



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

Decision Making in the Church

One of the fruits of the Second Vatican Council was the institution of the Synod of Bishops. While the Synod of Bishops has taken place up until now as a gathering of bishops with and under the authority of the Pope, the Church increasingly realizes that synodality is the path for the entire People of God. Hence the Synodal Process is no longer only an assembly of bishops but a journey for all the faithful, in which every local Church has an integral part to play.

“Synod” is an ancient and venerable word in the Tradition of the Church, whose meaning draws on the deepest themes of Revelation. Composed of a preposition *σύν* (with) and the noun *ὁδός* (path), it indicates the path along which the People of God walk together. Equally, it refers to the Lord Jesus, who presents Himself as “the way, the truth and the life” (*John 14:6*), and to the fact that Christians, His followers, were originally called “followers of the Way” (*cf. Acts 9:2; 19:9,23; 22:4; 24:14,22*).

The Second Vatican Council reinvigorated the sense that all the baptised, both the hierarchy and the laity, are called to be active participants in the saving mission of the Church (*Vatican II, Lumen Gentium, §32-33*). The faithful have received the Holy Spirit in baptism and confirmation and are endowed with diverse gifts and charisms for the renewal and building up of the Church, as members of the Body of Christ. Thus the teaching authority of the Pope and the bishops is in dialogue with the *sensus fidelium*, the living voice of the People of God. The path of synodality seeks to make pastoral decisions that reflect the will of God as closely as possible, grounding them in the living voice of the People of God. It is noted that collaborating with theologians – lay, ordained, and religious – can be a helpful support in articulating the voice of the People of God expressing the reality of the faith on the basis of lived experience.

The current Synodal Process the Church is undertaking is guided by a fundamental question: *“How does this ‘journeying together’ take place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one), allowing the Church to proclaim the Gospel? and what steps is the Spirit inviting us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?”*

This process is intended to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people’s hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.

The theme of the Synod is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.”

There are three dimensions of the process: Communion, Participation, and Mission. These three dimensions are profoundly interrelated. They are the vital pillars of a Synodal Church. There is no hierarchy between them. Rather, each one enriches and orients the other two. There is a dynamic relationship between the three that must be articulated with all three in mind.

We are a diverse people; even at a parish level and certainly within the Universal Church spread throughout the world, but we find our deepest roots in the very nature of the Trinity. Together, we are inspired by listening to the Word of God, through the living Tradition of the Church, and grounded in the *sensus fidei* that we share. We all have a role to play in discerning and living out God’s call for his people.

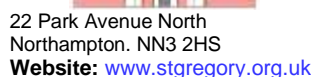
A call for the involvement of all who belong to the People of God – laity, consecrated and ordained – to engage in the exercise of deep and respectful listening to one another. This listening creates space for us to hear the Holy Spirit together, and guides our aspirations for the Church of the Third Millennium. Genuine efforts must be made to ensure the inclusion of those at the margins or who feel excluded.

The Church exists to evangelize. We can never be centred on ourselves. Our mission is to witness to the love of God in the midst of the whole human family. This Synodal Process has a deeply missionary dimension to it. It is intended to enable the Church to better witness to the Gospel, especially with those who live on the spiritual, social, economic, political, geographical, and existential peripheries of our world. In this way, synodality is a path by which the Church can more fruitfully fulfil her mission of evangelization in the world, as a leaven at the service of the coming of God’s kingdom.

The Synodal Process is not a sort of Church Parliament, in which in order to govern one side must defeat the other. It is contrary to the spirit of synodality to antagonize others or to encourage divisive conflicts that threaten the unity and communion of the Church.

“That they may all be one” (*John 17:21*). This is the ardent prayer of Jesus to the Father, asking for unity among his disciples. The Holy Spirit leads us deeper into communion with God and one another. The seeds of division bear no fruit. It is vain to try to impose one’s ideas on the whole Body through pressure or to discredit those who feel differently.

We will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks as the Diocese of Northampton, in common with every diocese across the world engages with this question.



