



The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234091



**“A truly thriving Catholic community,
confidently and humbly proclaiming the
Good News of Jesus Christ.”**



The Apostle to India

Gregory of Tours wrote of his encounter with a Greek monk in the year 594 AD. He was told that in southern India he had met Christians who told him of how St Thomas had come to that land, had met a martyr's death there and that his burial place was held in honour. King Alfred read this account, and determined to check that it was true, and sent Sighelm, bishop of Sherborne to India in 883 with an offering for the shrine. He returned with "many brilliant exotic gems and aromatic juices, with which that country abounds" (*William of Malmesbury*).

He reported the story that St Thomas had arrived in AD 52, having travelled from Palastine to the Red Sea, and then by boat to Kodungallur (formerly Craganore) and founded seven churches in that part of Kerala, converting the local Brahmins. He then travelled east towards Chennai but found the Brahmins there less receptive to his message, and he was martyred there. However, those who were converted buried him and built a church over his grave.

For many centuries in Europe this story was regarded as merely legend, but in the 20th century archaeology and research into ancient literature has changed this. One of the documents referred to a "Rajah Gondophares" who ruled that part of India in the middle of the 1st century. Until the late 19th century he was an unknown king and believed to be part of a myth, but when a hoard on coins bearing his inscription was uncovered by archaeologists, the rest of the "legend" began to be taken more seriously.

In the 1930s it was discovered that there was a Roman trading station called Muzaris which scholars think is very close to Kodungallur, just where the "legend" says that St Thomas landed.

Strabo, a 1st century geographer records that around 200 trading vessels were travelling to south India each year. St Thomas would have had no difficulty in getting there in the 1st century, although after the collapse of the Roman Empire, the journey became much more difficult and there was limited connection between Europe and India until Vasco da Gama discovered the sea route in 1498.



This led to the Portuguese colonisation of large parts of India. The Christianity they brought with them was the late-mediaeval development that has taken place throughout Europe, and when they met the much more primitive Christianity of Kerala, they sought to suppress it and impose the then Latin liturgy and European culture.

Sadly this led to major disagreement, and it was not until the 19th century that this was formally resolved. Today, the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara liturgies remind us of the early flowering of the Church in Syria — "it

was in Antioch that disciples were first called 'Christians'" (*Acts 11:26*). The different elements of the liturgy in the Churches that owe their origin to the eastwards development of the Church in Syria represent a cultural difference from that of western Europe.

At 4.00 this-afternoon the Syro-Malabar community will be celebrating the feast of St Thomas with a procession and Mass, followed by refreshments, and everyone is welcome. It is always a colourful celebration, and a chance to join in with fellow-Catholics whose origin goes back much further than the Christianisation of England or Ireland; before Gregory was Pope in Rome, before Patrick went to Ireland, the Church established by Thomas was flourishing in India.



22 Park Avenue North
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Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 7th July 2019
Fourteenth Sunday of the Year
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
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Rev Rory Stewart (ret) ☎ 408407
Pastoral Assistant:
Maria Heath ☎ 07952 040830
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Please pray for the sick

Sunday <i>14th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Dolly Mansi RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	4.00 pm	Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	St Thomas celebration
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Philomena Fraher RIP
Tuesday St. Augustine Zhao-Rong & Companions	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Jayne Miller
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Margaret Pullen's Intentions
Thursday St. Benedict	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Teresa Redmond
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Bemay & Stevie White RIP
Saturday St. Henry	9.00 am	Mass	Dolores Behan RIP
	9.45 am	Confessions	
Sunday <i>15th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	Peter Redmond RIP

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 Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
N. Donegan	Norma Bryan
Maureen Bell	Deacon Rory

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £571.57. 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.
Second Collection Last Week: Peter's Pence. £173.12. Thank you!
Second Collection Next Week: Apostleship of the Sea
Counters This Week: Paul & Clare Sefton, C. Stratten.
Cleaners This Week: Big Clean.

