



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

Intentional Discipleship

This phrase “Intentional Discipleship” has been mentioned several times before in newsletters, and our Gospel reading today points towards the same idea. Jesus offers two mini-parables; the first relates to a builder contemplating constructing a tower, the second to a king considering going to war. In both cases, the process begins with a careful consideration of the risks and benefits. Before forming the determined intention to build or go to war, there is a definite decision to be made.

When a child is brought to Baptism, the parents are required to attend a pre-Baptismal preparation session. They are told that they will be making serious promises; first of all, that they will bring up their child in the practice of the Faith, and then very specifically that they reject all that is evil; all the deeds of evil and all the “empty promises” that tempt us all. They are then asked to proclaim their faith in the words of the ancient Baptismal creed. Only then are they asked the vital question: “Is it your wish that this child be Baptised in the faith of the Church which we have all proclaimed with you?” The crucial answer to the question is not just the reading of words on a card — it is, or it should be, a solemn declaration of an intention to fulfil all these promises.

Today and next Sunday parents will be enrolling children in the programme of preparation for First Holy Communion. This is another act of intentionality. It is not because the children have reached a specific age; it is not because it is what grand-parents expect. It is because the parents themselves are intentionally (not accidentally) doing what they promised at their child’s Baptism.

The words of the Baptism service make it absolutely clear that it is the parents who will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith, and an important part of the teaching of the Second Vatican Council also speaks of the parents as “primary and principal educators” of their children:

“Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators. This role in education is so important that only with difficulty can it be supplied where it is lacking. Parents are the ones who must create a family atmosphere animated by love and respect for God and man, in which the well-rounded personal and social education of children is fostered. Hence, the family is the first school of the social virtues that every society needs. It is particularly in the Christian family, enriched by the grace and office of the sacrament of matrimony, that children should be taught

from their early years to have a knowledge of God according to the faith received in Baptism, to worship Him, and to love their neighbour. Here, too, they find their first experience of a wholesome human society and of the Church. Finally, it is through the family that they are gradually led to a companionship with their fellowmen and with the people of God. Let parents, then, recognize the inestimable importance a truly Christian family has for the life and progress of God’s own people.”

(Vatican II Gravissimum Educationis §3)

It is important that parents are fully involved in the Sacramental preparation of their children. It is the parents who should be the primary teachers of their children, and the new scheme that we are using at St Gregory’s, working with Sacred Heart, works in that way.

Many parents do not feel that they have the necessary knowledge themselves to be able to fulfil this role as the primary teacher of their child. It has been many years since they themselves were prepared for their own first Holy Communion, and a lot of time to forget what they were taught! The new system fully takes account of this.

At each session the child is accompanied by a parent who is provided with a book which exactly matches a workbook for their child. Throughout the session the process is led by a trained Catechist who guides the parent in helping their child as they complete the activities in their work book.

Part of this scheme is that parents themselves will be refreshed in their own understanding of the Faith. This will support what is sometimes referred to as the “Domestic Church”; in other words, the home life of a Christian family.

There are many ways in which this is made real. One of the most obvious is saying grace before meals — thanking God for the provision of food and praying for those gathered around the table. Praying with children before going to bed is also important, as is the way in which we speak throughout the day, showing charity towards all people.

Returning to the Gospel for today, which ends these stark words: “None of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions”. What this means is that we must intentionally hold our relationship with God as the supreme priority and not allow material possessions to come before God.



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

Sunday 8th September 2019
Twenty Third 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
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>23rd Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Derek Rumsey RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday St. Peter Claver	9.00 am	Mass	Rodney Lowe RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Catherine Clarke
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	K.M. Burke St John Vianney Prayer Group
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Thursday Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Dechario Ciriaco & Dechario Antonieta
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday St. John Chrysostom	9.00 am	Mass	Martin Bushell RIP
Saturday The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	9.00 am	Mass	Teresa Redmond & Family's Intentions
	9.45 am	Confessions	
Sunday <i>24th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Brendan Moan
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £512.03. 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.
Second Collection Next Week: Home Mission Sunday
Counters This Week: Mrs Quinn, A. Gibson.
Cleaners This Week: Kathleen & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

Wisdom 9: 13-18. *Who can divine the will of the Lord?*
Philemon 9-10, 12-17. *Have him back, not as a slave any more, but as a brother.*
Luke 14: 25-33. *None of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.*

Readings for Next Sunday

Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14; 1 Timothy 1: 12-17; Luke 15: 1-32. (Page 74)

During this season of Ordinary Time, Autumn, Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest;
We are asked to pray for: The Spread of the Gospel; Victims of War
Prisoners & Their Families; Young People.