10th October 2021
Twenty Eighth Sunday of the Year
Parish Mass Book - Year B
Page 80

Priest:
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: priest@stgregory.org.uk
Deacon:
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com
Pastoral Assistant:
Maria Heath
E-mail: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk
Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 621807

Sunday <i>28th Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.00 pm 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Paddy Mullan The Parish Mary Vickery's Intentions
Monday St. John XXIII	9.00 am	Mass	Mary Rumsey & Family
Tuesday St. Wilfred	9.00 am	Mass	Barbara Weiningei RIP
Wednesday St. Edward the Confessor	9.00 am	Mass	Pat Doheney RIP
Thursday St. Callistus I	9-10am 7.00 pm	Holy Hour of Adoration Mass	Joseph Sobiski & Family
Friday St. Teresa of Jesus	9.00 am	Mass	Thanksgiving
Saturday St. Margaret Alacoque	9.00 am	Mass	Marie Azedo's Intentions
Sunday <i>29th Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.00 pm 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	The Parish Peter Morgan RIP Barbara Murray

Normal opening times: Due to the relaxation in restrictions, the Church will be open every day from 8.45 am until 5.00 pm, except on Thursdays when it remains open until 7.45 pm

Your Offering to the Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £291.01. Thank you!

Standing Order gifts to the Parish:

Each week £486 is given through standing orders.

Donations through the Diocese:

An average of £77 is given each week.

Gift Aid benefits to the parish:

The value of Gift Aid averages £88 per week

Second Collection Last Week:

CAFOD £299.86. Thank you!

Cleaners This Week:

The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.

Counters This Week:

CC & MB.

Readings for this Sunday

Compared with wisdom, I held riches as nothing.

Wisdom 7: 7-11:

The word of God can judge secret emotions and thoughts.

Hebrews 4: 12-13:

Go and sell everything you own and follow me.

Mark 10: 17-30:

Readings for next Sunday

Isaiah 53: 10-11; Hebrews 4: 14-16; Mark 10: 35-45. (Page 82)

During this season

The Environment; Teachers & pupils;

Of Ordinary Time, autumn.

The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; Young People;

We are asked to pray for:

Prisoners & their Families: Victims of War.

COVID precautions continuing

With the ending of legal restrictions, there are some who feel confident, and there are others who are still cautious, particularly those who are themselves or have family members with medical conditions which make them vulnerable. The principle that we should adopt is that we need to take the precautions that we feel to be appropriate, & understand that others may be either more or less cautious than we are. The reality is that the infection is still rampant, & the numbers of infected people in Northampton is considerable. We must act responsibly. Whatever anyone may feel for themselves, we must all think of others, & therefore it is prudent to continue the precautions that we are taking in the church, which will last into the foreseeable future. Social distancing in Church, mask-wearing, hand sanitising & the daily cleaning of the church must also continue. Singing from behind masks is allowed, but the use of hymn-books is still not recommended. The additional 12 noon Mass continues while we keep social distancing, & good warning will be given about when this will end. The toilets can be used if necessary, but please will users apply sanitiser as necessary.

Please get in touch with Gregory Care (07434 669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

Please pray for the sick:

[illegible]

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Catherine Hoare	Raymond Douglas
Francis Byrne	Zena Goff
Tom Whelan	John Albion
Cian Coles	Michael Atkinson
Badih Moufarecge	Sean Cadman
William Higginbottom	Bernard Heitzman
May Wrighton	Donald Hart
Eric Muddiman	Patrick Connolly
Rose Naylor	Monica McMahon
Kathleen French	Maud Kennedy
Winifred Prendergast	Mary Behan
Maureen Graney	Brendan Duffy
Kathleen McAdam	Anne Philip
Esther McKenna	Dennis Costello
Henry McGill	Concertina Pagani
Francis Bolton	Maragret Smith
Etheline Smith	Peter Morgan
Giuseppe Anzalone	John Chapman
Alfred Smith	Patrick Kennedy
Malcolm Smith	Stan Simkus
Theresa Casey	Amelia Koslowska
Jacqui Brewer	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER

That every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

An act of Spiritual Communion

I prostrate myself at your feet, O my Jesus,
and I offer you the repentance of my heart,
which abases itself in its nothingness
and in your Holy Presence.
I adore You in the Sacrament of your Love;
I desire to receive You in the poor abode
that my heart offers You.
While awaiting the happiness of Sacramental
Communion, I wish to possess you in spirit.
Come to me, O my Jesus, that I may come to You. May
your Love inflame my whole being
in life and in death.
Jesus, I believe in You, I hope in You,
I love You. Amen.

Pope Francis [20 March 2020]

Notices of Interest

Choir Matters: The Choir excelled themselves at the Confirmation on Friday evening. A big 'Thank-you' to them, to Alec & to Rosemary. Alec says "I'm delighted by the addition of 3 new members to our choir. This has enhanced what the choir can offer, though Covid prevents the choir being at full strength. We now need a younger organist to counter dodgy eyesight & weak knees! Transition from keyboard to playing the organ is easy & brings fresh challenges; eventually you learn to use your feet too!"



