



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

Queen Elizabeth II Requiescat in Pace

Almighty God,
You are the author and sustainer of all human life;
grant that your servant, Elizabeth our Queen,
whom you granted a long and happy reign
as Monarch of these lands
may be forgiven her sins and rewarded with that eternal life
promised to all those born again
in the water of baptism and power of your Spirit.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit God, forever and ever,
Amen.

Eternal rest, grant to her O Lord,
And let Perpetual light shine upon her.

May she rest in peace.
Amen.

May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed,
Through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen



**Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster
and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, paid tribute to The Queen:**

“On 21 April 1947, on her twenty-first birthday, Princess Elizabeth said, ‘I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service.’

“Now, seventy-five years later, we are heartbroken in our loss at her death, and so full of admiration for the unflinching way in which she fulfilled that declaration.

“Even in my sorrow, shared with so many around the world, I am filled with an immense sense of gratitude for the gift to the world that has been the life of Queen Elizabeth II.

“At this time, we pray for the repose of the soul of Her Majesty. We do so with confidence, because the Christian faith marked every day of her life and activity.

“In her Millennium Christmas message, she said, ‘To many of us, our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ’s words and example.’

“This faith, so often and so eloquently proclaimed in her public messages, has been an inspiration to me, and I am sure to many. The wisdom, stability and service which she consistently embodied,

often in circumstances of extreme difficulty, are a shining legacy and testament to her faith.

“Our prayer is that she is now received into the merciful presence of God, there to be reunited with her beloved Prince Philip. This is the promise of our faith, and our deep consolation.

“Queen Elizabeth II will remain, always, a shining light in our history. May she now rest in peace. We pray for His Majesty the King, as he assumes his new office even as he mourns his mother. God save the King.”

Prayer for the King

O God, to whom every human power is subject,
Grant to your servant His Majesty the King
wisdom in the exercise of his high office,
so that, always revering to you and striving to please you,
he may constantly secure and preserve
for the people entrusted to his care
the freedom that comes from unity and peace.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
God, forever and ever,
Amen.

Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church
Cora-Lily Sleight
Anna-Rose Margaret Sleight
And Sebastian Ansell Togher,
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for them and their families.

Thursday Holy Hour and Adoration: A request has been made that there be more opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration. From this week, as a trial, Holy Hour will be a Holy Two Hours, from 9.00 am until 11.00 am. However, this can only continue if there are sufficient numbers to sustain it. No one is expected to remain for the entire two hours, come for as long as you can or want to.

Bible Alive for September & 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 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

The God who Speaks: The 'Year of the Word' of 2020 was interrupted by the lockdown, but the Diocesan Bible Study sessions for the Sunday Mass readings are continuing. There will be a session on 'Preparing for Advent and Christmas' on 23rd November and in January there will be an introduction to the Year of Matthew (Year A in the lectionary)

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 26th September at 7.00 pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Important Date for First Communion Families: Sunday 9th October, after 11:00 Mass, there will be an introduction to this year's programme & the opportunity to register children. It is important that at least one parent accompany the children but we welcome whole families! If this day is inconvenient there will be a session at Sacred Heart on the following Sunday (16th) after 10:30 Mass which will be the same. We look forward to meeting you.

Confirmation in 2023: Please watch this space for information.

Our Top Priority: "The Church exists to evangelise". This is the message from Pope St Paul VI, and has been reaffirmed by every Pope since. This applies to every parish, & our main parish evangelistic work is through Alpha. Our next Alpha will be needing help in various departments: you may be specifically asked! Please remember that both Pope Francis & Bishop David are telling us that we must be 'Missionary Disciples' & that we must be 'permanently in a state of Mission'. Your parish needs you; your Diocese needs you; your Church needs you.

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

Thomas Becket Catholic School is happy to invite prospective parents/students to their open evening on Thursday 22nd September 22 from 5pm. Talks will take place in the auditorium at 5.30pm and 6.30pm. Please see the invitation cards at the back of the Church to book your place.

