



The Catholic Parish of
Saint Gregory the Great
Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234092

Behold the Lamb!

John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.' *John 1:19*

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
The Rite of Mass

Dear friends,

HAPPY CHRISTMASTIDE!

Today we have arrived at the last liturgical day of the Christmas season. I hope the Mass you participated in for **The Solemnity of the Epiphany** caused you to come away with hearts that were rejoicing; just as the Wise Men rejoiced when they encountered the Christ Child in the family home of Our Lady and St Joseph.

Together we have arrived at this celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. First, we acknowledge that the Baptism of the adult Jesus and the preaching of the challenging prophet St John are far less attractive than the arrival of a Baby and the visit of angels, shepherds and the Magi! Secondly, we must ponder why Jesus is being baptised by St John. When people went to St John they did so in acknowledgment of their sins; for the washing of Jewish baptism symbolised the leaving behind of such sin. However, Jesus had no sins to repent of, hence why St John objects to Jesus' request that He be Baptised. Therefore, as Pope Benedict XVI said, it was our sins that Jesus Christ took with Him into the waters. Consequently, **Jesus "liquifies" sin by being plunged into the waters of the River Jordan.** So yes, Jesus took upon Himself our sins, and those of the whole world, first in His Baptism and then in His passion and death on the Cross of Calvary.

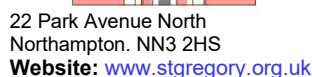
Therefore, in His Baptism Jesus is anticipating His passion and death. **Likewise, our own Holy Baptism was a sharing in the death and resurrection of the Lord.** In the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we died with Christ and we will rise with Him into eternity, that is, if we carry our cross and follow Him every day. So yes, Baptism for the Lord Himself, and for each of us, leads to the Holy Cross and to the triumph of the Garden of the Resurrection! Easter, of course, being the next great season of joy which awaits us.



Deacon Michael,
Fr Wayne,
Canon Bennie
and Fr Tony
join me saying:

**Let us
be full of
Christmas
joy today!**
Fr Christopher

*Artwork by
SilentFaithArt
(Etsy store)*



Year A, Page 129

Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

[illegible]

Please see Fr Wayne for more details.

11.00 am
The Parish

Payment Ref - Parish Name/Area: **(St. Gregory's, Northampton)**. Please remember that if you pay income tax, the Church can reclaim this on your giving: £2.50 for every £10 given.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is observed from 18th to 25th January and the Scriptural theme this year is Ephesians 4:4 - “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling.”

“When the king of heaven was born, the heavens knew that he was God because they immediately sent forth a star; the sea knew him because it allowed him to walk upon it; the earth knew him because it trembled when he died; the sun knew him because it hid the rays of its light.”



Over the coming months look out for details regarding the founding of the '**Confraternity of the Holy House, Corby**' in our parish. Life Membership is just £5 to cover the cost of the lovely enamel badge and prayer card.

Thank you! Fr Christopher and Fr Wayne offer their sincere appreciation for the great generosity that was shown to them via the Christmas Eve/Day collections and extend their gratitude for the cards and gifts they received in honour of Jesus' Nativity.



Marking the anniversary of the **Second Vatican Council's** decree on the Priesthood, Pope Leo's Apostolic Letter "*A fidelity that generates the*

future" aims for a more profound understanding of the training, ministry and role of Priests.

Please pray for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood, especially within our Diocese.



Hopefully you have marked your home with the chalk that was blessed at Holy Mass last Sunday; this honours the visit of the Magi to the family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph!

Small bottles of Holy Water will be available to take home after Mass today (11th January) as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. This Holy Water can be used to bless one's home (using the text in the next column), to bless a grave, to bless a car, etc. but it is not for drinking.

NEW YEAR HOUSE BLESSING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

When Christ took flesh, He made His home with us. Let us pray that He will enter this home and bless it with His presence. May He always be here among us; may He nurture our love for each other, share in our joys and comfort us in our sorrows.

Sprinkle your front door with Holy Water saying:

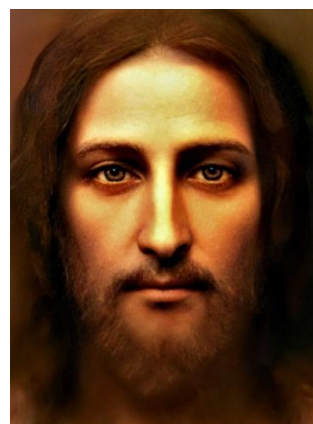
Let us pray: O God, protect our going and coming. Let us share the hospitality of this home with all who visit us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Pray the **Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.**

Let us pray: Lord, be our shelter when we are home, our companion when we are away and our guest when we return. Then receive us into the dwelling place you have prepared for us in your Father's house, where you live now and ever. **Amen**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Sunday, 25th January is the "Sunday of the Word of God" (instituted by Pope Francis) when we consciously remind ourselves to more attentively engage with the Sacred Scriptures proclaimed at Mass; for here Christ "is made present" as He speaks to us individually and as a community.



The Holy Face of Jesus Novena

This Novena begins on Monday, 9th February and concludes on Tuesday, 17th February (Shrove Tuesday). The prayers focus on the Holy Face of Jesus unveiled on the Holy Cross, making this devotion a wonderful way

to spiritually prepare for Lent. It is being offered for all the Deacons, Priests and Religious of our Diocese and/or for a particular named Deacon, Priest or Religious known to you, that he/she/they will reveal the Holy Face of Jesus Christ to all to whom they minister. Novena Packs can be bought at a **cost price of £2** after Holy Mass on **Sunday, 8th February**. Each Novena Pack contains a Prayer Card, a card to give/send to the Deacon, Priest or Religious for whom you are praying the Novena and a unique set of beautiful Chaplet beads.

*For our young people to colour-in as
we celebrate The Baptism of the
Lord: the final day of Christmas.*

*We hope the children at the Sunday Mass
enjoyed their free Christmas cracker with
the small chocolate gift inside!*



Let us recall the Pope's desire that we pray that all the children of the world will live in peace.