<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Concert of Sacred & Russian Folk Music** by the Voskresenje Choir, St. Petersburg, at Northampton Cathedral, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2.30pm. Adults £12, Concessions £8, under 18 free. To reserve tickets telephone the Cathedral Office (01604) 714556

**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.

**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

**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.

**A sparkling production of dance, theatre, song and poetry for all the family!** Springs Dance Company brings its festive, witty and poignant Advent performance *Journey of the Magi* to Abington Avenue URC on Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4.30pm Step out of the Christmas rush this year and pause to reflect on the festive season. Inspired by T.S. Eliot's poem *Journey of the Magi*, the performance helps audiences reflect on not only the famous journey the wise men made following the star to Jesus, but also the journey each of us makes every year in preparing for Christmas Day.

**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 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!

This is a complicated prayer: first we need to recognise that in the second line the prayer speaks of God's gift to us; this is to say, Jesus Christ who "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" (*Philippians 2:7*).

Therefore the "right and praiseworthy service" that we offer is to be seen in humility and obedience to God.

Almighty and merciful God,  
by whose gift your faithful offer you  
right and praiseworthy service,  
grant, we pray,  
that we may hasten without stumbling  
to receive the things you have promised.

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.

We pray that we may hasten "without stumbling", and the original Latin has the word "offensione", which could mean either our own sin or obstacles placed in our way. The root of the word "promise" is "promittere", which also means "to send before" Jesus is the one who was sent before to undergo death and reveal the resurrection, and we run after him "with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus" (*Hebrews 12:2*)

## Scripture Readings 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019, 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

The Book of Wisdom has been describing ways in which Wisdom guided the patriarchs and took special care of Israel during their Exodus wanderings in the desert. God's mercy extends to all creation, even men's sins. The logic is impeccable: "you love all that exists", "for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it." Offenders are encouraged to trust in God by gentle reminders of their sins.

The psalm praises God's sovereign majesty and loving providence.

For the next three weeks we have readings from Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians. After his opening greeting, Paul thanks God for the strength of the Thessalonians' faith, which he boasts about to other churches, and promises that those persecuting them will be punished. The Thessalonians are always in Paul's prayers, and should not be misled by false information about the second coming. Much has to happen before the end time.

In the Gospel Luke graphically describes the rich tax collector, Zacchaeus. Curious to see Jesus, Zacchaeus immediately follows Jesus and promises to give half his wealth to the poor. A contrast to the rich official who could not detach himself from his material possessions to follow Jesus. Though excluded from the Jewish community by his occupation, Zacchaeus receives salvation as a true son of Abraham.

Psalm Response:

**I will bless your name for ever,  
O God my King.**

(Wisdom 11:22-12:2 Ps 144(145) 2 Thess 1:11-2:2 Luke 19:1-10)

*Chris Oliver*

# The Season of Creation

### Actions to Live Simply :

Communication with eye contact melts 'Stranger fears'.

**Tip No. 11: Solidarity with the poor: Ask your supermarket to stock more FAIRTRADE Fruit and Vegetables.**

**Tip No. 12 Solidarity with the poor: choose to buy CAFOD World Gifts this Christmas.**

### 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

In order to reduce the carbon footprint of the parish through the winter 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. We have also re-registered as a "Fairtrade Parish" — could your home be a "Fairtrade home"? (Sadly no registration for this!)

**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 Year of the Word



During the last week there has been training offered to all who proclaim the Scriptures to us during Mass.

The first part of the training was to do with preparation. By printing the names of the readers both for the current week and the following week, it is hoped that those who exercise this important ministry will not forget and will give time to preparation of their reading. This must begin by understanding what the message of the passage of Scripture is, because the task of the proclaimer is first of all to communicate that meaning.

The second part of preparation is to work out how to read each sentence; which words or syllables to emphasise and which are less important; where to pause and, if necessary, where to take a breath.

In proclaiming, clarity of speech is clearly vital. It is the consonants that make the words understandable, and clear enunciation of these is also essential. It is very important not to go too fast and also to be conscious of *proclaiming* not just reading; that is to say, speaking loud enough.

