



# 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

# 70 YEARS YOUNG

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 1954 Bishop Parker blessed and opened the new church of St Gregory's, which makes today the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that day.

Like many who have reached that age, there are signs of ageing, but in spite of the passing of the years, the building is in good shape, and thanks are due to many people who, over the years have contributed to the care and maintenance of the church.

The history of the parish, written by Des Keohane records:

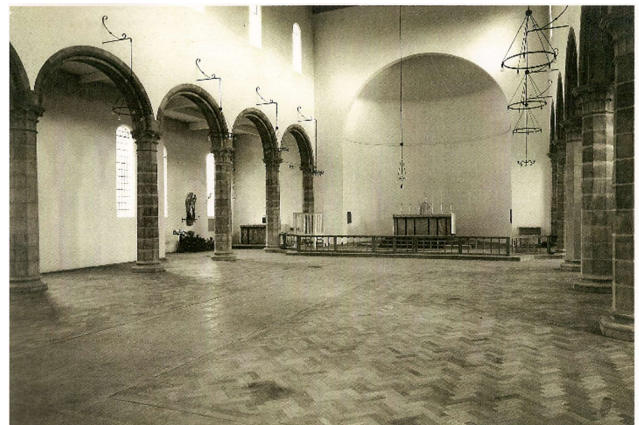
The Official Opening of the new church took place on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1954. It was the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and was specifically chosen by Father Phillips, as befitting his strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin and his attachment to Lourdes. The ceremony was conducted by Bishop Leo Parker, who was that day celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of his consecration as a bishop. Also present were Dr Joseph Rudderham, Bishop of Clifton, and Dom Christopher Butler, Abbot of Downside. Bishop Rudderham had been Administrator of Northampton Cathedral, before his elevation in 1949, and was familiar with the St. Gregory development. Abbot Butler, later Auxiliary Bishop in Westminster and well-known in his day as a contributor to television discussion programmes, was a Downside friend of Father Phillips. The Mayor and Mayoress of Northampton, Alderman and Mrs W A Pickering, also attended with officers of the Borough Council and local dignitaries, and a large number of parishioners. All processed from the temporary church and filled the new church to capacity. After blessing the church, Bishop Leo Parker celebrated Pontifical High Mass. A Celebratory Lunch followed in the Abington Parochial Rooms. There was much supportive coverage of the opening in the local press.

There will be few still living who were there at the time, and maybe many of those who have moved into the parish more recently will know little about the origins and early years of the parish. There are copies of the history (up to 2009) on sale in the repository.

The architect chosen to design our church was Sebastian Comper, the son of a famous church architect, Sir Ninian Comper, one of whose most famous works is the Anglican church of St Mary in Wellingborough, and also designed the interior of the Holy House in the Anglican Shrine at Walsingham.

The church was designed in the Roman Basilica style, a style harking back to the churches of early Christian times. The main features derive from the basilica or hall of the Roman era, which encompasses a long central chamber with rows of pillars and two or more side aisles, a high roof to the central area with clerestory (high level) windows, and usually a semi-circular apse. In Roman

times the apse was where an important personage would be seated, so in Christian churches it was the appropriate site for the altar. Comper believed that a church should always give focus to the altar, and the height and space of the chosen design enabled him to do this. The commissioned photograph, before seating was installed, best illustrates this.

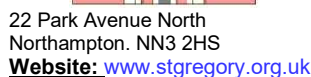


Comper necessarily adapted to the difficult building conditions of the post-war Fifties and the financial restraints which were set.



Stressed concrete beams, rather than steel, were used in the structure. The containing walls are brick and he chose rustic flettons as they weather well, and he strengthened these walls with buttresses containing a concrete

core. The internal pillars and architraves are reconstituted stone. The flat roof carries the potential problems associated with such roofs. and in 1970 the roof was given a copper covering by the specialist firm of Braby's: effective, but not without its critics at the time on grounds of cost. The floor is made of wood blocks. The architect disliked radiators, which he deemed intrusions on the spaciousness that he valued, and because they made dirty marks on the walls. He had installed, therefore, a "plenum" system by which the heat rises from a series of grilles in the floor. Bearing in mind the height of the church, this has not been without problems. (Extract from Des Keohane's history of the church.)



