



# 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.”



## Invite a Friend

Please take a Christmas leaflet with the list of Christmas Masses, and give it to a friend, with an invitation to come with you to one of the Masses. It is not designed to be just dropped through a letter-box; it is designed to go with a personal invitation.

Before giving the leaflet and making the invitation, please pray for the person you are inviting, and then continue to pray as Christmas draws nearer.

## Bible Society Carol Service

The annual Carol Service for the Bible Society is on Monday of this week at 7.30 pm at Christchurch on Wellingborough Road. Although we are still quite a way from the feast of Christmas, this is a good way to prepare for the coming celebrations.

# Flame



Our Confirmation candidates will be attending the “Flame” congress in March next year.

# Flowers

With Christmas falling on a Tuesday this year, the opportunity for decorating the Church is limited. There is a retreat day for the Syro-Malabar community on the Sunday afternoon, which means that Monday (Christmas Eve) is our only opportunity for preparing the church for the celebration, which begins with the Children’s vigil Mass at 5.00 pm on Monday evening.

There will be the usual morning Mass at 9.00 am on Christmas Eve, but after that Mass anyone able to help with decorations will be most welcome. It may well be possible to prepare flower pedestals and other arrangements beforehand, but these will need to be moved and placed in the church on Monday.

Offerings for Christmas flowers may be placed in envelopes which are available at the back of the church, and handed in to the sacristy or placed in the collection.

## Christmas Vigil Mass

The Christmas Eve Vigil Mass is at **5.00 pm**, and you will need to be early to get a seat. There will be a rehearsal for this on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 3.00 pm.

All children are invited to take part.



22 Park Avenue North  
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: [www.stgregory.org.uk](http://www.stgregory.org.uk)

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### Second Sunday of Advent

### Parish Mass Book - Year B

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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>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am	Mass Mass	The Parish Fr. John Harris RIP
<b>Monday</b> Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Michael O'Dowd RIP
<b>Tuesday</b> Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Catherine Clarke
<b>Wednesday</b> Feria	9.00 am 11.00 am	Mass Celebration of Word & Communion (St Andrew's)	Amanda Niland RIP
<b>Thursday</b> St. Lucy	9.00 am 6.45 pm 7.00 pm	Celebration of Word & Communion Benediction Mass	T & B Walsh's Intentions
<b>Friday</b> St. John of the Cross	9.00 am	Mass	Amanda Niland RIP
<b>Saturday</b> Feria	9.00 am 9.30 am	Mass Confessions	Margaret Ndekwe's Birthday
<b>Sunday</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am	Mass Mass	The Parish Alice King's Intentions

**Your Offering To The Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £575.11. 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.  
**Counters This Week:** M. Murtagh, L. Allen, Anna Smith.  
**Cleaners This Week:** Aideen & Another.

#### Readings for This Sunday

**Baruch 5: 1-9.** *God means to show your splendour to every nation.*  
**Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11.** *Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.*  
**Luke 3: 1-6.** *All mankind shall see the salvation of God.*

#### Readings for Next Sunday

**Zephaniah 3: 14-18; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 10-18. (Page 30)**

**During this season of Ordinary Time, Autumn, we are asked to pray for:** Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest; The Spread of the Gospel; Prisoners & their Families; Victims of War; 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.
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)

#### 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
Frank Burke	Khanh Phan
Kath Seamark	Robert Moore
Fr Ed Worthy	Sarah Dunster
Liam Murphy	Kim Do
Margaret Farragher	Sr. Margaret
Dulcie Miranda	Chris Butler
Joan Healy	Lily Butler
Irgard Wraxall	Rachel
Sylvia Clark	Phyllis Albon
Maurice Murphy	Doris Old
Sylvester Dauksta	Rita
Lorraine Woolard	Erica Campbell
Dolores Behan	Vera Curly
Richard Redmond	Chau
Teresa Redmond	Damien Darkko
Br Paul Greaves	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	N. Donegan
Philomena Fraher	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Nancy Ginnelly	Mary Rumsey
Maire West	Owen

#### Anniversaries:

#### May they Rest in Peace

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

#### **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER**

**That people who are involved in the service and transmission of faith may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.**

**Our love and sympathy to Alec Unsworth, to Clare and Alison on the death of Connie. May she rest in peace**

# Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Donovan Michael Ingham  
who received Christian Baptism last week.  
Please pray for him and his family.

