



The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234951

OUR
VISION

**“A truly thriving Catholic community,
confidently and humbly proclaiming the
Good News of Jesus Christ.”**

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VISION

Brothers and Sisters All

Last Sunday Pope Francis signed his third encyclical letter with the title “Fratelli Tutti”; translated as “Brothers and Sisters All”. In the text itself Pope Francis makes it abundantly clear that he is addressing *all* people; he has borrowed the title from the words of St Francis of Assisi.

It would be impossible to do adequate justice to this on a single page, and it is available free to read in the internet.

It is divided into eight chapters:

Dark Clouds over a Closed World

Pope Francis outlines some trends in the world today that he finds running counter to seeing each other as brothers and sisters: the loss of a historical consciousness, the throwaway culture, the stalled expansion of human rights, fear of immigrants, and the superficiality of digital connection that can lead to aggression and polarisation. Francis does not intend to produce an exhaustive list of the world’s social ills, but rather highlights how these issues are all connected by an elevation of the individual over concern for the whole of humanity.

A Stranger on the Road

After the lament of the first chapter, Pope Francis offers an extended reflection on Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan as a “ray of light in the midst of what we are experiencing”. The Holy Father sees in the parable a reminder that the natural love we experience for family members should be consciously extended to those who are strangers to us.

Envisaging and Engendering an Open World

Pope Francis goes on to say that the social, loving dimension of human life is universal, natural, and essential. Love both draws us out of ourselves and draws the ones we love into ourselves. True love also “impels us towards universal communion... By its very nature, love calls for growth in openness and the ability to accept others as part of a continuing adventure that makes every periphery converge in a greater sense of mutual belonging”. This movement toward solidarity does not eliminate differences, but celebrates the beauty of diversity.

A Heart open to the whole World

The Holy Father points to the plight of immigrants in today’s world as an opportunity to better care for our brothers and sisters. The topic of borders and their limitations is a recurring theme throughout the encyclical, and it is directly addressed in this chapter. Since migration is an international concern, an international response is needed. Rather than seeing migration as cause for fear or turmoil, we ought to welcome the fruitful exchange that migrants bring to a community and the opportunities for caring for strangers.

A Better Kind of Politics

Citing St. John Paul II, Pope Francis imagines a nobler politics that puts social love at the forefront rather than economics.

Dialogue and Friendship in Society

Dialogue is a middle path between “selfish indifference” and “violent protest”. Society is built on authentic dialogue, which involves respecting the other’s viewpoint. This is lived out in the hard, but joyful, work of encountering those who are

different than ourselves. For this we can call on the Holy Spirit for the gift of kindness.

Paths of Renewed Encounter

In many circumstances, peace and fraternity require healing between groups who have experienced conflict. Pope Francis outlines some ways to move forward toward lasting peace. He recognizes that true peace must be based on truth, along with justice and mercy.

Religions at the Service of Fraternity in our World

Religions remind humanity of the existence of transcendent truth which is the source of human dignity. Moreover, religious formation fortifies human consciences against the individualism and materialism that underlie the divisions and polarizations in our world. The Roman Pontiff calls for greater collaboration among religions “for the common good and the promotion of the poor” (282).

(Condensed from “The Jesuit Post” <https://thejesuitpost.org/2020/10/an-overview-of-fratelli-tutti/>)



Notices of Interest

Confession: Confession will be available between 9.30 am and 12.00 noon daily, but please email first to arrange a time to ensure that Fr Andrew is free.

Repository - First communion and Confirmation: I have put a small display of cards & mementoes in the Foyer. People can help themselves whenever the Church is open & put payment in the wall box on the right of the Sacristy door. A member of staff will be present after Sunday Masses. **Please remember to observe the regulations on masks & spacing. Only touch items you intend to buy. Items will be cleaned & sanitised regularly. Stay Safe.**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

From 9.00 am to 12 noon on Thursdays, and then following Mass in the evening, until 8.30 pm.

Bible Alive for October is now available. The cost is £3.00. If you want to purchase a copy, they are near the hand-sanitiser in the narthex as you come into church. Please help yourself to a copy of The Crusader.

Office Diary: The new diary for 2021 has now arrived. If you know that you require Masses said for someone next year, please contact the office as soon as possible – dates are taken very quickly.

Supporting CAFOD and the Hope Centre: Please see the respective websites to make donations for CAFOD and / or the Hope Centre:

<https://cafod.org.uk/>

<https://northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), of which CAFOD is an active member has launched a nationwide appeal for funds. CAFOD is working in the most deprived areas of the world, helping local communities stricken by coronavirus to survive by:

- Delivering food to where it is needed most.
- Improving hygiene, handwashing and sanitation at the community and household level.
- Producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention.
- Training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns.

Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal> or use a CAFOD envelope and give through the parish.

Holy Communion and face masks: Please note that wearing face masks is compulsory in churches, & you should wear one if you are not exempt. Stewards are not responsible for policing this, but may remind you that this is now the law. However, you clearly cannot have your mouth covered while receiving Holy Communion! The Church's rule is that you consume the Host before you move away from the minister. Please remove your mask before being given the Host. Priest and Deacon wear face-coverings for your protection.

Becoming a Catholic: For adults interested in becoming a Catholic, the parish runs Journey in Faith process (RCIA). Also offered for adults who are Catholic, but have not received all the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist. Please speak to Alex Heath (07963032175) or Fr Andrew.

Tots @St Gregory's: As with other meetings, Tots has been cancelled until further notice.

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

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Exploring the Post-Lockdown Church – Monday webinars, Pastoral Ministry Office. Week 4: **Building Community in the post-lockdown Church** – Hannah Vaughan-Spruce, Divine Renovation UK Executive Director. The Divine Renovation movement came from a book written by Fr James Mallon, based on his experiences of transforming a church in Toronto. The DR organisation has a lot of expertise in enabling churches to become outward looking, welcoming communities, nurturing missionary disciples. Please go to <http://postlockdownchurch.eventbrite.co.uk> for more information and to register.

Track and Trace: The government have now released their app to support track & trace, & we have a QR code which can be scanned to record your presence at church. This is not obligatory, but should help in the important task of controlling the spread of the virus. As responsible members of society, we should comply with this request. For the time being we are asked to continue to fill in a paper form, but this may change when the electronic system has bedded in.

Electric Organ For Sale: A friend of mine wants to dispose of an electronic organ which has two manuals over 2 octaves each, at least 30 buttons including rhythm and/or chord options and has 8 foot pedals. The make is Kawai. I had a play and found it to be in good working order. My friend would like just a donation (£50 ?). I have seen a used version of the same model using Google at £95. If interested contact Alec, organist for 11:00 Mass or phone (622153). I have photos and a video.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be on Monday 19th October, at 7pm in the Sacristy. **Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend to book your place.**

First Holy Communion 2020: We are happy to announce that enrolment for next year's programme for any child wishing to make their First Holy Communion who is in school year 3, 4, 5 or 6 will take place soon. The enrolment will be on line in December, so watch this space! At the moment we can't give any more details of how or when the preparation will take place but rest assured, it will!

Confirmation - 3rd Preparation Session: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established. There is a provisional date for Confirmation of 21st November at 7.00 pm (Apologies for yet another change — this has been difficult!).

PARISH FINANCES

As we increase our activities, and as colder weather approaches so that we need to turn the heating on, our finances will come under a bit of strain. We have managed to keep solvent through the lockdown; great thanks to all who have been so generous.

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)**

Tip No. 104 Living sustainably with creation: *A food retailer in Northampton prioritises Fairly traded products, organic foods, its motto is People Before Profit, Employs as many people as possible and is a co-operative. Any profits are given to education charities abroad. Is Daily Bread Cooperative successful? They just celebrated 40 years of trading. Let us support them.....*

Tip No. 105 Solidarity with the Poor: Daily Bread Coop has a food donations box for The Hope Centre after the Tills. Try It!

Scripture Readings 11th October 2020, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

After the desolation of the earth and the final judgement, Isaiah describes in mouth-watering detail the great banquet the Lord will provide. It will be on Mount Zion and all peoples are invited. Not only will all sorrows be wiped away, but also the ultimate worry – death – will be destroyed.

The familiar psalm expresses our personal confidence that the Lord is preparing a beautiful surprise for us to enjoy after death.

Our readings from Paul's letter to the Philippians conclude with Paul again thanking them for their continued support and the money they had sent him. God's help enables him to be content whatever his problems, but their thoughtfulness is especially welcome now that he is in prison. He ends his letter with a fond farewell: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit".

Matthew compares the kingdom of heaven to a wedding feast – the heavenly banquet to which all are invited. But if we accept the invitation we must prepare adequately and be willing to participate fully. Otherwise we may still be thrown out. Our membership must be visible to others. We must do more than just belong. Like the Philippians we must share what we have with the community we have joined, and with those in need.

Psalm Response: **In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.**

Isa 25:6-10; Ps 22(23) r.6; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Matt 22:1-14

Chris Oliver

SPUC Pro-Life Chain- Saturday 24th October 2020

On Saturday 24th October, SPUC Northampton, is organising a Pro-Life Chain as part of a nationwide act of witness to the lives of 9 million unborn babies killed by abortion since the implementation of the Abortion Act on 27th April 1968.