11<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Sixth Sunday of the Year  
Parish Mass Book - Year B  
Page 63

**Priest:**  
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015  
E-mail: frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org

**Deacon:**  
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com

**Parish Secretary:**  
Caryll Comley ☎ 713015  
Email: parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org

**Safeguarding representative**  
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

|   |                                    |  |   |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|
| .Sunday<br><i>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday<br/>of the Year</i> | 9.00 am<br>11.00 am<br>5.00 pm     | Mass<br>Mass<br>Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)     | Brendan Moen<br>The Parish                                      |
| Monday<br>Feria   | 9.00 am<br>11.45 am                | Mass<br>Funeral Mass                         | Eileen Delaney RIP<br>Dulcy Nicholas RIP                        |
| Tuesday<br>Feria  | 9.00 am                            | Mass   | Thanksgiving  |
| Wednesday<br><i>Ash Wednesday<br/>(Page 72)</i>         | 7.00 am<br>9.00 am<br><br>7.00 pm  | Mass<br>Mass<br><br>Mass                     | The Parish<br>Sr. Beena & Sr.<br>Lilly's Intentions<br>John RIP |
| Thursday<br>Feria                                       | 9-11 am<br>7.00 pm                 | Holy Hours of Adoration<br>Mass              | Joe Collins RIP   |
| Friday<br>Feria   | 9.00 am                            | Mass   | Maureen Cahalane's<br>Intentions                                |
| Saturday<br>Feria                                       | 9.00 am<br>9.45 am                 | Mass<br>Confessions                          | Gary Kieran   |
| Sunday<br><i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday<br/>Of Lent</i>      | 9.00 am<br><br>11.00 am<br>5.00 pm | Mass<br><br>Mass<br>Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite) | Dec'd Members of<br>the Moen Family<br>The Parish               |

**Your Offering to the Parish:**

Last Sunday's collection was £349.56. Thank you!

**Standing Order gifts to the Parish:**

Each week £580 is given through standing orders.

### **Donations through the Diocese:**

An average of £90 is given each week.

**Gift Aid benefits to the parish:**

The value of Gift Aid averages £136 per week.

### Cleaners This Week:

The Church is cleaned and sanitised on a regular basis.

### Counters this Week:

CC &amp; LA

**Readings for this Sunday**—*see inside for details*

**Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46:**

*The leper must live apart: he must live outside the camp.*

**1 Corinthians 10: 31-11: 1:**

*Take me for your model, as I take Christ.*

**Mark 1: 40-45:**

*The leprosy left him at once and he was cured.*

### Readings for next Sunday

**Genesis 9: 8-15; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 12-15. (Page 75)**

### During This Season

Candidates for the Sacraments; Penitents & Wanderers;

of Lent. We are

Women's World Day of Prayer; Survivors of Sexual Abuse:

**Asked to Pray For:**

The Needy & Hungry of the World.

## The Idea of the Jubilee

The origin of the 'Jubilee' is to be found in the Bible: after 49 years (7 x 7 years) you shall have the trumpet sounded loud to proclaim the Jubilee Year. (see *Leviticus 25:8-13*) The word 'jubilee' comes from Hebrew name of the rams horn trumpet, 'yobel'.

Jesus refers to the Jubilee as his ‘manifesto’, quoting Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord”. (*Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 61:1-2*)

The tradition of the Christian Jubilee or ‘Holy Year’ began in 1300, called by Pope Boniface VIII. From 1470, the Jubilee was held every 25 years, although there have also been ‘extra-ordinary’ Holy Years to mark significant anniversaries or occasions, most recently the Year of Mercy in 2015.

Just as the original Jewish Jubilee was a year of forgiveness and liberation, so the Christian Jubilee is a celebration of forgiveness, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important part of this liberation.