**Repository HELP!** Cards & other items for Christmas are on sale in the Hall after both Masses, as well as our other stock. As I have had a major operation I will not be able to help for some weeks. This means our loyal, but small, band of sellers will be under pressure and we desperately need offers of help for at least the Christmas period. It only involves a few moments after Mass & perhaps some help moving the tables in & out of the Hall. Please help if you can. Ring (01604) 629103 or just turn up!  
*Kathleen Healey*

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

**Christmas Flowers: Help!** Flowers for Christmas will be arranged on Sunday evening (

**Manna House:** With sorrow it is announced that the Manna House Bookshop will close with effect from 31st January 2019.

**To the Lady Who Bought a Jewellery Box** at the Life House sale: There is a shelf that belongs with the box – please pick it up from the Sacristy. Thank you!

**Save the Hope Centre:** St Gregory's has supported the Hope Centre since it first began at Bishops' House. We have given food every week, and supported it financially. Now it needs another sort of support as Midland Heart are seeking to evict it from Oasis House. Please sign the petition!

**2019 Office Diary:** The diary for next year is now available. If you know of any Mass intentions you require for 2019, please do see me in the Office as soon as possible – dates will be filled very quickly! *Caryll*

**Blessed Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group** continues monthly on 1st Saturday of each month in the Sacristy at 10am. (Next meeting is January 5<sup>th</sup>) All welcome.

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. Next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> December. All welcome.

**Communion to Those With Limited Mobility:** Holy Communion is brought to those in the FRONT ROW on EITHER SIDE and to wheel-chair users, but not anywhere else in church.

**Choir Matters:** Practices will be after Thurs. evening Mass on Dec 13, 20, not Jan 3. New members always welcome, as are the old ones! *Alec*

**Catholic Basics Course:** Want to know more about your Faith? Join us for a basic introduction to the Catholic Faith in 4 parts: God, The Church, The Moral Life and Prayer. For each part there is a day of engaging teaching with opportunities for interaction & discussion. Cost: £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged). Price includes full lunch. No qualifications needed - just interest, good will & a sense of humour! Launch and Part I: Jan. 31, 10-3pm (arr. 9.30 for refreshments). NORES Centre, 33 Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD. 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 Catholic the parish runs Journey in Faith process (RCIA). This is also offered for adults who are Catholic but have not received all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist. Please speak to Alex Heath who leads the Journey (07963032175), Fr Andrew or Maria Heath

**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.

**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!

**Save the Date:** A quiz night including a fish and chip supper will be taking place on Friday 1st March 2019 at 7.00pm in St Gregory's Church Hall in aid of the Northampton Life House. Tickets cost £10 and will be available shortly after Christmas.

**Wassail Evening (Sacred Heart) Cancellation** It is with regret that the decision has been made to cancel the Wassail evening on December 16th due to lack of support. We are very grateful to those who have bought tickets. Please present them to Gareth or Carmel for a full refund. There are a few handmade items for sale in the porch this week in aid of the Lourdes fund.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7pm, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019, in the Sacristy.

**First Holy Communion – 2019** The next session will be on 12<sup>th</sup> January. Please remember to be at Mass each Sunday and at Christmas (Very important!)

**Confirmation Preparation:** The next session will be on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

**Fitness & Pilates for Mid Life & Beyond!** Classes Wednesdays, 10.30am, in the Church Hall with Theresa. Classes run for 8 weeks, led by 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!

**Flame 2019: The Day's Theme will be 'Significance'.** Significance is defined as “worthy of attention,” “with meaning,” “important.” In terms of Scripture, it is a word that resonates deeply with God's words from heaven at the Baptism of Jesus, and the Transfiguration, “You are my Beloved.” We are in a world where it is easy to feel constrained to measure self-esteem in Twitter and Instagram “likes”, responses to Facebook status updates, and Snapchat conversations. Flame2019 hopes that it offers a fresh depth of perspective for young people, centred in their creation in the image and likeness of God.

