



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

Shema, Israel

Today's Gospel tells us the important and familiar story of the 'Good Samaritan'. However, the introduction to the story is also important.

We find similar passages in Matthew (22:34-40) and Mark (12:28-34), but the context in Luke is quite different. Both Matthew and Mark locate the story in Jerusalem, and during Holy Week. Luke is telling the story on the journey *to* Jerusalem, and near the beginning of that journey. Yet more significantly, it is only Luke who gives us the beautiful parable of the 'Good Samaritan'.

The first thing to notice is that Jesus' first appeal is to the 'Law'. By this he means, of course, the Law of Moses; the teaching of the first five books of the Bible, and the Lawyer quotes a text with which all Jews would be familiar, from Deuteronomy 6:4. What is interesting is that he quotes not from the Hebrew version of the text but the Greek (Septuagint) version, which was slightly different.

After the Jewish people were released from captivity in Babylon in 538 BC many Jews settled in other parts of the Mediterranean world since Jerusalem had been destroyed, although the books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Zechariah tell of those who returned and rebuilt their former home. However, many went elsewhere' living in the Greek-speaking world, and after a few generations, were wanting the Scriptures in Greek. This translation, completed in 132 BC was known as the 'Septuagint'. There are slight differences between it and the accepted traditional Hebrew text. Current study of the Dead Sea Scrolls is helping scholars to understand how these arose.

The Hebrew text of this passage in Deuteronomy (known as the 'Shema') says that we must love God with all our 'heart, soul and strength'. The Greek text, quoted by the Lawyer in Luke 10:27 adds 'mind'.

This is quite important because all Jews would know this passage by heart, and saying it differently would attract attention, and yet this does not happen. Jesus also quotes in this form as recorded in Mark. It is impossible now to speculate on what is not recorded. However, the addition of 'mind' is important. It tells us that we should use our intellect in our worship and our love for God.

The Christian Church has, from the earliest times encouraged scholarship and the study of the Faith. Even in the times of persecution in the Roman Empire, the early 'Fathers' of the Church studied the Scriptures, but much the earliest was St Paul, and as we read his letters we see the formation of his growing understanding of the love of God, of the nature of Christ and of the vocation of the Church.

It was the Church that established the first universities; the oldest being that in Bologna (1088) followed by Oxford (1096), Salamanca (1134), Paris (1160). Schools had existed in pre-Christian times, but the Church always had a care for the education of the young, and in relatively recent times, the provision of free education for the poor was an important concern of the Catholic Church in this country.

In our own days, the publication of the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church', together with the 'Youcat'; the 'Docat' and the 'KidsCat', not to mention the vast array of teaching materials that exist all bear witness to the importance of loving God with all our mind.

No less important are the many study-courses that exist. Here we are familiar with the 'Bible Timeline'; and with the 'Word of Fire' courses (Bishop Robert Barron) that we run.

If we truly love God with all our mind, we will seek to use that mind which God Himself gave us, to get to know him better and to understand more of what he asks of us.

There is a further lesson that we should draw from the 'Shema'. After the passage quoted here, it continues: (*Deuteronomy 6:-9*)

- ♥ "Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart"
- ♥ "Recite them to your children"
- ♥ "Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise"
- ♥ "Bind them as a sign on your hand and fix them as an emblem on your forehead"
- ♥ "Write them on the doorposts of your house."

The commandment to "teach your children" echoes down the pages of the Scriptures. It is not a teaching that is just telling, although the Passover meal is a wonderful example of how that 'telling' works; it is a living the lesson.

Our Faith is a shared adventure with our children, as together we use our minds, along with our heart and soul and strength in the service of God. The lawyer was given the wonderful story of the 'Good Samaritan' to help him understand what loving means. Thanks to him, we have that story and that lesson too.

As we travel our journey through life, we will come across people in need. As we see prices rising and more and more people in poverty, those who have sufficient for themselves can be more generous to those who have less; the Hope Centre food collection and the Cathedral toiletries collection are more and more necessary. Please keep your generosity up, and teach your children!

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for July & August is now available - only £3.00! If you wish to purchase a copy, they are near the hand-sanitiser in the narthex as you come into church.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass. We need more helpers prepared to stand for a few minutes after Mass – all stock is marked, so an easy task!
Contact Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 1st August, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: The preparation now turns to the receiving of Holy Communion for the first time, and we look forward to this in May. Thanks also to the parents in providing support and becoming catechists for their own children.

Confirmation in 2022: Sessions will run on Sunday mornings from 10.15 - 11.30. Please join us for 9am Mass as part of this course. Confirmation Mass is Saturday 2nd July at midday.