We welcome into the family of the Church
Nicolas Santiago Maull-Neal and
Estrella Luz Maria Eastman-Gonzalez
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for them and their families.

Bible Alive for October 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 a few more helpers prepared to stand for a few minutes after Mass – all stock is marked, so an easy task! Particularly, for the special Christmas sale of cards, calendars and gifts, help is needed. This is just for six week-ends; it is not taking on a job for life.

Kathleen Healey (01604) 629103

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next preparation will be in the Sacristy on Mon. 18th October, 7pm. Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: The information and registration meeting is **next Sunday 17th October** after the 12:00 Mass. If you have a child, or children, who would like to make their First Holy Communion next Summer it is essential that you and your child attend this meeting. We look forward to meeting you.

Confirmation in 2022: The next Confirmation programme will be announced soon, but there will be a time of reflection before any definite plans are made. Please keep looking at this space where information will appear.

News from the Foodstore! We as a parish continue to support the Cathedral Foodstore by supplying toiletries to add to food bags. The Cathedral supply these provisions each week to families in need from around Northampton. Please donate what you can, & continue to pray for this work. Many Thanks, *Gregory Care*.

Zoom course on the Mass: Continuing on Tuesday evenings there is the Alpha course, and on Mondays there is a course entitled "A Biblical Walk through the Mass". There are two more sessions: Mondays, 4th and 11th October, starting at 7.30 pm. Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School: Reception in 2022: Parents' Open Morning, Monday 18th October 2021 10.00 a.m. We look forward to welcoming you to our lovely school! Join us for an information session and tour, to view our school and see learning in action!

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We will be in the hall from 9:30-11:30 each school week Tuesday! If you have care of a baby or pre-school child Tuesday mornings why not join our very friendly & fun group? We only charge £1 for an adult & however many children they bring & this includes snack & all activities!

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

Parish Finances: Continued thanks for the wonderful generosity that you are showing to the parish, but please note the piece in finances under 'Money Matters' elsewhere in this newsletter.

Standing Order via Donor's Own Bank. You can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using either your on line bank account or in branch. The information required to make the donation 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)**

SPUC- Silent Prayer Vigil: Wednesday 1st Dec. the Northampton branch of SPUC is starting a weekly silent prayer vigil in St Giles Terrace, Northampton. The members will stand in silent prayer to give public witness to the two 2000 babies killed by abortion at the local branch of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, situated in Albion House, St Giles Terrace. Abortion is a dreadful crime against women and babies. As Christians we all have a duty before Christ to actively stop it. You are invited to join us. For further details please contact William Currie on wpcurrie@btinternet.com or 07393965643

SPUC - Tiny Feet Coffee Morning: You are invited to our SPUC 'Tiny Feet' coffee morning, 10am-12pm, Sat. 13th Nov, in the Parish Hall. Please come & give your support to our Pro Life event. Money raised will go towards the work of the SPUC. Every little thing we do, with God's grace, will make the world Pro Life & reject the horror of abortion. Thank you.

Courses for Readers: The Bible Timeline course will start on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7.30 pm. on 13th October. All are welcome, but those who proclaim the Scriptures at Mass are particularly encouraged to take part. Please email to Fr Andrew for further details.

Up-cyclers: We have a few metal-framed chairs which have been in the Sacristy for some time, but whose upholstery has got damaged, and no longer comply with health and safety regulations, but could be up-cycled to make garden chairs. Maybe a winter project to be ready for next summer! This must be a better fate for them than to be taken to the tip. Free to a good home, or a suitable donation accepted!

Sunday 17th October: As Pope Francis states "Climate Change is a global problem with serious implications". He states that it represents one of the principal changes facing humanity. He will be coming to Glasgow for COP26 summit in November. CAFOD has organised a petition to The Prime Minister who will be hosting the COP26 summit. The climate emergency must be dealt with urgently to prevent global temperatures rising above a disastrous 1.5 degrees. The wealthy countries have caused this problem but it will impact on us all but even more severely on the poor. Please can you sign a petition card and return it to the Church Office, or sign up on line. They will be available after Mass and will be forwarded to CAFOD by Aideen Fogarty. There is also a day of action planned for 7th November which will take place in locations throughout the country, and Northampton is hoping to organise one. More information will be available soon. Please keep this in your prayers. It is said that wearing one more jumper and lowering your thermostat by one degree will make a significant difference to climate change, as well as to your gas bill.

