



# 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

## Mystagogia — Going Deeper

The Catholic Church does sometimes (even frequently) use words that are not in daily use; this itself is sometimes a cause of controversy! The word “Mystagogia” literally means, “Leading into the Mysteries”. It is understood as the process of “a person’s entering into the mystery of the Lord’s presence”. The word “Mysteries” is one of the words that was used to describe the Mass in the early centuries of the Church — we still see in in the third Eucharistic Prayer: “. . . at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.” St Cyril of Jerusalem begins his first talk given after Easter: “I have long been wishing, O true-born and dearly-beloved children of the Church, to discourse to you concerning these spiritual and heavenly mysteries; but since I well know that seeing is far more persuasive than hearing, I waited for the present season.” It is not that those who were Baptised at Easter had no idea about what receiving Communion means, rather it is that once having received Communion there is a whole new experience to be made sense of.

This is not simply aimed at those who have been recently Baptised or received into the Church, it is for all the Baptised, and importantly for those for whom their faith may have become more habitual and less exciting!

Pope Benedict XVI wrote about this in his encyclical “*Sacramentum Caritatis*” speaks about this important part of Christian teaching. Addressing the Bishops and Priests, he make the point that: “the best catechesis on the Eucharist is the Eucharist itself, celebrated well.” (§64). In this document Pope Benedict lays out three essential elements:

- 1 Our celebration of Mass must always be understood in the light of salvation history. The “Bible Timeline” course beautifully shows how the Old Testament is fulfilled in the New, and in particular, how the sacrificial death of Jesus on the Cross fulfils all the Old Testament sacrifices, especially the Passover. We reference this explicitly at every Mass as we refer to Jesus as the “Lamb of God”. To fully join in “active participation” at the Mass we need to have an understanding of the way in which the Old Testament is made alive in the life of Jesus, and therefore in the celebration of Mass, and therefore in the life of all Christians today.
- 2 It is important to understand the meaning of the symbols and signs in the Mass. For example, the hand gestures of the priest convey specific meanings; the times of sitting, standing and kneeling have a significance. The design and architecture of a church should convey a sense of the mystery. The steps on which the altar stands speak to us of Mount Calvary, the construction of the Altar speaks both of the Table of the meal



Invoking the Holy Spirit - hands outstretched

(with its legs) and of the altar of sacrifice (being made of stone). The placing of the Tabernacle in the apse is placing Jesus at the place where to emperor would have sat in an ancient Basilica. The “Biblical Walk through the Mass” course that we sometimes run helps us to understand better some of these signs and symbols.

- 3 The third element is best expressed in Pope Benedict’s own words: It “must be concerned with bringing out the *significance of the rites for the Christian life* in all its dimensions – work and responsibility, thoughts and emotions, activity and repose. Part of the mystagogical process is to demonstrate how the mysteries celebrated in the rite are linked to the missionary responsibility of the faithful. The mature fruit of mystagogia is an awareness that one’s life is being progressively transformed by the holy mysteries being celebrated. The aim of all Christian education, moreover, is to train the believer in an adult faith that can make him a “new creation”, capable of bearing witness in his surroundings to the Christian hope that inspires him.”

Pope Benedict says that this must involve the whole people of God. We are used to the idea of taking Lent seriously; we may well make a greater effort to be at Mass more frequently, to pray more regularly, to read the Bible more, to be more generous in many ways. This is, of course, good, but perhaps we can take Eastertide more seriously too. This is a season for rejoicing, and above all, we rejoice in the Resurrection of Christ, but we also rejoice in our faith.

The season of mystagogia ends with Pentecost, but that is far from the end of the journey, and through the ‘green’ season of the Church we read the teaching and work of Jesus in the Gospels. But for all of us, the process of entering into the mystery of the Lord’s presence is a life-long journey of discovery, excitement and joy.



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# Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## Third Sunday of Easter

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**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>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Edmund & Mary Moan
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Maire O'Toole
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Michael Moyles RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Maura Ridge RIP
	11.00 am	Requiem Mass	
Thursday Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Mary Kearns RIP
	5.30 pm	Reception of the body of Mary O'Keeffe	
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	John Hobson RIP Mary O'Keeffe
	1.30 pm	Funeral Mass	
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Mary Rumsey
	9.45 am	Confessions	
<b>Sunday</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Special Intentions
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

**Your Offering To The Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £843.45. 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:** M. Murtagh, L. Allen, Anna Smith.  
**Cleaners This Week:** Maureen & Another.

#### Readings for This Sunday

**Acts 5: 27-32, 40-41.** *We are witnesses of all this, we and the Holy Spirit.*  
**Apocalypse 5: 11-14.** *The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given riches and power.*  
**John 21: 1-19.** *Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish.*

#### Readings for Next Sunday

**Acts 13: 14, 43-52; Apocalypse 7: 9, 14-17; John 10: 27-30. (Page 134)**

**During this season of Easter, we are asked to pray for:** New Members of the Church; Human Work; Priestly Vocations; Right Use of the Media; The Church.

