



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

Whatever Next!

We are well on the way to Easter; although this Sunday is no longer called “Passion Sunday” but the mood of Lent darkens. Each day the Gospel readings from St John reflect conflict with the Jewish authorities.

[When St John speaks of “the Jews” he is not referring to all Jews, but to the Jewish authorities — mainly the Temple priests and their followers. John was himself a Jew as were all the apostles and Jesus, of course. To use St John as an excuse for any sort of anti-Semitism would be totally to misuse the Gospel.]

An ancient tradition of the Church to match the austerity of the Gospel readings is to veil pictures and images, leaving only the Stations of the Cross for devotion. This highlights the solemn veneration of the Cross on Good Friday. With the statues and pictures veiled, we can feel that same sense of alone-ness that Jesus experienced when the apostles slept in Gethsemane and when most of them deserted him.

During this week we have a special opportunity to come close to Christ by watching the films each evening in church; every night at 7.30 pm. (except on Friday when it will be after Stations)

Holy Week

The week begins with Palm Sunday, and both Masses start with the procession from the Mount of Olives (represented by the hall) into Jerusalem (the church).

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of Holy Week here are opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation; on Monday at the Cathedral, Tuesday at St Gregory’s and on Wednesday at Sacred Heart. There will be a choice of priests on each occasion. Please note that we should seek to have made use of this Sacrament *before* we enter the three days known as the “Triduum”.

The Triduum

The Triduum — three holy days — runs from Thursday evening to Saturday evening, and each day has its own particular liturgy. However, before this begins on Thursday morning there is the Mass of Chrism in the Cathedral. We are so fortunate to be nearby so that attending the Mass is not difficult. It is a special Mass for the priests who renew their priestly commitment; it is also the Mass at which the Bishop blesses the Holy Oils that will be used through

the coming year for Baptisms, Confirmations, Ordinations and for the Sacrament of the Sick. It begins at 11.00 am, and following the Mass the Bishop invites those who have attended to lunch at the Barratt Club.

The principal liturgies of the Triduum follow the events of those days. On Thursday evening we celebrate the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, and then retrace our steps of the previous Sunday back to the Mount of Olives and Gethsemane where we are asked to “watch and pray”. The watch continued until midnight when Jesus is arrested and taken away.

On Good Friday in the morning we invite children (and their parents or carers) to walk with Jesus as he carries his Cross — we begin at 10.00, and there is also the “Walk of Witness” which begins at St Alban’s Church at 10.15 and reaches us at about 11.00. It ends at Christchurch at about 12 noon.

The main liturgy for Good Friday is in the afternoon at 3.00 and is a meditation on the Passion and death of Jesus.

The Easter Vigil begins at 9.00 in the evening on Holy Saturday, and during it we will be welcoming three adults into the family of the Church.

Easter tide

Easter means celebrating the joy of the Resurrection, and lasts 50 days (as opposed to Lent which is a mere 40)!

It is true that the precepts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are fundamental to Lent, but they are not the actual purpose of Lent; rather they are means towards the purpose of preparing for celebrating the joy of the Resurrection.

For us this year we have a wonderful way of sharing that joy, which is by inviting a friend to come with us to Alpha. This starts on Tuesday 30th April at 7.30 in the hall, and begins with a proper meal. Please don’t eat before you come! After the meal we watch a short video and then there is a chance to talk about what we have heard and seen. It is not “high-pressure sales”; rather a chance for anyone to think and talk about some of the fundamental questions of life and existence. Most of all, it is good fun. The best indication of a successful evening is that there is a lot of laughter. By sharing in Alpha, you can make Easter last not 50 days but until 16th July; nearly 90 days!



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 7th April 2019

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Parish Mass Book - Year C

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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

E-mail: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00 am	Mass	George Walsh
	11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Stations of the Cross	The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am 7.30 pm	Mass Film: Jesus in Gethsemane	Malcolm Allen RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am 7.30 pm	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick) Film: Jesus is Betrayed	Kathleen O'Callaghan RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am 7.00 pm 7.30 pm	Mass Mass Film: The Trial before Pilate	Joshua Robin
Thursday St. Stanislaus	9.00 am 6.45 pm 7.00 pm 7.30 pm	Celebration of Word & Communion Benediction Mass Film: Jesus carries his Cross	Kathleen Brown RIP
Friday Feria	9.00 am 7.30 pm then	Mass Stations of the Cross (St. Gregory's) Film: The Last Words from the Cross	Denis Costello RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am 9.30 am	Mass Confessions	Rebecca Holt
Sunday <i>Palm Sunday</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Danny & Marie-Jean
	11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Stations of the Cross	The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £746.93. 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.

