



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

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (and Gaza)

Peace is not merely the absence of war; nor can it be reduced solely to the maintenance of a balance of power between enemies; nor is it brought about by dictatorship. Instead, it is rightly and appropriately called an enterprise of justice. Peace results from that order structured into human society by its divine Founder, and actualized by men as they thirst after ever greater justice.

The common good of humanity finds its ultimate meaning in the eternal law. But since the concrete demands of this common good are constantly changing as time goes on, peace is never attained once and for all, but must be built up ceaselessly. Moreover, since the human will is unsteady and wounded by sin, the achievement of peace requires a constant mastering of passions and the vigilance of lawful authority.

But this is not enough. This peace on earth cannot be obtained unless personal well-being is safeguarded and men freely and trustingly share with one another the riches of their inner spirits and their talents. A firm determination to respect other men and peoples and their dignity, as well as the studied practice of brotherhood are absolutely necessary for the establishment of peace.

That earthly peace which arises from love of neighbour symbolizes and results from the peace of Christ which radiates from God the Father. For by the cross the incarnate Son, the prince of peace reconciled all men with God. By thus restoring all men to the unity of one people and one body, He slew hatred in His own flesh; and, after being lifted on high by His resurrection, He poured forth the spirit of love into the hearts of men.

For this reason, all Christians are urgently summoned to do in love what the truth requires, and to join with all true peacemakers in pleading for peace and bringing it about.

Motivated by this same spirit, we cannot fail to praise those who renounce the use of violence in the vindication of their rights and who resort to methods of defense which are otherwise available to weaker parties too, provided this can be done without injury to the rights and duties of others or of the community itself.

Nevertheless, men should take heed not to entrust themselves only to the efforts of some, while not caring about their own attitudes. For government officials who must at one and the same time guarantee the good of their own people and promote the universal good are very greatly dependent on public opinion and feeling. It does them no good to work for peace as long as feelings of hostility, contempt and distrust, as well as racial hatred and unbending ideologies, continue to divide men and place them in opposing camps. Consequently there is above all a pressing need for a

renewed education of attitudes and for new inspiration in public opinion.

Those who are dedicated to the work of education, particularly of the young, or who mould public opinion, should consider it their most weighty task to instruct all in fresh sentiments of peace. Indeed, we all need a change of heart as we regard the entire world and those tasks which we can perform in unison for the betterment of our race.

But we should not let false hope deceive us. For unless enmities and hatred are put away and firm, honest agreements concerning world peace are reached in the future, humanity, which already is in the middle of a grave crisis, even though it is endowed with remarkable knowledge, will perhaps be brought to that dismal hour in which it will experience no peace other than the dreadful peace of death.

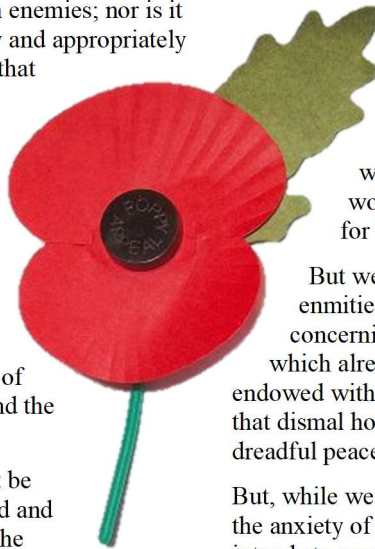
But, while we say this, the Church of Christ, present in the midst of the anxiety of this age, does not cease to hope most firmly. She intends to propose to our age over and over again, in season and out of season, this apostolic message: "Behold, now is the acceptable time for a change of heart; behold! now is the day of salvation."

In order to build up peace above all the causes of discord among men, especially injustice, which foment wars must be rooted out. Not a few of these causes come from excessive economic inequalities and from putting off the steps needed to remedy them. Other causes of discord, however, have their source in the desire to dominate and in a contempt for persons. And, if we look for deeper causes, we find them in human envy, distrust, pride, and other egotistical passions. Man cannot bear so many ruptures in the harmony of things. Consequently, the world is constantly beset by strife and violence between men, even when no war is being waged.

Besides, since these same evils are present in the relations between various nations as well, in order to overcome or forestall them and to keep violence once unleashed within limits it is absolutely necessary for countries to cooperate more advantageously and more closely together and to organize together international bodies and to work tirelessly for the creation of organizations which will foster peace..