It will be silent act of public witness from 11am to 1pm on St Peters Way Northampton (at the side of Carlsberg Brewery)

Please will you come and join us? You can come for the whole event or whatever time you can spare. In an increasingly hostile world for the unborn you could be with us showing your support for unborn children. An act of public witness can be an uncomfortable experience but your efforts may help save a life.

If you are able to attend then please contact William Currie on wpcurrie@btinternet.com or send a text to 07393 965 643

The Season of Creation for this year has technically come to an end. However, creation itself will continue until finally God gathers all things to himself, and in the meanwhile, our responsibility as stewards of creation continues.

The 'Peter's Pence Collection

Peter's Pence represents a small offering, accompanied by grand desires and visions. It is an offering that each member of the faithful decides to give to the Pope so that he can provide for the needs of the entire Church, especially in those places where the Church experiences greater difficulties.

The Pope's charitable works, supported by Peter's Pence, extend, therefore to the whole of humanity. At whose service the structures of the Church exist. There are requests for help that come from populations, individuals and families in precarious conditions. Many await support from the Apostolic See, support that they often cannot find elsewhere". By this openness of the Church today to all people, the Pope is thus an authoritative and disinterested builder of peace and unity among peoples.

Directly referring to the Peter's Pence, Pope Benedict XVI wanted to emphasize its particular ecclesial significance: "Peter's Pence is the most typical expression of the participation of all the faithful in the projects of the Bishop of Rome for the good of the universal Church. It is a gesture that not only has practical value but is also highly symbolic, as a sign of communion with the Pope and attention to the needs of the brethren".

Recent beneficiaries from the Peter's Pence fund include Nepal, following the destruction of much of their infrastructure following the earthquake in 2015. Help has been given to Iran following devastating floods which have displaced 200,000 people. A new children's hospital has been built in the Central African Republic.

During the night between the 25th and 26th November 2019, a powerful earthquake hit the North West coast of Albania, near the city of Durres, leaving dozens of people dead, at least 600 wounded, and

hundreds homeless. The earthquake provoked extensive damage with many buildings and houses destroyed. Further earthquake warnings were issued in other areas of Albania and along the Adriatic coast. Funds were immediately sent to provide emergency relief. Aid was also sent to Mexico to help support the care of the thousands of migrants who have arrived there hoping to travel on to the United States of America. Many of them have walked over 4,000 kilometres from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, fleeing poverty and violence. As the border to America remains closed, large numbers of migrants are there.

Although Ukraine has dropped off our national news, civil war continued there. Support is given to all in need, especially to the elderly and to children, irrespective of their loyalties; to Russia or to the West

In the present pandemic, the fund has provided medical aid to many countries all over the world. This is destined not just to countries that we would think of as 'Catholic', nor just to people who share our faith. Peter's Pence supports charitable works all over the world; in many cases providing aid in response to disasters that never get into our news media.


St Gregory's people are being very generous in supporting the special collections that we are having to catch up with those that were missed during the lockdown, as well as supporting the parish itself. St Paul tells us that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Next Sunday the special collection will be for world Missions, which is the Red Box appeal.

During this time of restricted public worship, please keep reading the Bible. The September “Bible Alive” is now available — see the note elsewhere in this newsletter.



SECOND COLLECTIONS

4 th		13 th September	Holy Places
		October	CAFOD
		11 th October	Peter's Pence
		18 th October	World Mission
15 th		November	World Communications
29 th		November	Day for Life
13 th		December	Home Mission
20 th		December	Sea Sunday

New Instructions for places of worship.

“From Monday 14 September, you must not meet with people from other households socially in groups of more than 6. This will apply indoors and outdoors, including in private homes. This change will simplify and clarify the rules on social gatherings, so they are easier to understand and easier for the police to enforce. There will be a limited number of exemptions. COVID-19 Secure venues, such as places of worship, restaurants & hospitality venues, can still host larger numbers in total but groups of up to 6 must not mix or form larger groups. This rule will not apply to individual households or support bubbles of more than 6 who will still be able to gather together. Education & work settings are unaffected, & organised team sports will still be able to proceed, as will weddings & funerals up to 30. From Monday, this limit will be enforceable in law.” (From the Cabinet Office, HM Government, 9th September 2020).

We are pleased to be able to attend Mass; this is central to our practice of the Faith. Pope Francis is often pointing this out: we live in an inter-connected world, in which we all have a responsibility towards our neighbor, to protect other people from the virus; not just to protect ourselves. Please note the part of the regulations about gatherings **'indoors or outdoors'**, & be careful after leaving the church & in the car-park