Ongoing Lent Collection for CAFOD: Progress to be reported soon.

Counters This Week: C.P., L. Allen.

Cleaners This Week: Kathleen & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

Isaiah 43: 16-21.

See, I am doing a new deed.

Philippians 3: 8-14.

Reproducing the pattern of his death, I have accepted the loss of everything for Christ.

John 8: 1-11.

If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.

Readings for Next Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2: 6-11; Luke 22: 14-23:56. (Page 85)

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.

Victims and survivors of sexual abuse.

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)

With sorrow we report the death of Irmgard Wraxall, for many years a member of the choir at St Gregory's. Her funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 16th April at 2.00 pm.
May she 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	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	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 Donnely
Jennifer Ogbata	May Eamons
Stephen Aneke	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	Mary Rumsey
Derek Hodgkinson	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Catherine Stratten	Eileen Howell
Paul Greaves	

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Richard Bowes	John O'Grady
Margaret Finnegan	Gerald Mulcahy
Richard Costello	Sheila Hanzlik
Ralph Hoults	Emily Page
Mary Liassides	Audrey Bandiak
Cornelius Moynihan	Malcolm Allen
Marius Perrin	Cornelius Bowe
Theodosia Dix	Irmgard Hillyer
Harry Archer	Frank Bullock
Eileen O'Sullivan	George Walsh
Winifred Robinson	Carmella Ellui
Anita Kaldunek	John Fitzgibbon
Annie Morris	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

Communion to Those With Limited Mobility:

Holy Communion is brought to those in the
FRONT ROW.

Notices of Interest

The Repository: The Repository is open after both Sunday Masses. Easter cards are now available & 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation cards will be on sale from this week.
Kathleen Healey

Bible Alive for Lent 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.**

Easter Flowers: There are envelopes for donations for flowers to decorate the church for Easter in the display area. Please return them to the Sacristy or put them in the collection.

CAFOD/Supporting Children With Cancer UK: Charity concert at St. Francis & St. Therese Church, NN4 0RZ, Friday May 3rd. Tickets £12.50 (including free glass of wine). Bar & Raffle. Full details on the notice board.

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, families and supporters with Bishop Peter. Bishop Peter is offering to meet with victims and survivors, their families and supporters commencing from May 2019 and continuing on a bimonthly basis. For more details or to book a meeting with the Bishop, contact the safeguarding office on: 01604 723514.

Good Friday Walk of Witness: Starts at St. Alban's Church at 10:15am and ends at Christ Church at approximately 12 noon. Please see posters for full details.

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!

Head Teacher Opportunity at St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School. Please see poster & booklet for full 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!

Blessed Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group continues monthly on 1st Saturday of each month in the Sacristy at 10am. (Next meeting is May 4th) All welcome.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. Next meeting 10th April. All welcome.

St George's Charity Gala Dinner Dance: Catenian St George's Celebrations in aid of the Karuri School Project, Nazareth House & the Beds & Northants MS Therapy Centre. Northampton Marriott Hotel; dancing to the Point Blank Band 10pm 'til Midnight. Dinner served at 7.30pm, pre-dinner drinks available from 6.45. Cost £35 - 3-course meal, wine & dancing. Tickets & info markwilson58@hotmail.com or 07923528022

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.

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

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!

Choir Matters: Practices are Thursdays in Lent for Easter, Apr 11th, after evening Mass and finish at 9pm. *Alec*

Piano Concert by Margaret Fingerhut Wednesday 1st May, 7pm, at Northampton School for Girls in aid of Northampton Town of Sanctuary. Tickets £12.50. See poster for details.

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 29th April 2019, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion — 2019 Next session will be 5th 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's 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: 27th April at Sacred Heart.

Vacancy Parish Youth Minister: We are delighted to advertise the role of Catholic Parish Youth Minister in the parishes of Ss Philip & James and Holy Cross, Bedford. This is a rare & exciting opportunity for a practising Catholic, with the right skills & experiences, to support & develop local young people in their faith & relationship with their parish. Details of the role can be found www.northamptondiocese.org/vacancies or 01604 714840. Closing date for applications will be 03/05/2019.

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.