Readings for This Sunday

Isaiah 66: 10-14. *Towards her I send flowing peace, like a river.*
Galatians 6: 14-18. *The marks on my body are those of the Lord Jesus.*
Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20. *Your peace will rest on that man..*

Readings for Next Sunday

Deuteronomy 39: 10-14; Colossians 1: 15-20; Luke 10: 25-37. (Page 51)

During this season of Ordinary Time, Summer, Human Life; Seafarers;
We are asked to pray for: Victims of Persecution/Oppression
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

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Christine Edmunds	Helen Cooke
Michael Cawkwell	Dennis Stanton
Regina Savalkus	Eileen Ostenk
Eliza West	Borys Runc
Mary Boulemier	John Smith
Cecylia Kelly	Joanna Sigwart
William Shortt	Anne O'Neill
Joseph Davies	Basil Willett
Winifred Kaye	Ellen Murray
Michael O'Kane	Martin Keegan
William Mulcahy	Ellen Skinner
Elizabeth Milton	Mabel Keohane
Bishop Michael Evans	Caroline Bartley
Kate Allen	Paddy Whelan
Peter Bates	Charles Ogbata
Thomas Horn	Ronald Jeffrey
Rachel Leith	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JULY

That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.

Notices of Interest

The Repository: The Repository is open after both Sunday Masses. Confirmation cards are now on sale. *Kathleen Healey*

Bible Alive for July & August 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.**

David Donaghue's First Mass: As I'm sure you're all aware, David celebrates his first Mass here on Sunday 21st July, 11am. There will be a buffet afterwards to help him celebrate, & we need volunteers to provide home cooked/bought food! There's a list in the lobby area (by the side of the glass doors) of what will be needed, & if you can help, please sign your name by the side. If there is something you wish to supply that isn't on the list, please let me know & it can be added! Just give Georgina a ring on 07818441480.

Choir Matters: Brilliant news! **Deacon David will celebrate his first Mass at St Gregory's on July 21 at 11:00 Mass.** Our next choir practice (July 4) will focus on that event. Our already much praised choir would benefit from others joining us so that we become even better and improve what we deliver at David's very special and blessed event. Help us do justice to his celebration. *Alec*

Accommodation Needed: A sister needs to rent a one bedroom flat anywhere close to Northampton General Hospital, or in town. If you can help, please speak to Fr. Andrew.

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!

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

33rd Rosary Rally at Mount St Bernard Abbey: This begins with Mass at 2.00 pm on Sunday 1st September. See the poster for more information.

Our Common Home: There will be a special day of prayer & celebration of creation on Sun. Aug. 4th which focuses on the CAFOD climate change campaign. Watch for more information about this in due course.

Job Vacancies: There are advertisements for various job vacancies; part-time housekeeper for Northampton Cathedral, Full-time Youth Ministry Co-ordinator with (NYMO) based at Luton, Parish Youth Minister. Full advertisements on the notice-board in the display area. Further info. can be found on the diocesan website: www.northamptondiocese.org/vacancies

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

Bible Timeline - Spreading the Word of God's Kingdom: Sat. 13th July, 10am – 4pm at St. Gregory the Great. Includes presentation & testimonies, prayer & Mass. Morning & afternoon tea & coffee – please bring a packed lunch. No charge, but a collection will be made to defray costs. Please see poster 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!

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group meets every 1st Saturday in the Sacristy at 10am. **Next meeting is August 3rd. All welcome.**

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7.00 pm on Monday 8th July in the Sacristy.

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 shortly after the beginning of the autumn school term. It is also important that the children themselves desire to come to Communion. Please keep a look-out in the newsletter for details. No registrations will be accepted until September. The main preparation sessions will take place on seven Saturdays leading to First Holy Communion in May 2020.

Confirmation Preparation: Check your programme!

CAFOD: You are invited to be part of our amazing education programme which inspires students to act on their sense of justice. A background in education is not necessary. We are looking for people with good interpersonal skills, a passion for CAFOD's work & who connect well with children & young people. You'll be asked to go into Catholic schools in the locality to deliver prepared assemblies and/or workshops about once a term. All necessary training, travel expenses & resources will be provided & you will have the ongoing support of a local team.

Support Local Volunteers: CAFOD is looking for Parish Volunteer Coordinators to inspire & support local volunteers. A rewarding opportunity for people keen to work with other volunteers in their community raising awareness of the church's role in fighting injustice & poverty. Help us build a strong network – stronger than poverty & injustice. For both roles, please get in touch with Deborah: northampton@cafod.org.uk 01494 863777

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.

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.

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.

Bob Moore RIP The funeral Mass for Bob Moore will be on Monday 22nd July at 11.30 am. May he rest in peace.

