



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

The Year of the Word begins

On November 11th, Pope Benedict released a document entitled *Verbum Domini*, addressing the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church. It has been called the most important document on the Word of God since Vatican II's *Dei Verbum*

The document is broken up into three main sections (plus an introduction and conclusion):

1. *Verbum Dei*--a more academic analysis of the Word of God found in Scripture and Tradition
2. *Verbum in Ecclesia*--a look at how the Word of God influences the life of the Church
3. *Verbum Mundo*--an examination of how the Word of God can be used to preach the Gospel to the world

“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” (no. 2).

“There is no greater priority than this: to enable the people of our time once more to encounter God” (no. 2).

Section One--*Verbum Dei* (The Word of God)

To begin this section, Pope Benedict looks at the Word of God throughout Salvation History. The understanding of Salvation History, looking at God's plan of salvation throughout history, regularly occurs in the document.

Benedict affirms that Christianity “is not a ‘religion of the book’: Christianity is the religion of the word of God”, not of ‘a written and mute word, but of the incarnate and living Word. Consequently the Scripture is to be proclaimed, heard, read, received and experienced as the word of God, in the stream of the apostolic Tradition from which it is inseparable.” (no. 7).

“Calling to mind these essential elements of our faith, we can contemplate the profound unity in Christ between creation, the new creation and all salvation history. The word of an author who expresses himself through the ‘symphony’ of creation. In this symphony one finds, at a certain point, what would be called in musical terms a ‘solo’, a theme entrusted to a single instrument or voice which is so important that the meaning of the entire work depends on it. This ‘solo’ is Jesus...The Son of Man recapitulates in himself earth and heaven, creation and the Creator, flesh and Spirit. He is the centre of the cosmos and of history, for in him converge without confusion the author and his work” (no. 13).

There is a beautiful quote on Mary's relationship to Scripture: “Mary is the image of the Church in attentive hearing of the word of God,

which took flesh in her. Mary also symbolizes openness to God and others; an active listening which interiorizes and assimilates, one in which the word becomes a way of life (no. 27

Section Two--*Verbum in Ecclesia* (The Word in the Church)

This section focuses on the role of Scripture in the life of the Church. In particular, it looks at Scripture's relationship to the liturgy.

The document also adds some practical notes for families. The Synod suggested that every family have a Bible and that it be kept in a worthy place for reading and prayer (no. 85). It also stresses forming small communities of families, where common prayer and meditation on passages of Scripture can be cultivated.

Section Three--*Verbum Mundo* (The Word in the World)

The Word of God and the new evangelization take centre stage in this section as the very mission of the Church. The title of this section is: “The Church's Mission: To Proclaim the Word of God to the World.” Notice the proclamation of the Word of God is not one element of the mission or one piece of the mission but *the* mission of the Church. In a sense, this section appears to sum up many of the missionary documents we have seen in the past (*Evangelii Nuntiandi* and *Redemptoris Missio*) while taking them to a new level.

“This is why the Church is missionary by her very nature. We cannot keep to ourselves the words of eternal life given to us in our encounter with Jesus Christ: they are meant for everyone, for every man and woman” (no. 91).

“The Synod reaffirmed that ‘the mission of proclaiming the word of God is the task of all of the disciples of Jesus Christ based on their Baptism’...A consciousness of this must be revived in every family, parish, community, association, and ecclesial movement. The Church, as a mystery of communion, is thus entirely missionary, and everyone, according to his or her proper state in life, is called to give an incisive contribution to the proclamation of Christ” (no. 94).

Conclusion

“Finally, I turn to every man and woman, including those who have fallen away from the Church, who have left the faith or who have never heard the proclamation of salvation. To everyone the Lord says: ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the doors, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me’ ” (Rev. 3:20) (no. 124).

(Adapted from an article by Kevin Cotter in *Catholic Missionary Family*)

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Sunday 8th December 2019
Second Sunday of Advent
Parish Mass Book - Year A
Page 28

22 Park Avenue North
 Northampton. NN3 2HS
Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

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>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	Connie Unsworth RIP
Monday The Immaculate Conception	9.00 am	Mass	Paddy Swords RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	The Grill Family
Wednesday St. Damasus I	9.00 am	Mass	John & Jane Lehane
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Thursday Our Lady of Guadalupe	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Andrew Lamb RIP
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday St. Lucy	9.00 am	Mass	Violette Caillebotte RIP Tim Honderick
	2.20 pm	Healing Mass	
Saturday St. John of the Cross	9.00 am	Mass	John O'Sullivan RIP
	9.45 am	Confessions	
Sunday <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Chris Butler
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £718.90. 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.
Counters This Week: M. Bonner, Mrs Morgan.
Cleaners This Week: George & Another.