The traditional pilgrimage venue was Rome, and each of the four Papal basilicas has a special door which is only opened in Holy Years, as a sign of entering a new phase in life after forgiveness. In 2015, recognising that the cost of getting to Rome was too much for many people, each diocese in the world was asked to have “doors of mercy” so that no one was prevented from participating in the Holy Year.

**Please Pray for the Sick:**

[illegible]

**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Michael Cawley       | Emily Middleton    |
| Elizabeth McMahon    | Grace Hurrell      |
| Lucy Willett         | Avvocatina Falcone |
| William Moore        | Peter Brittain     |
| Zbyszek Wasiukiewicz | Ivy Myles          |
| Juris Dimpers        | Sarah Timlin       |
| William Fossey       | Joseph Daly        |
| Ollie O'Brien        | Thomas Hall        |
| Maude Woods          | Kathleen Osbourn   |
| Frances Marsden      | Patricia Gunning   |
| Harold Miranda       | Yvonne Lucovich    |
| Albert Bryant        | Bradley Forskitt   |
| Louise O'Neill       |                    |

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS**  
**FOR FEBRUARY:**

We pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment



# Notices of Interest

**Repository:** The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. We still need more helpers especially after 9am Mass. I want to express a huge thank you to the loyal band who make the whole enterprise possible! Any queries or volunteers to 01604 629103 or [Kath.healey.789@gmail.com](mailto:Kath.healey.789@gmail.com)

**Bible Alive** for Lent is now available - only £3.00! If you wish to purchase a copy, they are in the narthex as you come into church. December is now sold out! There are, however, several small booklets of Walk with Me available for Advent. Please see the table in the Narthex.

**Big Sleep Out:** Siobhan & Lorna wish to thank everyone who supported the sleep out for the Hope Centre. We raised £2297 between us. We still have some more money from sponsors to collect. Please put in an envelope with your name on it & hand it into the Office or give to clergy. Thank you for your generosity and Prayers. *Siobhán and Lorna.*



## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next session will be on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

**First Holy Communion 2023:** All sessions are on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates, times have been given to all those who are registered.

**Confirmation in 2024:** There will be practical sessions through February & March, & then teaching sessions from April. Email to [childrens.liturgy@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:childrens.liturgy@stgregory.org.uk) for further information.

**Church Cleaning:** Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (**next - Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Feb**), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially younger, more energetic ones!

**Tots @ St Gregory's:** St Greg's Tiny Tots runs each Tuesday in term time from 9:30-11:30 in the church hall. We charge £1 per group which includes snacks & coffee! If you have care of a pre-school child, please join us!!

## Refreshment Donations:

Below is the schedule for refreshment donations through the year:  
From the first Sunday in Advent The Hope Centre  
to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:

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

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 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 |

**Mission Northampton:** Weekly Zoom course entitled "Secrets of Paul", lasting 10 weeks on Wednesdays starting 10<sup>th</sup> Jan and running until 20<sup>th</sup> Mar (with a break for half-term on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb). There is a charge of £10 for the course - visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/secrets-of-paul-online/> to register.

**Cathedral Foodstore:** Our continued thanks to all who donate to the toiletries for the Foodstore. Please remember that the Foodstore is open to everyone who may be experiencing hardship. Food can be purchased at substantially reduced prices (as it now operates as a food larder) All that is required is a form of ID and a genuine reason for needing to use the larder. It operates between 10:15 - 12:15 every Thursday in the St Thomas Centre (behind the Cathedral).

**Choir Notes:** The next practices will be on Saturday mornings of Lent, 11-12:30: Feb 17 and 24; Mar 2, 9, 16, 23 as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. After that it will be May 4. *Alec*

**Fire Safety — Important notice.** Unlit candles **must not** be placed on the trays under the places for candles and candles must not be stacked one on top of another.

**Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group** prays together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Hall: 10am-12 pm.