The key scripture passage behind this prayer is Philippians 2:5-11, in which we read that Christ “humbled himself” (*verse 8*). The word which is translated as “abasement” is “*humilitate*”. The English translations also miss a beautiful assonance between “*eripuisti*” (fallen) and “*erexisti*” (raised up).

Although the Philippians passage continues beyond this to speak of Christ being “raised up”, in the prayer we speak of the “fallen

O God,
who in the abasement of your Son
have raised up a fallen world,
fill your faithful with holy joy,
for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin
you bestow eternal gladness.

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.

world” as having been “raised up”.

The final purpose of the prayer is that we may have “holy joy” and share in eternal gladness

Thus the prayer covers the entire stretch of time; past when, through the life of humility, sacrificial death and glorious resurrection, the fallen world has been raised up; the present when we pray that we may experience “holy joy”; and the future when we pray that we may enjoy eternal gladness.

Scripture Readings 7th July 2019, 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Third Isaiah wrote this beautiful imagery of a compassionate God to encourage the Jews returning from exile in Babylon to rebuild the Temple. The Lord sends his peace to Jerusalem through which he will give peace and nourishment to those who recognise the new creation coming with Jesus' resurrection.

The psalm praises God's power as revealed throughout history but especially during the Exodus.

This fond farewell concludes our readings from Paul's letter to the Galatians. Human distinctions and marks on our flesh like circumcision no longer signify. We have become a new Spirit-filled creation, the "Israel of God" – God's chosen family to carry God's message to the world. The new Mass translation, “and with your spirit”, picks up Paul's final phrase. God's grace is to be deep and personal, affecting our whole lives.

In the reading from Luke's gospel last week, Jesus “set himself to travel to Jerusalem”. For the rest of Ordinary Time, the “ordinally numbered weeks”, all our gospel readings are from his journey, as Jesus consciously focussed on his coming suffering in Jerusalem. Today we hear of Jesus sending 70 disciples on mission ahead of him, like the 70 elders chosen by Moses to lead the Exodus. But Jesus' disciples are offering Israel a last chance to change her mind about Jesus.

Psalm response: **Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.**

(Is 66:10-14; Ps 65(66):1-20; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12,17-20)

Chris Oliver



I address all the faithful in the words of Saint John in his first letter: “We proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and which was made manifest to us – that which we have seen and heard with us; and our fellowship is with him who has seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ” (*1 Jn 1:2-3*).

The Apostle speaks to us of *hearing, seeing, touching and looking upon* (cf. *1 Jn 1:1*) the word of life, since life itself was made manifest in Christ. Called to communion with God and among ourselves, we must proclaim this gift. This imperative to proclaim is a witness to the immense beauty of encountering the word of God in the communion of the Church. For this reason I encourage all the faithful to renew their personal and communal encounter with Christ, the word of life made visible, and to become his heralds, so that the

gift of divine life – communion – can spread ever more fully throughout the world.

Indeed, sharing in the life of God, a Trinity of love, is *complete joy* (cf. *1 Jn 1:4*). And it is the Church's gift and unescapable duty to communicate that joy, born of an encounter with the person of Christ, the Word of God in our midst. In a world which often feels that God is superfluous or extraneous, we confess with Peter that he alone has “the words of eternal life” (*John 6:68*). There is no greater priority than this: to enable the people of our time once more to encounter God, the God who speaks to us and shares his love so that we might have life in abundance (cf. *John 10:10*).

Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, 2010



Alpha in the Autumn

It was moving recently to hear one of our parishioners speaking of how his faith had been enlivened by attending “Alpha”. Pope Francis tells us that evangelisation is addressed to three groups of people.

In reverse order, the third group he speaks of are those who have never heard or have never responded to the loving message of God revealed in Christ Jesus.

The second group are those who call themselves ‘Catholic’, but seldom or never attend Mass and have no meaningful relationship with the Church.

However the first group are those who attend Mass but would benefit from a ‘faith lift’; those who are in church every or most weeks, but whose relationship with God is not as strong as it once was.

The present “Alpha” course is nearing its end, and the dates have been fixed for the next, which will be in the autumn, starting on 17th September and running in Tuesday evenings until 3rd December. Many people have spoken of how this has re-vitalised their faith; please think about joining if you haven't already!

Pastoral Area Day of Reflection

Many thanks to everyone who attended the day in Wellingborough yesterday; every parish was well represented, and enjoyed by all.