Readings and Rotas for this Sunday

Isaiah 11: 1-10. *He judges the wretched with integrity.*
Romans 15: 4-9. *Christ is the saviour of all men.*
Matthew 3: 1.12. *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

Readers: **9am:** Jehanne Houghton, Praveen Matthew;
11am: Nithin Lukose, Maggie Ndekwe.
Eucharistic Ministers: **9am:** Tony Wittich, Margaret Wittich, Theresa Hudson, Pru Hill;
11am: Rose Ogbata, Maureen Moriarty, Denise Johnson, Margaret Refoy.

Readings and Rotas for next Sunday

Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11. (Page 31)

Readers: **9am:** Stephen Pieterse, Tony Wittich;
11am: Patrick Yau, Maureen Moriarty
Eucharistic Ministers: **9am:** HW, Clare Bird, Krysia Wilson, Liam Condron
11am: Michael White, Anna White, Maggie Ndekwe, Philip Ndekwe.

During this season of Advent, We are asked to pray for: Migrants & Refugees;
 Open-ness to God's Word, Expectant Mothers
 The Bishop, Clergy & People of the Diocese.

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

Advent Service, Wednesday 11th December, 6pm at the Cathedral.
Involving the young people from Thomas Becket, St Mary's, St Gregory's and the Good Shepherd Catholic Schools. All welcome.

Please pray for the sick

Please pray for all the sick

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Arthur Sanders	Evelyn Miller
Robert French	Luigi Amalfitano
Margaret Dunne	Fred Craffy
Catalina Bacchas	Michael Behan
Belfiore Capicella	Maurice Cohen
Edward Sigwart	Joy Holder
Michelle Hollamby	Patricia Darby
Carmela Kovacs	Annie Boulemier
Patrick Finnegan	Jenny King
Amy Donoghue	Beryl McNamara
Douglas Thorne	Honora Cahill
Mary Downey	Sidney Grundy
Dorris Marlow	John Delaney
Elizabeth Worrall	Frances Currie
Robert O'Keefe	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

Notices of Interest

The Repository: From this Sunday, the Repository will be selling Christmas cards & other goods in the Hall after both Masses. We still need offers of help to man (or woman) the stalls at this busy period! Please phone me on 629103, or just turn up! *Kathleen Healey*

Catholic Newspapers - Important Announcement: If you regularly buy one of the Catholic newspapers, please read the notice pinned by the newspaper area.

Bible Alive for December 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.**

Holy Hour with music and prayers for the General Election Sunday 8th December 6.30pm at Northampton Cathedral with Taizé chants, scripture, silence & prayers. All welcome.

Advent Penitential Services: This year these services will be on Monday 16th December, 7pm, at the Cathedral and Tuesday 17th December, 7pm, here, at St. Gregory's.

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 will be used for placing dinners and puddings in for the homeless. Thank you!

Christmas Flowers: Envelopes are available in the Display Area for donations for Christmas flowers, which may be given in memory of a person or in thanksgiving, or simply as a gift! Names of those in whose memory flowers are given will be included in the newsletter for Christmas. As last year, arty and crafty people are invited to do window displays — trays will be available after either Mass next Sunday.

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.**

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation Session will be reported here shortly.

First Holy Communion — 2020 The next preparation session for children is on Saturday 11th January at Sacred Heart Church Hall, from 2.00 pm until 4.30 pm. . It is also essential that children attend Mass each week.

Confirmation Preparation. 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: Christmas & Epiphany Masses & carols: there are extra practices after Mass on Thurs. evening till 9pm - Dec 12, 19 & Feb 6 (no practice Jan 2). PS: Apologies to 11am Mass goes re: absence of Power Point presentation that would have made it easier for the congregation to fully join in the singing; I forgot to bring the memory stick with me. Be aware that I give my choice of hymns etc to Deacon Michael who creates the Power Point slides for Sunday (We should all be grateful to our Deacon for the great many hours he devotes to doing this work as well as many other tasks). I then check the result so errors in the final showing are down to me. Thanks also to Jim McGrath who operates the system. *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 January 4th.** All welcome.

The Rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Eve Mass will be during Children's Liturgy, 9am Mass, Sunday 22nd December.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets 2nd Wednesday of every month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting December 11th.** All welcome.