Diocesan Employment Opportunity: The diocese is currently recruiting for a Cleaner to perform cleaning tasks to a high-quality standard, within the St Thomas Centre and The Marian Suite, which are situated on the Cathedral complex. The role will be for 10 hours per week working over 4 days on a flexible basis. Full information for the position & application form <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/>

Choir Matters: Pilgrimage Mass: this is a new & exciting Mass setting by Teresa Brown. It is already in use at 9am & I hope to introduce it at 11am starting this Sunday & during the rest of August. I hope you soon pick it up & are able to join in: remember what one of the Saints said – "the one who sings prays twice". Alec

A course on the Psalms: It is sub-titled "The School of Prayer", with the invitation to 'learn to pray like Christ'. Running on most Wednesdays from 28th September; there will be a few breaks; on 23rd November, 2nd November (All Soul's Day) and 5th October (a meeting which Fr Andrew needs to be at). After Christmas there will be a new course starting: "What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith". This is from the Ascension Press. There is a course in preparation on the history of the Church seen through the lives of saints in the Church calendar, which will run after Christmas

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

Pakistan Emergency Appeal: CAFOD, as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee are appealing for money to relieve the flooding in Pakistan. We are living in times where weather events which have not been seen while records have been kept are occurring very frequently. There will be a special collection this Sunday.

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)**

Money Matters: Last Thursday there was an announcement that businesses and charities would have a fuel cap for the next six months, but the level of this cap has not been revealed (at the time of writing) However, this cap will not take us back to last year's prices, so we cannot expect that we can continue as we have been. We hope not to need heating for as long as possible. The church heating has to be on for two hours before it even begins to warm up, so not running it for weekday Mass is a way of making a considerable saving. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, & if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We have re-started: tots and their carers welcome, 9.30 – 11.30 on Tuesdays during term-time £1 per adult!!

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 11th September 2022, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Earlier in the Book of Exodus God had given Moses the Ten Commandments and many other instructions, which the people had covenanted to obey, sealed by sprinkling sacrificial blood. During Moses' second ascent of Sinai God wrote the Commandments on stone tablets. Meanwhile the people were already disobeying the first Commandment by worshipping a golden calf. No wonder God was angry – Moses pleaded with God not to let the Egyptians win after all. God relented – but Moses then angrily broke the tablets and God had to write them again later!

In this most famous penitential Psalm we beg pardon for our sins, ask to be restored to grace and purity, and promise to make God's mercy known to others.

Over the next 7 weeks we hear from the letters to Timothy attributed to Paul, giving detailed instructions for organising the

developing Christian communities. At that time we hear about only 'deacons' and 'presbyter-bishops' as church leaders. 'Presbyter' simply means 'elder'. The Greek *episcopi* means 'overseer' or 'overlooker'. Later a three tier structure developed: Deacons, Presbyters, Bishops.

In the Gospel Jesus also shows how communities are to be managed: do not allow any members to be lost – the father runs to welcome back his prodigal son. Perhaps the most moving image we have of God.

Psalm Response: **I will leave this place and go to my father.**

(Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 50(51):3-19; Tim 1:12-17; Lk 15: 1-32)

Chris Oliver

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 6th 2022:	What about the Church?

Mists and mellow fruitfulness

The "Season of Creation" began on 1st September, and will continue until 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. The theme this year is "Listen to the Voice of Creation".

John Keats wrote his "Ode to Autumn" in September 1819; this was to be his last autumn in England. The following September he left England for Rome and a milder climate, which, it was hoped, would ease the pain he was suffering. On 23rd February 1821 he died of tuberculosis. His poem, "Ode to Autumn" is among the most popular poems in the English language.

So much has changed in the rural landscape, and the logo of this year's Season of Creation is that of the burning bush. Having lived through a summer of wild fires and droughts, and now seeing the images of the flooding in Pakistan, the images of plenty that are within Keats' poem seem a long way away.



Although there are a few (but vocal) climate-change deniers, the overwhelming majority of scientists and weather experts agree that human activity is a significant contributor to the 'extreme weather events' that we are increasingly seeing, of which the flooding in Pakistan is the most recent.

Most of the remedies lie in the hands of government and big business, and the differences that we can make individually are small, but collectively could make an impact.

With fuel bills rising so much, we have a personal and financial incentive to use less energy. Our new government, although claiming to stick to the net zero commitment, has been promoting policies that point in a

different direction. We must pray and work for a sustainable future for God's wonderful creation.