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Address:
<https://www.facebook.com/StGregsNorthampton>

Last chance for Catholic Basics "The Church" on April 11 2019 at the Diocesan Centre, Luton, LU4 8JD. Come and join us from 10am to 3pm (arrive. 9.30 for refreshments) for an engaging and informative day with full lunch. For details and booking: Tel 01582 723312 admin@nores.org.uk

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.

Last week we prayed that we may “hasten towards” Easter with an “eager faith”, and this week we also think about a journey, albeit at a slower pace as we “walk eagerly” in the way of love.

This eager walking may be contrasted with the sad walking of Cleopas and his companion on the way to Emmaus. (See *Luke 24:13-17*)

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death.

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 leads us to the commemoration of the passion and death of Jesus, and speaks of the profound love that is made visible for us on the Cross.

We pray that our journey through life may be travelled eagerly and with the same love for God and for mankind that Jesus showed for us when he “handed himself over to death”.

Scripture Readings 7th April 2019, 5th Sunday in Lent, Year C

Second Isaiah describes the new Exodus, the return from exile in Babylon. God shows who he is by his preparations and care for their return. These are so wonderful that his servant Israel, his chosen witnesses, will no longer need to remember their Exodus from Egypt. Exodus is a repeatable pattern. The Lord even forgives Israel’s many sins, which led to their exile, and will continue to do so, because “I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine”.

The Psalm celebrates the Israelites’ joy after their return from exile in Babylon.

Writing from prison, Paul shares his hopes, fears and convictions with the Philippians. The great gift of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord makes his previous righteousness under the Law seem

worthless. He is possessed by Christ but not yet arrived, keeping his eye on the final goal of living in God’s new world.

The story of the woman caught in adultery is found in different places in various manuscripts: it fits better with Luke’s gospel, but here in John’s gospel it matches the changing mood. This chapter opens with a woman about to be stoned, then freed from death. But it ends with people seeking to stone Jesus. Jesus has shown them God’s wisdom, different from men’s.

Psalm Response: **What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.**

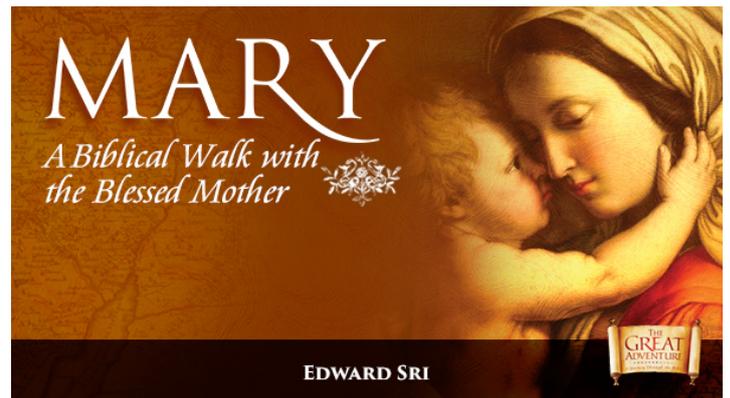
(Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 125(126); Phil 3: 8-14; John 8: 1-11)

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 21st to 22nd June
Please come and bring a friend!



A Powerful Study on the Blessed Mother Begins on 13th May at the Institute, Great Billing

Day of prayer for survivors of sexual abuse

On Friday 12 April the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales is encouraging the Catholic community to take part in a day of prayer for survivors of sexual abuse.

Meditation from a Survivor

We have been broken, hurt destroyed.
 Our innocence taken away in the name of trust.
 Our goodness tainted by another’s selfishness.
 Our hope destroyed by the evil of other’s actions.
 Our future darkened by secrecy and silence.
 Our life would never be the same.
 Our family life wrecked in the name of love.
 Our friendships cannot be because we don’t know true friendship;
 we cannot do friendship for fear of what others will find.
 Our love for ourselves and others lost
 as we cannot be our true selves.

A Childhood Broken, Andrew Browne

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of Mary’s earthly life, taking you through her joys and her sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Seeing Mary in this way will change you forever. She will become a part of your daily life and help you to become more like Christ.

Join us for *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Great Billing beginning on Monday 13th May at 1.00 pm and continuing every Monday.

This is one of the courses in the “Bible Timeline” series; those who are familiar with these courses will recognise Dr Edward Sri who led the “Biblical Walk through the Mass” and the course on St John, as well as presenting the “No Greater Love” films we will be seeing next week.

The “Biblical Walk with Mary” course will be run again next year in preparation for the re-consecration of England as Mary’s Dowry.