



# 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

# Our Common Home

This weekend we are having a Creation Celebration of our Common Home, our earth that God gave us. Below are two different quotes—one from Scripture and one from Laudato Si’ –Pope Francis’ letter on the environment:

**“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” Genesis 1:31**

**“The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.” Pope Francis,**

In Genesis, we are shown the wonders of God’s creation, that nothing was created without a purpose. Unfortunately, as Pope Francis tells us in Laudato Si’, we have plundered and damaged the earth unthinkingly. We have forgotten that creation is God’s gift to us to treat with respect.

We have a **Climate Emergency** - unless we act now to change our behaviour our children and grandchildren will not be able to save the planet. We were told by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) last year that **to keep the rise in global temperature below 1.5C this century**, emissions of carbon dioxide would have to be cut by 45% by 2030.

Today we are told by Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, founder of the Potsdam Climate institute that, “While the world can’t be healed within the next few years it may be fatally wounded by negligence until 2020.”

Prince Charles at a recent Commonwealth reception said that the next 18 months would decide our ability to keep climate change to survivable levels.

The recent heatwave set a record of 38°C in Cambridge last week. This week we have had flash flooding causing collapse of a bridge in Yorkshire and a dam in Derbyshire. However, we notice global warming changing our weather, what is happening here is magnified in Africa and other parts of the world.

The local people in the Rift Valley in Kenya, nomadic tribes with their animals who subsist on the land, have moved south due to desertification of the land and are encroaching on other settled communities causing civil unrest. The Masai tribe have problems - their cattle have died. The Arctic ice is melting causing problems for both the human and animal population. If current climate trends

continue, by 2030 demand for water will have increased by 30%. Shrinking glaciers will reduce flow in crucial rivers; for example, the Ganges, Yellow, Indus, and Mekong rivers all depend on the Himalayas. Rising sea level will make fresh water salty while floods will contaminate clean water.

We do however have some good news. The Africans are building a Green Wall across the continent from Senegal to Sudan. Twenty countries are involved in bringing life back to degraded landscapes in building this structure 4,750 miles long and 9 miles wide. It is more than just growing trees and plants The Green Wall is transforming lives of the local people by giving them food, employment and protecting them against famine and drought. A wall to keep famine and drought out is so much better than a wall to keep out the people who are suffering from famine and drought. When complete, 100 million hectares of land will be restored from desertification, and the trees will absorb 250 million tons of carbon dioxide from the air.

Our faith is one of hope and calls us to action. It calls us to refresh our relationships with God, creation and one another. We can also find hope in the fact we are making progress. The UK Government passed the Climate Change Act 2008 which commits us to cut emissions. In 2015, world leaders signed the Paris Agreement a global Climate treaty. On the other hand, the Amazon Rain Forest is being destroyed at an alarming rate.

Individuals are changing their lives by eating no or less meat, switching to clean energy suppliers, recycling, and using less plastic. For example - Daily Bread on the Bedford Road will refill liquid soap, washing up liquid, shampoo, conditioner, toilet cleaner and floor cleaner from their containers to your own bottles.

We can begin that change today. Please sign a petition to the Prime Minister. In it, we are asking the UK government to move further, faster on climate action. We know that to avoid the worst effects of climate change we need to reach zero emissions as soon as possible. This means making sure that the emissions we put in to the atmosphere are no greater than the ones we remove. The UK should put an end to their contribution to Climate Change.

The petition to the Prime Minister will be at the back and side door of the church for you sign if you wish. Alternatively, the petition can be found at <https://e-activist.com/page/44225/petition/1>



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

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019**  
**Eighteenth Sunday of the Year**  
**Parish Mass Book - Year C**  
**Page 59**

**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>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Frederick Jones RIP The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	
Monday Our Lady of the Snows	9.00 am	Mass	Ali Abbott RIP
Tuesday Transfiguration of the Lord (Page 108)	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Anthony Healey RIP
Wednesday Pope St. Sixtus II	9.00 am	Mass	Jim Campbell's Intentions
Thursday St. Dominic	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion Benediction Mass	Thanksgiving for Roy George & Family
	6.45 pm		
	7.00 pm		
Friday St. Benedicta of the Cross	9.00 am	Mass	Jimmy Doherty RIP Michael Fraher RIP
	11.00 am	Funeral Mass	
Saturday St. Lawrence	9.00 am	Mass	John Shoreland RIP
	9.45 am	Confessions	
<b>Sunday</b> <i>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Anthony Healey RIP The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	

**Your Offering To The Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £482.21. 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.  
**Counters This Week:** Mrs Quinn, A. Gibson.  
**Cleaners This Week:** Kathleen & Another.