From the Second Vatican Council's pastoral constitution "Gaudium et spes" on the Church in the modern world (§ 78, 82-83)

Any act of war aimed indiscriminately at the destruction of entire cities or extensive areas along with their population is a crime against God and man himself. It merits unequivocal and unhesitating condemnation. (Gaudium et Spes §80)



Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church
Elora Mitrica
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for her and her family.

Car Park Safety: Neither the Parish nor the Diocese are responsible for the safety of persons (adults or children), cars or their contents while in the car-park.

Repository: There is a small display of cards & mementoes for Confirmation. Christmas cards, books & items are be on sale. Catholic diaries with the order of the Mass are already available. **PLEASE** can anyone help with sales to help my loyal, small group of helpers. Anyone with a calculator can do it - all items priced! Please note that we can only accept cash!
Contact Kath.healey.789@gmail.com.

Bible Alive for November & December is now available - only £3.00! If you wish to purchase a copy, they are in the narthex as you come into church.

Office Diary: The diary for 2024 is available. If you know that you will want a Mass Intention on a specific date for next year, please see me in the office as soon as possible. Last year many people were disappointed they could not get the date they wanted. *Caryll*

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 Sacristy.

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!!

Food Parcels: Please contact Gregory Care (07434 669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel. There are probably many who are in need but are not receiving help.

An Advent Journey with John the Baptist: 4 Monday evenings, 7.30-8.30pm, from 27th Nov, with Fr John Udris & Avril Baigent. Available on YouTube so does not require zoom & can be played via smart TVs. Here is last year's series to give a flavour of what to expect: https://pastoralministryoffice.org/walking_by_starlight-2/

SPUC: Since 2020, abortion providers have been sending women abortion pills through the post. Evidence from ambulance data had already demonstrated the risks to women of these DIY home abortions, but the horrific consequences of this policy are just emerging: Carla Foster was put on trial after taking abortion pills at 32 weeks, killing baby Lily & leaving her wracked by guilt. Dangerous late abortions are killing viable, near term babies, & exposing mothers to prosecution. Please protect women & babies by signing the petition to the Health Secretary asking for this practice to end now. At the end of Mass on 19th November you will be able to sign a petition card which will be sent to the Health Secretary on your behalf.

Alpha in the Autumn: Alpha is now running weekly on-line, Tuesday evenings. For more info visit www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha

Missio: Thanks & God bless you for your donations on World Mission Day. The Red Box system, or equivalent, continues throughout the year; members will soon be receiving a calendar for 2024 as a "thank you" from Missio. I received the following request from Missio: "During Nov, the month of remembrance, please let us know if any members of your parish Red Box community have gone to their heavenly reward". I have been in touch with Missio & given them a list of names. *Alec*

Choir Notes: As we prepare for Christmas, our next practices are on Saturdays Nov 18 & 25 and Dec 9 & 16 from 11am till 12:30pm. *Alec*

Helpers Needed to clean the Church on the last Saturday of every month, after the morning Mass. All welcome, especially the younger, more energetic ones!

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group continues to pray together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Church, from 10am-12pm.

URGENT NOTE ON FINANCES If you have transferred to standing orders and pay income tax please contact Fr Andrew (preferably by email) so that the Gift Aid can be linked to your donation. Claims can only be made for up to three years, so there is some urgency about this.

Safeguarding: Safeguarding in our community is the responsibility of us all. If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger. It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England & Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased. If you are in any role within our Church, you must refer allegations directly to our diocesan safeguarding office, or directly to the Police.

Fire Safety — Important notice. We have had trays made to go under the racks where candles burn to prevent the possibility of a naked flame falling on unlit candles below. Unlit candles **must not** be placed on these trays & must not be stacked one on top of another.

Parish Requiem: There will be a Mass for the souls of all whose funerals have taken place from St Gregory's over the past year and any others whose names are given in at the beginning of the Mass. This will be on Monday evening, 20th November at 7.00 pm

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 8th January 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 will be on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates, times have been given to all those who are registered. Because of the large number of children, there will be separate sessions for the oldest. All the families concerned have been notified

Confirmation in 2023: Bishop David will give the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Gregory's on Friday 1st December this year.

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

Mission Prayer

Heavenly Father
it is your will that we should make disciples of all nations.
We ask you to bless the mission of our Diocese of Northampton and guide our hearts and minds
so that your will might be done
and your kingdom be build up here on earth.
We pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit,
without which our work is in vain,
and we entrust ourselves to your beloved Son,
for we know that he is with us for all time, now and for ever.
Amen

Prayer 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

12th November 2023, 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

The Book of Wisdom was written in Greek, probably in Alexandria during the century before Christ. It seeks to strengthen faith by recalling the ways in which God rewards his people. But our just God also punishes individuals who act unjustly. We must learn wisdom to live justly in accord with God's justice, and so imitate and be drawn into the life of God.