Support for the Foreign Missions through Missio and the Red Box giving:

Missio Summer magazine is now available & ready for collection. If you are part of the scheme, your addressed envelope is in a box as you come into church, on a table on your left. It may find its way to the exit door at the end of Mass – you know the power of prayer! The envelopes are in alphabetical order. Alternatively, I will arrange for someone to put the envelope through your letter box. Thanks for your prayers & financial support (via the Box or electronically, etc.) to help spread the Gospel & to give support to those who are in need. A number of our contributors have died in recent years. Others do come forward to take up helping this good cause. More are needed. Anyone who would like to join in please contact Dorothy at the 9 o'clock Sunday Mass or me at 11. God bless you & reward your generosity as I know He will. *Alec*

Vocations to Priesthood: Vocations weekends are planned three times a year. These are weekends for men who are discerning priesthood. You may be in the very early stages of discernment & don't worry - you don't have to sign anything! You can take your time & meet priests who can share more about this incredible life. Priesthood is a gift to our diocese, & we would love to connect with you as you continue your journey with God. At any point you can contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Andy Richardson – (01582 502400) or vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org.

Sea Sunday: Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health. Sea Sunday is Sunday 10th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.

Parish Finances: Much the easiest way to support the parish financially is through a standing order directly from your own bank account. The information required for this is as follows:

Bank; **NatWest**
Sort Code; **60-06-11**
Account Number; **46898093**
Account Name; **Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust**
Payment Ref; Parish Name/Area: **(St. Gregory's, Northampton)**

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group continues to pray together online via Skype and by telephone.

Pilgrimage of Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life: Walsingham National Catholic Shrine, Saturday 6th August, 12pm. Please see poster for details or contact Christopher & Margaret on (01858) 571242.

Unholy Mathematics: We now have the full figures for the last financial year. Leaving aside the one-off expenditure on the kitchen, we have made a small surplus over the year. However, the energy bills for the coming year will be a problem. There is more information on our financial situation opposite. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, and if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Employment Opportunities at the Diocese: For details of opportunities visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/> or via email hradmin@northamptondiocese.com

Planned Giving Envelopes: If you use envelopes, please take your new box from beside the confessionals. Standing orders are managed by the Diocesan Finance Office, and the parish does not always have full details.

Wednesday evening Bible Study by Zoom: 8 week course on Romans led by Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, subtitled "The Gospel of Salvation".

No session on 6th July

Session 7, 13th July Chapters 12-13:

Session 8, 20th July Chapters 14-16: The End of the Story.

Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

Choir Matters: Practices start after evening Mass, 1st Thursday each month: 7:45-9pm. Dates Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6. Old age & infirmity are catching up with some familiar voices - including myself - & new members are needed... the view from the Gallery is great. *Alec*.

Food Parcels: Please get in touch with Gregory Care (07434669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We have had a great year and our last session will be on Tuesday 19th July and we re-start on Tuesday 6th September!!

Refreshment Donations: Below is the schedule for refreshment donations through the year:

From the first Sunday in Advent to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord: **The Hope Centre**

From the Second Sunday in ordinary time to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday: **Gregory Care**

Through Lent and Eastertide: **CAFOD**

Ordinary Time until the end of August: **Refreshment Fund**

September until the Harvest collection: **CAFOD**

After harvest until the beginning of Advent: **The Bible Society**

Prayers for Ukraine: Please continue to pray for an end to the war in Ukraine:

O God, author and lover of peace,
to know you is to live,
to serve you is to reign.
Defend against every attack
those who cry to you
so that we, who trust in your protection,
may not fear the weapons of any foe.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen

Scripture Readings 10th July 2022, 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

The book of Deuteronomy, the “second law”, evolved over many centuries. It restates the Jewish Law and the covenant God made with Abraham. Our reading starts with an imperative, but this follows “if”: “you will prosper if” you choose to follow God’s law. And God’s Law is not difficult to find: it is written “in their hearts”. Put the covenant into practice, and so choose life, not death.

The Psalm implores God to save him from unmerited suffering. The reference in an omitted verse to “vinegar to drink” and the expectation that “God will save Zion” led Christians to think of Messiah – Christ.

In this beautiful hymn from Colossians Paul spells out the awesome reality of Christ: “Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God”. We know God through Jesus. Jesus is fully human in the way God intended all humanity to be, and so He shows us

the way to God. But reconciliation comes with a proviso: “that you continue in the faith”.