**Readings for This Sunday**

**Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 2: 21-23.** *What does a man gain for all his toil?*  
**Colossians 3: 1-5, 9-11.** *You must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.*  
**Luke 12: 13-21.** *This hoard of yours, whose will it be?*

**Readings for Next Sunday**

**Wisdom 18: 6-9; Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19; Luke 12: 32-48. (Page 61)**

**During this season of Ordinary Time, Summer,** Human Life; Seafarers;  
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**

**Mark Bingham's funeral Mass will be on 21<sup>st</sup> August at 11.30 am. May he rest in peace.**

**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	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
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 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
May Murtagh	

**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

Frederick Jones	Albert Powell
William Murray	Anthony Healey
Thomas Starmer-Winn	Rudolf Putr
George Hardy	John Mar
Catherine Mould	Mary Condron
Therese Ibrahim	Bernard Moloney
George Sigwart	Rosalia Cohen
Hannah McMahon	John O'Rorke
Anne Ward-Mundin	Joyce Ebanks
Marjorie Mallon	Margaret Edgar
William Bayliss	

**POPE'S PRAYER  
INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST**

That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth."

# 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 August & September 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.**

**Society for the Protection of Unborn Children:** Please come to our next meeting on Fri. 9<sup>th</sup> Aug, 7pm in the Sacristy. This is a vital time for the pro-life movement, with decriminalising abortion & assisted dying, back on the political agenda. You don't have to commit yourself to anything at the meeting, but it will be an opportunity to discover more about pro-life work in the town. If you can't attend but are interested in learning more about the group, please contact William Currie at [wpcurie@btinternet.com](mailto:wpcurie@btinternet.com)



**Annual Blessed Tansi Pilgrimage.**  
Mount St. Bernard Abbey, Coleville, LE67 5UL,  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 10.30am. Rosary  
Procession, Holy Mass, Benediction and Blessing  
of the Sick. Please see fliers at the back of the  
Church for full details, and contacts for  
Northampton.



**33rd Rosary Rally and Open Air Mass**  
at Mount St. Bernard Abbey Leics, LE67 5UL,  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2pm. See poster for full  
details. Bring a folding chair/seat & picnic  
lunch. All welcome.

**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 September 7<sup>th</sup>. All welcome.**

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting August 14<sup>th</sup>.** 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.

**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:** Please speak to a member of the Clergy.

**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 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September after either Mass. No registrations will be accepted until then. The main preparation sessions will take place on seven Saturdays leading to First Holy Communion in May 2020.

**Confirmation Preparation:** Details of the next Confirmation Preparation will appear here shortly.

**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.

**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 (9 subsidised) to an actual cost of £295. More information can be found at [www.nymo.org](http://www.nymo.org) or call Fiona on 01582 720627

**Choir Matters:** Practices are usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month following evening Mass till 9pm : 30 Aug\* (instead of 5 Sep to prepare for the Feast of St Gregory), 3 Oct. Weekly practices start in Nov until Dec to prepare for Christmas. *Alec*

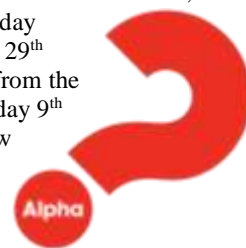
**Tots @ St Gregory's:** Tots @ St. Gregory's: Tuesdays **during school term-time** from 9.30 - 11.30. Refreshments provided. 50p per family. All welcome! On holiday now until September.

**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

**Advance Office Notice:** Just to let everybody know, the office will be closed for two weeks from 17<sup>th</sup> August until 31<sup>st</sup> August - wish me good camping weather! *Caryll*

**Alpha in the Autumn** The next Alpha will be in the autumn, starting on 17<sup>th</sup> September and running Tuesday evenings until 3<sup>rd</sup> December with a break on 29<sup>th</sup> October. There is also an overnight session from the evening of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> to after lunch on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Many people have spoken of how Alpha has re-vitalised their faith; please think about joining if you haven't already! You can sign up online at: <http://stgregory.org.uk/alpha>. Responding to Pope Francis' initiative of the October Mission Month, you could not just come yourself, but bring a friend as well!



**Our Regular CAFOD giving.** The project which we have been supporting for the last five years in Sebeya has come to an end, and we are now supporting the CAFOD water projects, bringing clean drinking water to remote communities. One of the most heart-wrenching advertisements on television is the one showing a child drinking filthy polluted water. Many thanks to everyone who makes regular donations to CAFOD; please keep it up!

**Catholicism:** Journey around the world and deep into the Catholic Faith in all its richness, history, beauty, goodness, and truth in breath-taking, high-definition cinematography.