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**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:

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

# Scripture Readings 9th December 2018, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C

The Book of Baruch, was probably written during the second century BC and attributed to Jeremiah's secretary. It deals with problems of Jews permanently exiled in the diaspora. Today's reading offers consolation for refugees, seeing hope for Jerusalem as the mother of all exiles. Realistically it insists that we must come to terms with life where we are. In all ages, families living in exile must find salvation from the living word of God.

The psalm is usually seen as Israel's rejoicing after their return from exile. But it may be more consistently read as an intense visualisation of the future restoration of Israel by the Lord.

Paul wrote the Letter to the Philippians from prison between 55 and 63 AD, addressing it to the "saints, bishops and ministers" of the community. He prays lovingly that their love and knowledge

of Christ may increase, so that they dare to proclaim the gospel fearlessly.

For these 3 weeks of Advent we hear from Luke's gospel about preparations for the coming Messiah. Today John the Baptist is positioned in history, proclaiming a baptism of repentance and, like Baruch, quoting from Isaiah. Just as with Elizabeth's greeting on the last Sunday of Advent, Luke firmly links the coming birth to the Old Testament, which it fulfills.

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

(Baruch 5: 1-9; Ps 125(126); Phil 1: 3-6. 8-11; Luke 3: 1-6)

Chris Oliver

"The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven."

(1 Corinthians 15:47-49)

Almighty and merciful God,  
may no earthly undertaking hinder those  
who set out in haste to meet your Son,  
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom  
gain us admittance to his company.

Who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our prayer today contrasts the "earthly undertaking" with "heavenly learning", and this points us to the passage from 1 Corinthians.

The reference to "wisdom" points us forward towards the end of Advent, when we will hear the antiphon praising divine wisdom.

The theme of haste which we noticed last week is with us again, and we pray that no distraction will slow us down!

## James: Pearls for Wise Living

James is one of the most practical books of the Bible. Its teachings speak loudly to those who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and their faith. This study offers "pearls for wise living" by applying the wisdom of James to our current day. For anyone who has struggled to live a truly Christian life, James offers a wealth of practical solutions for handling and even sanctifying everyday circumstances. Join us for **James: Pearls for Wise Living** at St Gregory's Church Hall beginning Monday 14th January 2019 at 1pm and continuing weekly until 1st April 2019 (except half term break on 18th February).

## Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

Being Catholic takes more than simply believing in God or doing what he asks of us. Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer—he wants you to be his disciple and friend. To help you answer this call to deeper friendship with Christ join us for **Follow Me : Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John** at St Gregory's Sacristy beginning on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 10am and continuing weekly until 18th March 2019 (except half term break on 19th February).

For more information or to register for **James: Pearls for Wise Living or Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John**, call Julie at 01604 456321 or via email: NN.BibleTimeLineTeam@aol.com. Study Guide for each course costs £22.

NEXT ALPHA:

**Tuesday evenings, 7.30 – 9.45 pm  
from 30<sup>th</sup> April – 16<sup>th</sup> July, (except 28<sup>th</sup> May)  
plus Friday evening to Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

**BEGINS ON TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

## Saints of the week

### St Lucy

Lucy was born in Sicily towards the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. She was brought up as a Christian, and determined to give her life to Christ in virginity. A young man, disappointed in his desire to marry her, denounced her as a Christian, and she was martyred in 304.

Devotion to her grew, and her festival was set for 13<sup>th</sup> December, which under the calendar then in force was also the winter solstice; the shortest day. From that day on, the days would get longer; there would be more light.

In the depth of winter all seems to be dead, yet the coming spring, to which the solstice looks forward speaks to us of resurrection and new life. The light of Lucy; the light of the Risen Christ shines even in the darkest night. Although the calendar has changed, the courage of Lucy gives us encouragement in the season of cold and darkness.

### St John of the Cross

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. 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 canonised in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.