<b>In Hospital? Let the Chaplaincy know on 01604 714556</b>
If you are in need, please ring Gregory Care on 07982 235379. Someone will respond as soon as possible. Please be patient.
<b>Are you new to the parish? You are welcome! Please introduce yourself to one of the clergy</b>
Live Video streaming from the Cathedral: <a href="https://www.churchservices.tv/northamptoncathedral">https://www.churchservices.tv/northamptoncathedral</a>
<b>An important message for any who sometimes attend Mass at the Cathedral:</b> 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)

**Help urgently needed: our Alpha course has begun and we desperately need some more people to join the cooking team (3 to 7.30pm Tues afternoon) and the washing up team (8 - 10pm). If you are able to help, even if it's not every week, please speak to Fr. Andrew or Maria Heath.**

#### Please pray for the sick

Sylvia Marlow	Kelly-Ann
Cecilia Pereira	Robert Fleming
Fr Philip Swingle	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	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
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	Mary Rumsey
Paul Greaves	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Sue Dauksta	Voldis Dauksta
Catherine Stratten	Bernard Kelly

#### Anniversaries:

#### **May they Rest in Peace**

John Hylands	Daniel Magill
Thomas Donnelly	Edwin Sellars
Anthony O'Neill	Christina Port
Mary Daly	Agnes Head
Ian McRobbie	Michael Ruddy
David Pullen	Hilda Denton
Bridget Brosman	Harry Lane
Ann Andell	Gerald Wisener
Ann Whittaker	John Roberts
James Smith	Ellen Brittain
William Weston	Samuel Howerd
Eileen Lillyman	Michael Quigley
Michael O'Hara	May Moan
Bryan Slinn	Douglas Carter
Doreen Harding	William Flynn
Patrick Walsh	Catherine Troop
Margaret Mitchell	Ian Cooper
Sarah Byrne	Peter Doherty

**POPE'S PRAYER**  
**INTENTIONS FOR MAY**  
That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

# Notices of Interest

**The Repository:** The Repository is open after both Sunday Masses. 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion and Confirmation cards are now on sale. *Kathleen Healey*



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Rafael Alexander Maull-Neal  
who received Christian Baptism last week.  
Please pray for him and his family.

**Bible Alive** for Easter is now available in the lobby area. Please try this publication - 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.**

**May Rosary:** During the month of May the Legion of Mary recites the Rosary in the homes of parishioners. There is a list in the porch - please write your name & address on it if you would like us to come and pray with you. Please also write a contact number, and a date and time that you would like us to visit.

**A Day at Turvey Abbey:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 10am - 4pm. Day will include talks, praise & worship. Mass will be celebrated by Brother John. See poster for full details.

**Ecumenical Prayer Walk:** The date has been set for Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 6.45 for 7.00 pm start. Gather at Park Avenue Methodist Church where we'll have a short time of prayer together before going out in twos and threes to pray for the local area. There will be some guidance before we set off & each group will have a designated area to cover. We will gather at Park Avenue Methodist Church for light refreshments & feedback at 8 pm.

**Sacred Heart Church are holding an International Rosary in May:** The first set of mysteries - the Joyful Mysteries - will be said in English & Irish this Wed. 7:00, Sacred Heart followed by refreshments! Please come & join us & bring food or drink to share from your own culture or any other! There will be music, a shared intention (this week we will pray for peace in ourselves, our families, our communities & in the world). There will also be a chance to add your own intentions & the words to the prayers will be on the screen in the relevant language to enable us all to participate. Contact Jean 07980866516 or email [merrimans@hotmail.com](mailto:merrimans@hotmail.com)

**Mass for victims and 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. The focus will be on healing, reconciliation and the forming of compassionate links with the Church. 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.

**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 June 1<sup>st</sup>) All welcome.

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. Next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> May. All welcome.

**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

**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.

**Choir Matters:** Come and join our great bunch of musicians; the first 10 years' membership is free. Next practices are usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month following evening Mass til 9pm : 6 June, 4 July, 1 Aug, 30 Aug\* (instead of 5 Sep to prepare for the Feast of St Gregory), 3 Oct. Weekly practices start in Nov till Dec to prepare for Christmas. Alec

**Job Vacancy - Parish Administrator - Northampton Cathedral** - Part time 25 hours per week. We are currently recruiting for a Parish Administrator for the Cathedral parish. The closing date for applications will be Tuesday 14th May 2019 and interviews will take place on Tuesday 21st May. For full details & application form please email [hadmin@northamptondiocese.com](mailto:hadmin@northamptondiocese.com) or call (01604) 714840.

**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

**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!

**Catholic Basics Course: Part Three: The Moral Life** 16 May, **Part Four: Prayer** 13 June. Join us for another day of engaging teaching with interaction & discussion. £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged), includes lunch. No qualifications needed - just interest, good will & a sense of humour! To book, contact [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone Jackie on 01582 723312.