Scripture Readings 10th October 2021, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

The last of the Old Testament books to be written, the Wisdom of Solomon was written to encourage Jews living in the rational Greek culture of Alexandria. Today's reading is part of a speech ascribed to Solomon, describing what Wisdom is, and why we should seek her. Solomon prayed and was given wisdom which he sees as "a breath of the power of God", "a reflection of eternal light", "an image of God's goodness". And so to be desired above all riches.

The Psalm, attributed to Moses, compares God's awesome eternity to the shortness of Moses' and our lives, asking God for wisdom, so that our work be firmly based. Filling our short lives with God's love is all we need to be full of joy.

The Letter to the Hebrews has insisted Jesus, a man like other men, is capable of leading into God's rest those who hear and

obey "the living Word of God", which, like a sword, can unfailingly "judge secret emotions and thoughts".

Jesus continues to teach on his way to Jerusalem: the rich man appears to have heard the good news, but does not have the wisdom to let go of his riches. How hard it is to do so! We cannot practise this wisdom without God's help.

Psalm Response: **Fill us with your love so that we may rejoice.**

(Wisdom 7: 7-11; Psalm 89(90): 12-17; Hebrews 4: 12-13; Mark 10: 17-30)

Chris Oliver

A WEEKEND JOURNEY TO EMMAUS

Hosted by Mission Northampton

**A heart warming journey with Jesus
as he explains the Scriptures.**

Saturday 27th November, 10.00 am–8.00 pm and

Sunday 28th November 10.00 am–4.00 pm:

a commitment to the whole weekend is essential.

Venue:

**St. Thomas Centre, Northampton Cathedral, Primrose Hill,
Kingsthorpe Rd, Northampton, NN2, 6AG.**

Details of how to register & pay coming soon.

**Please email your interest to: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk
to reserve your place.**

Coming soon:

"Catholicism — The New Evangelisation"

**Starting on Monday 18th October, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
and running for 6 weeks on Mondays at 2.00 pm**

"The Catholic Faith is not about myths or legends, symbols or literary devices. It's about an encounter so overwhelming that you want to tell the whole world. It's an encounter with Jesus Christ. Throughout history the call of Christ has sent people to the corners of the earth with a message of great joy — a message that has built civilisations, inspired cultures and even sent some believers to prison and others to their graves.

We have the same call. That is evangelisation

A course by Bishop Robert Barron, delivered by Zoom!

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer Adsumus Sancte Spiritus, the first word of the Latin original meaning, "We stand before You, Holy Spirit," which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, being attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we are called to embrace this synodal path of the Synod 2021-2023, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to operate within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. For the Synod 2021-2023, we propose to use this simplified version, so that any group or liturgical assembly can pray more easily. Please use this prayer yourself, and we will use it to close the Prayer of the Faithful at each Sunday Mass as the Synodal Process continues.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

Money Matters

In last week's newsletter under this heading a likely shortfall in parish finances was predicted. There are several factors which contribute to this; probably the most serious will be the rise in gas prices. Last year our total gas bill was £1,335.24, and the church does not benefit from the domestic price cap, so if the rise in wholesale prices is carried through to the end user (as it surely will be), we could be looking at an additional £4,000 in heating costs. There is good news as well as bad on that front; at present we are waiting for a spare part for one of the boilers, and until it comes we

cannot run the church or hall heating, so we can be saving a bit of money. On the other hand, this might not be entirely good news!

The rise in gas prices is likely to be a bigger issue to us than the rise in the money the Diocese needs for its central funds, but the end result is the same: we need to increase our income (or shiver).

We are blessed with some who are giving with enormous generosity, and it would not be right to be asking more of them. But we all can be prayerfully asking if what we are giving is right for us.

St Gregory's next Alpha:

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which we are hoping will be able to be 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. It is good to have established believers as well as potential converts and those who simply want to know more about our faith. 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

First session:	21st September 2021: Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	28th September 2021 Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	5th October 2021 Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session	12th October 2021 How can I be sure of my faith?
Fifth Session	19th October 2021 Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session	9th November 2021 How does God guide us?
Seventh Session	16th November 2021 Why and how should I read the Bible?
Away-Day	19th -20th November 2021 Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session	23rd November 2021 How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session	30th November 2021 Why and how should we tell others?
Tenth Session	7th December 2021 What about the Church?
Eleventh Session	14th December 2021 What about the rest of my life?