Jesus has rejoiced and given thanks with the 70 disciples for their successful mission. He then responds to a sincere questioner by updating the Jewish Law to what was originally intended. Everyone is our neighbour. The priest and the Levite were more concerned with ritual purity than with love.

Psalm Response: **Seek the Lord, you who are poor, and your hearts will revive.**

(Deut 30:10-14; Ps 68(69):14-37; Col 1:15-20; Lk 10:25-37)

Chris Oliver

Repainting the Church

Fortunately, not the whole church, just the North aisle, where the wall has become discoloured due to water penetration when the roof gutter had become blocked. This was last done in 2011, and only took a week with a team of about a dozen people. Much fun was had in the process!

This will begin on Monday 11th July, after the 9.00 Mass, and will continue throughout the week. Some have already volunteered their help; but anyone is welcome — just come! However it is

best to contact Cliff Snelling at cliff.snelling@btinternet.com, to make sure that there is work progressing. There will be no painting on Wednesday morning.

We also need more people to join the rota for refreshments after the Sunday Masses, especially after 11.00. The hope is to have sufficient people so that it will come round not more frequently than one week in five. Please see one of the people with badges on to find out more!

Alpha in the Autumn

Each time we run the Alpha Course there are more people who speak of how much they have enjoyed it, and how it has deepened their faith and understanding of what life in Christ actually means. Please think about coming on the next one!

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which is in the hall and in person. It is highly recommended for everyone, and is very enjoyable. Each session starts with a good meal (A proper evening meal, not just a snack), then we watch a film together about our faith. After the film we have a conversation around our table about what we have seen and heard. Please come, and if you can, bring a friend. There is no charge, but donations are cheerfully accepted. For catering purposes, please register at www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha Many people have found this valuable for themselves, but this is also an easy way for anyone to fulfil the wish of Pope Francis that we all become Missionary Disciples. Just come and bring a friend!

First session:	September 20th 2022:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	September 27th 2022:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	October 4th 2022:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	October 11th 2022:	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session:	October 18th 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	October 25th 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session:	November 8th 2022:	How does God guide us?
Away-Day:	November 11th - 12th:	Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
Eighth Session:	November 15th 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	November 22nd 2022:	Why and how should I tell others?
Tenth Session:	November 29th 2022:	Does God heal today?
Eleventh Session:	December 5th 2022:	What about the Church?

The Primacy of Evangelisation

The world of politics and Parliament are of little or no interest to some, although when it comes to the hard realities such as the cost of living, taxes and benefits or national security, we all should take notice. Recently, it has been the moral integrity of government that has been under the spotlight.

It has been noticeable that while many have found recent revelations about the alleged behaviour of some politicians to be disturbing, others seem un-worried.

The French philosopher Joseph Maistre said that “every country gets the government it deserves”. When few people turn out to vote, increased influence and power is given to the activists, and the ordinary well-meaning people have less influence.

The vast majority of the population will have no vote or influence in who our next Prime Minister will be. We may well hope that

whatever government emerges will be one which sets a greater value on truth and integrity; which sets a high moral tone.

If we really want to see a government with high standards; a country with laws that truly reflect God’s values; a society in which the most vulnerable are protected from conception to natural death; a community in which there is justice and equity, before a government is elected, those values must be held by the electorate.

For that to happen, we need to communicate God’s values, but we cannot expect those who do not believe in God to hold to his values or put into practice his teachings.

If we feel a discontent about the state of our nation, evangelisation must be the first course of action to bring about a remedy. It will not bring about an immediate result, but in the long-term is the only way in which we can hope for good and honest political leadership.

How Alpha Works — and Why

Alpha works because it uses the same methods that Jesus himself used. It uses personal contacts. Jesus said to Andrew: “Come and see” (*John 1:39*), and it is the same invitation that we make. Like Jesus, who so often in the Gospels is seen at a meal with others, Alpha is set in the context of a meal. It is not Mass, but could be seen as looking forward to when everyone at Alpha can share in the Eucharistic meal — what theologians call an ‘allegory’ of the Mass. St Paul speaks of ‘children in the faith’ not being ready for solid food (*1 Corinthians 3:1-2*), and Alpha is like coming to see Jesus in the person of some of his disciples. Having ‘come and seen’, people are free to make their own decision. Thankfully, many decide to get to know Jesus better. Alpha is also ideal for the Church community as it uses so many different talents and skills, and does not force people out of their ‘comfort zones’. It needs the talents of the cooking team; the team who prepare the room, the table hosts and table leaders. It needs the skill of the technicians, and of musicians. Above all, it needs the support of prayer, and it needs people to invite others to ‘come and see’.