**As we prepare for the Jubilee year** in 2025 as 'Pilgrims of Hope' you are invited to join our diocese on pilgrimage. There are plenty to choose from including the Shrines of Northern France in Oct. 24, Lourdes in Aug. 24, Walsingham in June 24 and Assisi in 2025. For more information on all of these pilgrimages and our diocesan walking pilgrimage, 'The Way of Our Lady of Guadalupe' visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/pilgrimage/>

**Light up Lent (29<sup>th</sup> Feb - 7<sup>th</sup> March)** is our diocesan Week of Accompanied Prayer, a retreat in everyday life. Begin or deepen your prayer life, get to know the Scriptures better, & above all, grow in faith & love for the Lord who loves you. With one-to-one support each day for a week, via Zoom, from an experienced prayer guide. Find out more here & at our introductory webinar on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 7:30-8:30pm. <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/event/lightuplent/>

**Bishop David** is seeking experienced Directors/School Governors to represent his wishes on the Duns Scotus Trust – the diocesan body that has ultimate oversight of all diocesan schools and reports back to the Trustee. For an information pack or to discuss this volunteer position, please contact Debbie Main at [debbie.main@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:debbie.main@northamptondiocese.org)

**The Diocese** are currently recruiting for a Pastoral Development Worker to help our pastoral areas & parishes identify mission & community needs & to work with local groups to discern & implement their local vision. The role will be 37.5 hpw on 3 year contract - weekend & evening work. For full info & application form go to <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/>. Closing date Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Interview dates to be confirmed. All candidates should complete an application form and email it to: [hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org)

**Urgent Appeal- SPUC:** In relation to the Criminal Justice Bill, Labour MP Dame Diana Johnson is persisting with amendment NC 1 which would effectively remove any legal safeguards with regards to a woman procuring her own abortion at any stage of pregnancy, up until natural birth. Please write to your Member of Parliament asking them to vote against the amendment when it is presented to MP's (date not yet known). To find your local MP go on the local government website or the SPUC. For further information or for assistance in framing your letter please contact William Currie on [wpcurrie@btinternet.com](mailto:wpcurrie@btinternet.com) or text to 07393965643. Thank you

**The Secrets of St Paul:** A 10 week course on Zoom run by Mission Northampton, starting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and running until Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 7.30-9.00 pm. (Break for Ash Wednesday & half term: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February). Book at: <https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/secrets-of-paul-online>

**Household Support Fund:** West Northants Council have received further funding from Dept. of Work & Pensions to support eligible residents until 31 Mar 24. Support available for West Northants residents earning less than £450 per week. Anyone who is eligible should visit <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/claiming-benefits/household-support-fund>

**On Saturday 2nd March,** Margaret and Barry Mizen will visit the St Thomas Centre at Northampton Cathedral to share their incredible story.

**Ash Wednesday** is a day of fast and abstinence. Fasting means that the amount of food we eat is considerably reduced. Abstinence means that we give up meat and other particular kinds of food or drink or forms of amusement. Those over eighteen are bound by the law of fasting until the beginning of their sixtieth year, while all over fourteen are bound by the law of abstinence.

## Prayer for Peace for Ukraine and the Holy Land:

Please continue to pray for an end to wars, and for all victims of war:  
**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**

# Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February: The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year, Year B

Leviticus, the third book of the Pentateuch, describes rituals used by the priests. Laws and rituals kept Israelites in the state of legal purity to which they were called, as a sign of their union with the Lord. A leper had to live apart in a dishevelled state, warning people to keep away. A cleansing ritual was specified for anyone cured.

This penitential Psalm celebrates the joy of confessing sins and knowing forgiveness. An omitted verse describes the misery of deferring confession.

Paul continues his theme of not placing obstacles which might hinder the spreading of the gospel. The Corinthians should eat whatever is put before them. They should not risk giving offence to their host, even if they suspect some food is ritually unclean by being offered to heathen gods before being sold in the market. But

they should not eat food that they are told has been offered to idols – because that would offend their informant's conscience.