Travel with Bishop Robert Barron to more than 50 locations throughout 15 countries. You'll be illuminated by the spiritual and artistic treasures of this global culture, claiming more than one billion of Earth's people. From the sacred lands of Israel to the beating heart of Uganda; from the glorious shrines of Italy, France, and Spain to the streets of Mexico, Kolkata, and New York City; the fullness of CATHOLICISM is revealed. Here on Monday afternoons in the autumn

As this weekend we recognise God's great work of creation, and the dangers that human activity has brought to this planet, we recognise that it is only with His help that we can make a difference to the future of our world.

We also recognise that all those who glory in God "as their Creator and guide" have a special responsibility in this.

Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored.

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.

In all things God works with us as his co-workers, and so the first petition, that God will "draw near to" his servants, is equally a recognition that we must be close to him. We do not expect God to solve the climate crisis without us doing anything more than praying. Rather, we pray that God will inspire us and many others to take this issue seriously.

## Scripture Readings 4th August 2019, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Qoheleth the Preacher struggles with the contradictions of life and the vanity of created things which give no lasting satisfaction. Good people suffer, sinners enjoy life and prosper. With no idea of life after death, the Preacher's only solution is to trust that God will make it right eventually.

The Psalm contrasts the shortness of our lives with God's eternity, seeing suffering and death as punishment for sin. But also prays that God will grant some happiness before death.

This final extract from Colossians hints at Paul's very detailed moral teaching. The Christian's life is now "hidden with Christ", but when Christ is revealed "you too will be revealed in all your glory". Paul then spells out how we should live our lives focussed on Christ. So that we will grow in knowledge and maturity

towards the images of our creator that God intended us to be. We must put away sins of both sex and speech, which damage individuals and the Christian community.

Luke's Gospel answers the Preacher's problem in the first reading: good actions in this life are rewarded after death, and evil will be punished. The rich man's approach was sensible in capitalist terms, and not immoral. But Luke insists that we must help the poor while we can!

Psalm Response: **O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.**

(Eccles 1:2,2:21-23, Ps 89(90):3-17, Col 3:1-5,9-11, Lk 12:13-21)

Chris Oliver



St John tells us that three of the apostles came from the city of Bethsaida (Peter, Andrew and Philip) (*John 1:44*). We know that Bethsaida was on the shores of the Sea of Galilee but its exact location has been debated by experts for many years.

Recent archaeology has made a significant discovery. During the summer a mosaic floor and carved stones have been discovered, and the building has been identified as the church which was described by Bishop Willibald in the year 725 as having been built over the house of Peter and Andrew.

This discovery confirms that the location of Bethsaida is the current El-Araj. It provides yet more evidence of the accuracy of the Gospels. There are some who dismiss the whole of the Bible as fiction; even denying that Jesus ever existed, but here we have modern archaeology supporting the evidence of the Gospels.

By knowing the Scriptures better we can be more able to explain to sceptics and dis-believers that our faith is not a fantasy, but that modern science agrees with what we read in the Bible



# A Competition — with a prize

This is a time of the year when children are off school, and are sometimes looking for something to do. Here is an opportunity to win a prize and to discover more about our local environment!

A "walk in the park" is an expression meaning something simple to do, and we are so blessed with having Abington Park on our doorstep!

The competition is to identify as many trees as you can in Abington Park (both sides of the road). Take a digital photograph of trees in the park and correctly identify them; the winner will be the person who identifies the greatest number of different species (and sub-species) of tree in the park. There is no extra mark for more than one tree of the same species or sub-species. Entries can be made by email sending the photograph and identification (please save trees by not

printing!) to [priest@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:priest@stgregory.org.uk) before the closing date which is midnight on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

The prize will be modest (£20); the purpose of the competition is to encourage a greater understanding of the variety of trees, and to appreciate their vital contribution to the wellbeing of our planet.

The entries will be judged by experts from the Northamptonshire Natural History Society, and their judgement will be final.

There are many on-line resources which will help to identify trees, and actually many of those in the park have plaques which are a bit of a give-away!

In the event of a tie, the prize-money will be divided between the winners

# October — Mission Month

Pope Francis has written:

"For the month of October 2019, I have asked that the whole Church revive her missionary awareness and commitment as we commemorate the centenary of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV (30 November 1919). Its farsighted and prophetic vision of the apostolate has made me realize once again the

importance of renewing the Church's missionary commitment and giving fresh evangelical impulse to her work of preaching and bringing to the world the salvation of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again." We can respond to this by inviting someone to Alpha! For details, see opposite.