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! Ceáid 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.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children - Youth

Conference 2020: SPUC Northampton would like to sponsor a young person aged 18-25 to attend the 2020 SPUC Youth Conference. The conference runs from Friday 28th February to Sunday 1st March at the Willows Training Centre, Wyboston Lakes Resort, Wyboston, Bedford. This is a fantastic opportunity for a young person to be with like-minded people, sharing the pro-life message and listening to some inspirational speakers. The only stipulation is that the person chosen will have to provide their own transport to and from the conference. SPUC Northampton will cover the cost of all meals, accommodation and social activities. If you are interested or would like to have more details then please contact William Currie at wpcurrie@btinternet.com or leave your details with Father Andrew.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children- Northampton Branch:

Next meeting will be 7pm, Friday 20th Dec. in the sacristy. Please come & hear about the work being conducted by the branch. There is absolutely no commitment required but we would love to have you there with us. If you are unable to attend then please consider saying the rosary for all unborn children and their mothers.

Bible Timeline courses. There will be **two new Timeline courses** in January at St. Gregory's Church. On Mondays in the sacristy at 1pm: ROMANS and on Tuesday mornings in the sacristy at 10am: JAMES. There will also be a course starting on 25th February 2020 for 5 weeks on Tuesdays at 10am in the sacristy at St Gregory's: A BIBLICAL WALK WITH MARY in connection with the rededication of England as Mary's Dowry. Don't forget that the Bible Timeline course at Sacred Heart continues on Tuesdays at 10.15am during term time until Easter 2020.

Information on local courses can be found at:

www.bible-groups.info/timeline

Carol Service on Monday evening at 7.30 at Christchurch, Wellingborough Road. All welcome

St John of the Cross (Celebrated on Saturday this week)

He was born in Fontiveros, in Spain, in about 1542. He spent some time as a Carmelite friar before, in 1568, Saint Teresa of Ávila persuaded him to pioneer the reform of the Carmelite order. This was a difficult task and a dangerous one: he suffered imprisonment and severe punishment at the hands of the Church authorities. His little drawing on “Christ from above” is preserved at Avila, and has been an inspiration to many, including Salvador Dali, whose “Christ of St John of the Cross” is in homage to this drawing.



He died at the monastery of Ubeda in Andalusia on 14 December 1591: the monks there had initially treated him as the worst of sinners, but by the time he died they had recognised his sanctity and his funeral was the occasion of a great outburst of enthusiasm.

His works include two major mystical poems – he is considered one of the great poets of the Spanish language – and detailed commentaries on them and the spiritual truths they convey. He was canonized in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.

Scripture Readings 8th December 2019, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A

The readings for Advent from Isaiah continue with this description of the ideal king, who will come from the remnant of Israel – the stump of Jesse, of David’s dynasty. This was applied by Christians to Jesus. But Isaiah was seeking to comfort his people, under attack by Assyria, as he foresees an idyllic future when the whole of creation will live in complete harmony. Only the “fear of the Lord” and the “knowledge of the Lord” could bring this about.

The psalm looks forward to the coming of a perfect king, the Messiah, whose rule will be just and his reign glorious.

Paul’s letter to the Romans exhorts the two groups of Christians in Rome to work patiently together, ignoring varying degrees of conformity to the Jewish Law. We must learn about God from the Jewish Scriptures, the Old Testament, so that we may worship him

in unity of mind and mouth. The Messiah’s sufferings show that God keeps His promises, and will lead all nations, both Jews and Gentiles, to praise God.

In the Gospel John the Baptist, the last prophet of the Old Testament, prepares the way of the Lord by urging people to repent, to turn towards God from their sins. But he condemns those who say they have no need of God.

Psalm Response:

**In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.**

(Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 71(72); Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12)

Chris Oliver

The Season of Creation

Actions to Live Simply :

Communication with eye contact melts ‘Stranger fears’.

Tip No. 21: Actions to LiveSimply: Try the Free Catholic ‘app’ Laudate on your mobile phone. Daily Bible Mass readings simply where ever you are.

Tip No. 22: Live sustainably with Creation: keep the sacred nature of consciousness always alive within us (keeping Jesus’s way).

PRAYER

God of peace and justice,
you give us the capacity to change,
to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom.
Create in us a desire to act in solidarity,
so that the pillars of injustice crumble
and those now crushed are set free. Amen

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
The parish is also investigating the possibility of rainwater harvesting for flushing the toilets.

**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



We have sold out of the Advent Scripture Cards. They have been well received. However, they are useable every year (unlike ones with chocolate!), and even now they can be started. They are available from the Catholicism Store, which is an



on-line shop. It is worth a visit, and is the main supplier for the “Word on Fire” DVDs, the Bishop Robert Barron videos. You will find it at: www.catholicismstore.co.uk. Sadly, the price for a single set is £7.00