Mark's gospel continues with another healing, this time Jesus shows enormous tenderness in insisting that – of course – he wants to heal the leper. And he does so by touching the unclean leper – so becoming unclean himself. Jesus makes very visible how much God wants to heal us.

Psalm Response:

**You are my refuge, O Lord;  
you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

(Lev 13: 1-2, 44-46; Psalm 31(32): 1-2,5,11; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1;  
Mark 1: 40-45)

Chris Oliver

## Ash Wednesday is this week!

Easter falls quite early this year; Ash Wednesday is on 14<sup>th</sup> February. The day before is Shrove Tuesday ('Mardi Gras'), a day for 'Carnival' (literally, 'good bye to meat' before Lent), probably a more suitable day for 'Valentines' celebrations: pancakes and red roses!

### PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED DATES

#### Friday Stations of the Cross

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 16 <sup>th</sup> February | St Gregory's |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> February | St Matthew's |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> March     | St Gregory's |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> March     | St Matthew's |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> March    | St Gregory's |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> March    | St Matthew's |

Among the Lent activities, there will be Station of the Cross, shared with St Matthew's on Friday evenings at 7.30.

There will also be Stations of the Cross each Sunday at 2.30 pm in St Gregory's.

There will be other Lent resources, particularly on prayer which will be announced soon.

**Thursday Holy Hour & Adoration:** Holy Hour remains as Holy Two Hours, from 9am until 11am. It is important that at least two people are present throughout the time of adoration. During cold weather, Adoration will be in the Hall.



#### Bishop David writes:

This year of 2024 has been designated by Pope Francis as a particular time of prayerful preparation for the forthcoming Jubilee Year in 2025, *Pilgrims of Hope*. We are invited to reflect upon the central place of prayer within our life of discipleship. And of course, there are many places in which we pray. We pray as individuals. We may pray within our families. We pray as communities when we gather for the liturgy. What a privilege it is to be able to come into the presence

of our Trinity God and through prayer, enter into a relationship with the Father, His Beloved Son and the Holy Spirit.

We pray in many different ways. There is praise and worship, adoration and thanksgiving. We make confession and repentance of our sins. We respond to the Holy Scriptures by meditation. We intercede with intercession for our own needs, the needs of family, friends and community, those who face warfare and hunger in our world.

During this year we focus on the *Our Father*. This prayer, given to us by the Lord Jesus Himself, is the heart of all prayer. It is worth reminding ourselves, saints used these very words to pray to our **heavenly Father**.

*We Dare To Say* is a five-week faith-sharing resource on these words we pray every day. It is a prayer which unites all Christians of every tradition. It is a prayer born out of the Heart of Christ in His prayer to His Heavenly Father. And that's why we respond to the privilege of sharing this prayer in the liturgy by saying, we dare to say.

Please know that I pray this prayer for you all every day. Let us keep each other in prayer as we pray the Our Father in preparation for the Jubilee Year.

*Bishop David*

www.cjmmusic.com/songs

## Born For This

BY JO BOYCE

Weston Favell Academy students will be taking to the stage to share a moving and powerful depiction of the Stations of the Cross. The performance will be at St Gregory's Church at 7.00 pm on Weds 27th March (lasting approx. an hour) It is FREE to all. Donations welcome.

## PILGRIMS OF HOPE

AN EVENING WITH BISHOP DAVID OAKLEY

Bishop David will be coming to our parish on Monday September 9<sup>th</sup> to reflect on what it means to be a pilgrim of hope. He will answer questions from those present and pray together as a community. It will begin at 7.00 pm

You are invited to attend and invite those who wish to discover more of the beauty of our Catholic faith.

**Donorbox:** St. Gregory's has now signed up with Donorbox to enable people to make donations to the Church via a QR code. This is a safe & easy way of making a one-off donation without having to have cash on you!

If you have a smartphone, just point your camera at the QR code, click the link & the site will see you through the donation process. There is a larger version of this QR code in the Narthex area and in the hall for refreshment donations!