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

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
May Murtagh	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
Margaret M	

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Margaret McCarthy	Bridget Hughes
John Ansell	Jean Van Arsdel
Viola Spring	Frederick Darby
Rosina Lombardi	Pantalina Dias
Patricia Flanagan	Michael Dillane
Gertrude Clarke	Walter Barwell
Walter Faulkner-Dunkley	Mary Kelliher
Barbara Latham	Norah Freeman
Nicholas Bamforth	Molly Cave
Ashley Merlit	Johanna O'Dwyer
Aileen Tuller	Kathleen Loder
Edward Somers	Baby Julia Krupa
Sheila McGill	Albert O'Sullivan
Carmen Prendiville	Josefa Horn
Charlotte Noone	Helen Keefe
Margaret Riordan	Maria Mozhowyi

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

FOR SEPTEMBER

That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.

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 September & October 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.**



We welcome into the family of the Church
Omozoya Robin Ejodame
Oscar Buist Halling
And Gigi Marie Hobbs-Awoyemi
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for them and their families.

2020 Office Diary has arrived early! If you know that you will need to book a Mass Intention for 2302, this is the time to do it – before the dates get taken!

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.

Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life: Walsingham, Sunday 6th October commencing 12pm with Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation. Please see poster for full 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 Session will be on Monday 2nd September, 7pm, 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 today and next Sunday after either Mass. The main preparation sessions will take place on seven Saturdays leading to First Holy Communion in May 2020.

Confirmation Preparation: Those interested in Confirmation next year are invited to join the Youth Alpha programme.

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 October 5th. All welcome.**

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

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, survivors of abuse, their families & supporters are invited to this Mass. There will be light refreshments after the Mass.

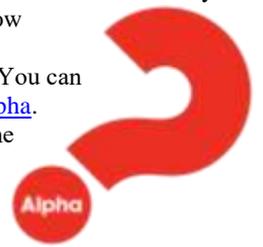
Choir Matters: Practices are usually on the 1st Thursday of the month following evening Mass till 9pm : 3 Oct. & then weekly practices until Dec to prepare for Christmas. *Alec*

Tots @St Gregory's: If you have charge of a pre school baby or child on Tuesday mornings why not come along to Tots @St Gregory's which runs in the parish hall from 9:30 - 11:30 ? We are a friendly, welcoming group where all have fun and refreshments are provided. The cost is £1 for each adult regardless of how many children you bring! We run throughout the school terms and begin again on Tuesday 10th September.

Notre Dame Association: Tues. 17th Sept. 2.30-4.30pm. at St. Matthews Church Room. September Tea Party. 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

Alpha in the Autumn The next Alpha will be in the autumn, starting on 17th September and running Tuesday evenings until 3rd December with a break on 29th October. There is also an overnight session from the evening of Friday 8th to after lunch on Saturday 9th 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!



Helpers needed for Alpha: If you are able to offer help for the Alpha course starting on 17th November, please talk to Maria Heath. Those who have helped in the past will tell you that they greatly enjoyed the experience — there was always laughter coming from the kitchen!

Autumn Courses at St Gregory's:

Monday at 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Catholicism	starts 16 th September
Monday at 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm	Acts	starts 16 th September
Tuesday at 10.00 am – 12 noon	Psalms	starts 24 th September
Tuesday at 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm	Alpha	starts 17 th September
Wednesday at 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Matthew	starts 18 th September

Autumn Course at Sacred Heart:

Tuesday at 10.15 am	Bible Timeline	starts 17 th September
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More information on local courses can be found at:

www.bible-groups.info/timeline

Youth Alpha will also run this autumn: (5.30 pm – 7.00 pm)

Friday 4 th October	Life: Is this it?
Friday 11 th October	Jesus: Who is Jesus?
Friday 18 th October	Cross: Why did Jesus die?
Friday 25 th October	Faith: How can we have faith?
Friday 8 th November	Prayer: Why and how should I pray?
Friday 15 th November	Bible: Why and how do I read the Bible?
Saturday 16 th November	Follow: How does God guide us?
	Spirit: Who is He and what does He do?
	Fill: How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
Friday 22 nd November	Evil: How can I resist evil?
Friday 29 th November	Healing: Does God heal today?
Friday 6 th December	Church: What about Church and telling others?