The Psalm expresses our homesickness for God's sanctuary, our true home, confident that God will help us overcome all our enemies. Good advice: when our minds are empty, as at night – fill them with thoughts of God.

The parousia, when Christ will return – or be revealed in glory – was expected almost daily by the early Christians. But some believers had already died, so Paul reassures the Thessalonians that they will

not “miss out” – they will join everyone else in the resurrection of the dead. Two thousand years later we may now see the parousia at the end of time being anticipated by Jesus revealed to us in every Mass.

Matthew's gospel links the two readings together: we must live justly every moment of our lives so that we may be ready when the Lord calls us to him. We cannot rely on a last chance to repent.

Psalm Response:

**For you my soul is thirsting,
O God, my God.**

(Wis 6:12-16; Ps 62:2-8 r.2; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Matt 25:1-13)

Chris Oliver

Poppies for Remembrance

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
between the crosses, row on row,
that mark our place; and in the sky
the larks, still bravely singing, fly
scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
loved and were loved, and now we lie,
in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
the torch; be yours to hold it high.
if ye break faith with us who die
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.

John McCrae

This poem and another by Moina Michael containing the words: “Poppy Red we wear in honour of our dead” were the inspiration for the annual ‘Poppy Day’ remembrance of the dead in war. It is a mistake to think that the red poppy is in any way a glorification of war, far from it, it is a remembrance of the dead, and the sale of poppies supports the families of those who have died in war and the making of them provides employment to many who have suffered appalling injuries in war.

No one who has lost a family member through war would not wish they had survived or rejoices in the killing and violence; the sheer brutality of warfare.

The Duke of Plaza-Toro in ‘The Gondoliers’ “led his regiment from behind — he found it less exciting.

National leaders in warfare today do not put themselves in harm's way; they too lead from the safety of their bunker or war-room, far away from the front line. They delegate the risk to others, though, should they be successful, they will certainly claim the glory, while others die and others grieve. Soldiers of the First World War were described as ‘lions led by donkeys’, and the description of that conflict as ‘the war to end all wars’ has been shown to be a falsehood. No war will end wars, unless it be the nuclear Armageddon which will only end war by ending the human race, if not all life.

Cathedral Foodstore

The Cathedral Foodstore has now changed from a Foodbank to a Food Larder.

This offers clients an opportunity to choose their own food and toiletries and cuts down the number of bags we used to pack every week (not knowing the client's needs and preferences). We are offering a larger selection of food and a more ‘shopping like’ experience.

Each client is required to demonstrate their need for help then points will be allocated to the household dependent on number of people in the household and ages of children.

A small payment will be required, this will be discussed at the time of registration.

If you know of anyone who may be eligible for this service please contact Philly 01604 714556 or drop into the St Thomas Centre, 1 Semilong Road NN2 6AG (Behind Northampton Cathedral) Thursdays 10:15 to 12noon.

Margaret Mullan RIP

Margaret's funeral Mass will be on Thursday 22nd November at 11.30 am. Her body will be received into church on the evening of Wednesday 21st November at 5.00 pm. May she rest in peace

THE PEOPLE OF GAZA AND ISRAEL ARE IN NEED OF HELP

Surely everyone has been shocked and saddened by the devastating conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. By last Tuesday more than 10,000 people had been killed and over 1.4 million people been displaced from their homes; many more by the week-end.

Last week it was noted that the word ‘ceasefire’ had itself been weaponised, and this week it is being suggested that to go on a demonstration in support of the Palestinians in Gaza is a ‘Hate March’. The tragedy of this argument is that there is now a serious risk of the ‘far right’ groups organising a counter-demonstration, leading to violence. It has become difficult to be even-handed as

simply pleading and praying for peace is regarded by some as taking sides. It would seem that on both sides, there are those who are actively seeking conflict. It is clear that the extremists on both sides are seeking an impossible outcome. The state of Israel does exist and has a right to continue to exist, and the equating of the Palestinians to the Amalekites (*see 1 Samuel 15:3*) as Prime Minister Netanyahu did on 29th October this year is equally outrageous.

Many aid workers have been killed in this evil conflict, and whatever it is called, we must pray that the fighting and killing will stop, and leaders be found who will work for peace and co-existence with justice and equity.