**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 7.00 pm, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019, in the Sacristy.

**First Holy Communion - 2019** Next session will be 5<sup>th</sup> May. 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 parent is willing to become a helper, please contact Stella or Jean for details. No special prior qualifications or experience required, but DBS clearance will need to be obtained.

**Confirmation Preparation:** 27<sup>th</sup> April at Sacred Heart.

**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:  
**277** <https://www.facebook.com/StGregsNorthampton>

We are reminded of the great Easter Proclamation by the beginning of this prayer: “Semper exultet”. Three weeks ago we prayed in that proclamation: “let mother Church also rejoice”. Here we take up that theme: “may your people exult *for ever*”.

As youthfulness of body disappears into the past, youthfulness of spirit is a

May your people exult for ever, O God,  
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,  
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption,  
we may look forward in confident hope  
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

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.

welcome thought. It might remind some of the opening words of the old Mass rite: “Ad Deum, qui laetificat juventutem meam” — to God, who brings joy to my youth. (*Psalm 43[42]:4*)

There is a literary couplet: renewed and restored. These are God’s actions towards us, and lead us to rejoice, to exult. May our exultation continue until our own resurrection.

## Scripture Readings 5th May 2019, 3rd Sunday of Easter, Year C

After the healings we heard in last week’s reading from the Book of Acts, the Apostles were again arrested, but miraculously freed. They immediately continued teaching in the Temple, and were again brought before the Sanhedrin, where they defended themselves strongly. Omitted from today’s reading is Gamaliel’s urging that they be released because if their activity “comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them”.

The psalm thanks God for rescue from a sudden illness.

In the Book of Revelation John sees God seated on a throne, with praises rippling out through widening circles of heavenly creatures. The one on the throne holds a scroll written on both sides and sealed with seven seals. An angel proclaims “Who is worthy to open the scroll?” But everyone is in despair because

there seems to be no one worthy to break the seals and open the scroll. But then someone says “The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David has triumphed”. Instead of a lion, a slain lamb steps forward to receive the scroll.

After the reading last week of the first ending to John’s Gospel, we hear today most of the second ending. With his three repeated questions, Jesus forgives Peter’s three denials, and insists that the essential pre-condition for authority is love.

Psalm Response: **I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.**

(Acts 5:27-32, 40-41; Psalm 29(30); Rev 5:11-14; John 21:1-19)

*Chris Oliver*

# ‘Tis Mary’s Month of May

Each year we celebrate the month of May as Mary’s month, and begin the month by crowning the statue of Our Lady in the garden and offering flowers at her shrine in the church.

We are following a tradition that goes back in England for many centuries, to the days when England was known for its devotion to Our Lady; so much so that it was known as “Mary’s Dowry”.

Today England is a sad place, and in the wake of the report of persecution of Christians worldwide which claims that this persecution “comes close to genocide”, the Foreign Secretary says that ‘political correctness’ has contributed to the failure of governments to address the problem. Throughout the world, the report says, “the overwhelming majority (80%) of persecuted religious believers are Christians”.

We must pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in the faith, and must not retaliate with animosity to those of other faiths. That is not the way of Christ.

There was a time in the past when Christians were a persecuted minority in the Roman Empire. But it was also a time of growth for the Church, and Christians were known for their love. “See how these Christians love one another”, observed Tertullian at the beginning of the third century. It was this love that drew people to the faith in their hundreds and thousands.

One way in which this love is shown is in devotion to Our Lady who lived in the love of God and of her divine Son, and now lives in the true home of that love in the glory of heaven.

If we are to recover England to the Faith, one way is to recover our historic love for Our Lady; and to help us in this, starting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 1.00 pm at Great Billing Institute there is a course entitled “A Biblical Walk with Mary”. It is open to all, and for those who cannot get to daytime events, it will be run again next year in the evening, in preparation for March 25<sup>th</sup> 2020 when England will be re-consecrated to Our Lady.

Tertullian had a better response to persecution than either violent retaliation or retreating into a ghetto. He was one of a number of writers of what is known as “apologetics”. These are NOT apologies for the Faith in the modern usage of the word. They are strong proclamations of the true faith of the Church, the name coming from the Greek term for a legal defense. Such a proclamation can only come from a secure knowledge of the Faith, and this is why the Church in our generation is so keen to encourage all Christians really to study their faith. The many courses that we run here spring from that encouragement.

There will be a full programme of courses starting again in the autumn; it would be good if many who have not attended any before would join and help their faith and their confidence in their faith to grow. Please keep looking out for the list when it is published.

## Care of the environment and Climate Change

Pope Francis met Greta Thunberg, the Swedish climate change campaigner recently and encouraged her in seeking to publicise the importance of the care of the environment, and also met with Michael Moore, an American film maker, encouraging him to make more movies.

CAFOD are running a campaign entitled “Our Common Home”, and in support of this we will be having a day focusing on this. As a parish we give good financial support to CAFOD, but this is support in a new and exciting way. Please watch out for more information.