Looking for a Gap Year with a difference? Volunteer with young people in a Catholic retreat centre. Open to those aged 18-25 (Sep '19 -July '20) email: scys@rcaos.org.uk for more information.

The origin of this prayer is from Eastertide, and the underlying theme is in fact Baptism, even though the reference is unspoken.

The prayer was revised for the 1970 edition of the Missal; before this revision the prayer was directed for “those who have been reborn in Christ”, rather than “those who believe in Christ”. However, it is in Baptism that we become adopted by God. Through this adoption, we are also redeemed.

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.

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.

“He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood. (*Ephesians 1:5-7*)

As we affirm our relationship with God, we pray that many more will come to know and love God as adopted children.

Scripture Readings 8th September 2019, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

The Book of Wisdom was written in 1st century BC. Greek and other pagan religions gave inadequate answers to life’s questions, especially why the wicked prosper and the just suffer. How does a just God mete out justice? Wisdom’s solution, distilled from all Jewish Scriptures, is that the just continue to live with God after their deaths: a developing Jewish belief in resurrection, though not of the body. Man’s knowledge and powers of reasoning are inadequate compared with God’s Wisdom. So we ask God to give us Wisdom for our guide.

The psalm contrasts God’s eternity with our short lives, confident that God cares for us and that some good will come from our trials.

In this moving letter Paul asks Philemon to accept back the slave Onesimus and forgive him. But Paul is pleading for something

more: Onesimus means “profit”, and Paul wants Philemon to see the “profit” of forgiving Onesimus out of Christian love, and not because Paul could “force this act of kindness”. In this way Philemon can gain wisdom and spiritual benefit.

In Luke’s gospel, after a parable about “I’m too busy” excuses, Jesus insists we must “hate” our parents: not emotionally but in our actions. We must weigh our options carefully and willingly carry the Cross.

Psalm Response:

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

(Wisdom 9:13-18 Psalm 89(90):3-17 Philemon 9-10, 12-17 Luke 14:25-33)

Chris Oliver

The Season of Creation

YOUR GUIDE TO THE *Livesimply* award

CAFOD run the “*Livesimply Award*”, and invite parishes and schools to work to gain this recognition.

To apply for the award, your community should plan one main action – something which involves either a significant change or a lot of people - and at least two smaller actions under each of the three headings: *simply*; *in solidarity with people in poverty*; *sustainably with creation*.

You can include activities which are already taking place and some that are new, or that aim to reach new people. There are more ideas and inspiration on www.cafod.org.uk/livesimply.

Use these questions to help you plan your activities:

- **Why** are you taking this action? Who will benefit and what difference will it make?

Is there someone who would be willing to lead this for the parish? Please speak to Fr Andrew if you are willing.

- **Who** will be involved in making it happen? Think beyond your core group.
- **How** will you show that you’ve succeeded? Electricity bills, photos, newspaper cuttings and liturgy sheets are some of the ways you can show what you have been doing.
- **When** will you do it by? Be realistic.
- **What** kind of action is it? Is this action reflection and worship; practical action or something which reaches out to involve others beyond the community? It could be all three, but make sure you have all three kinds of action reflected somewhere in your plan.

October — Mission Month

On Tuesday we will be just one weeks away from the beginning of our next Alpha Course. Imagine you are taking someone for an evening out. You might well begin by taking them for a meal at an interesting venue, and then on to see a film. After the film you would probably want to talk about what you have seen; did you both enjoy the same bits; did it make you think differently about anything; did any of it chime in with your own experience? This is exactly what happens at Alpha — nothing frightening, nothing threatening; just a good evening out! (The food is excellent; and free!)

Why not take a friend for an evening out. First date — Tuesday 17th September.

The Year of the Word



The coming year is designated as the “Year of the Word”, and part of our response to this is to offer help to those who proclaim the Scriptures to us during Mass. The word “proclaim” is used deliberately —

reading is not enough!

There will be sessions during the school holiday (28th and 29th October) in the evening, and it is hoped that all those who proclaim the scriptures will come to one or other of these sessions.

