



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

The Importance of Safeguarding

What is safeguarding?

Every human being has a value and dignity which we as Catholics acknowledge as coming directly from God's creation of male and female in his own image and likeness. We believe therefore that all people should be valued, supported and protected from harm.

In the Catholic Church this is demonstrated by the provision of carefully planned activities for children, young people and adults; supporting families under stress; caring for those hurt by abuse in the past; ministering to and managing those who have caused harm.

It is because of these varied ministries that we need to take all reasonable steps to provide a safe environment for all which promotes and supports their wellbeing. This will include carefully selecting and appointing those who work with children, young people or adults at risk and responding robustly where concerns arise.

Safeguarding Children

The term 'child' is used to include all children and young people who have not yet had their 18th birthday.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- ✓ Protecting children from maltreatment;
- ✓ Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
- ✓ Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;
- ✓ Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

Churches provide a wide range of services for children; and religious leaders, staff and volunteers have an important role in safeguarding and supporting children and families.

Children may be in need of protection from abuse or maltreatment in their own home or in other environments including the church itself. Wherever a child is at risk or concerns are raised about a child, all adults have a duty to act to safeguard that child and promote his or her welfare. All concerns should be responded to equally, always bearing in mind that the welfare of the child is paramount.

In all research and in reviews where a child has died or been seriously injured as a result of abuse, the same messages to all organisations come back time and again – namely, the importance of adults responding promptly to concerns, listening to children with respect and most importantly, communicating effectively with one another within and between organisations and agencies.

All churches and faith communities are expected to have in place arrangements which include:

- ✓ Procedures to respond to and report concerns
- ✓ Codes of practice
- ✓ Safe recruitment procedures

Child Protection

Is a part of safeguarding and refers to the activities undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering 'significant harm'.

Significant harm

- ✓ 'Harm' means ill-treatment or the impairment of health or development, including for example, impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another;
- ✓ 'Development' means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development;
- ✓ 'Health' means physical or mental health; and 'Ill-treatment' includes sexual abuse and forms of ill-treatment which are not physical.

More information about 'significant harm' and types of abuse can be found in the Information Sheet 'Abuse of Children' on the CSSA website.

Safeguarding Adults

In the same way arrangements must be in place to respond to concerns about any form of abuse or maltreatment of an adult at risk.

The Catholic Church in England and Wales is fully committed to:

- ✓ Actively promoting the empowerment and well-being of adults through the church;
- ✓ Recognising that everyone has the right to live their life free from violence, fear and abuse; and
- ✓ Recognising that adults have the right to be protected from harm and exploitation.

All adults acting in the name of the Catholic Church in England and Wales have a responsibility to act and intervene when it appears that adults at risk need to be made safe from risk of abuse or maltreatment.

The Church is fully committed to working actively and constructively within the framework set out in the Care Act 2014 and associated statutory and good practice guidance.

To achieve this, the Church will act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working in partnership with Adult Social Care Services, the Police, Health Agencies, Probation Providers and other relevant agencies to safeguard adults and assist in bringing to justice anyone who has committed an offence against an adult at risk.

Anyone who brings concerns or allegations to the notice of the Church will be responded to sensitively, respectfully and seriously. All concerns and allegations will be addressed using these national procedures and in a timely manner.

More information on abuse of adults can be found in other information sheets on the CSSA website.

Notices of Interest

Car Park Safety: Please remember that Parents/Carers are responsible for children in their charge whilst using the car park. 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: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass wherever possible! 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.

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

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.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be reported here shortly. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Enrolment for 2024 will be Sunday 8th Oct. after the 11am Mass. There will be a welcome to the children who are registered & their parents at the 11am Mass on Sunday 5th Nov. All sessions will be on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates and times will be available at the registration. Please see the separate article on the way the programme works.

Confirmation in 2023: Confirmation sessions will resume in September, and those enrolled will be receiving an email with details.

Food Parcels: Please contact Gregory Care (07434 669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

Choir Notes: our next practice is after evening Mass on the Holy Day of the Assumption of Our Lady 15th Aug.

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

Alpha in the Autumn: The sessions will start in September, and will be an 'on-line' course through Zoom. However, so that those on the course can meet face-to-face, there will be a welcome session the week before the official start, on Tuesday 12th September in the Hall at 7.15 pm. Please register at www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha and the zoom link will be sent out in the week before each session. For any who live far away, we are sorry if you are unable to get to the 'face-to-face' session on 12th September, please do not let this put you off joining the course.

Parish Finances: At the end of the first quarter of the financial year (April to June) our finances have been fairly stable – we have had a small surplus of £317.35. 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)**

The Feast of St Gregory and the Anniversary of our Consecration

The 3rd of September is our Parish Feast, and Sunday 3rd is celebrated as the Feast of the Anniversary of the Consecration. The feast of St Gregory will be celebrated on Friday 1st with Mass in the evening at 7.00 pm, followed by refreshments in the hall. Contributions of food for the party will be welcomed! Please note the date, and come!

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.

Tots @ St Gregory's: Our last session this term was on Tuesday 18th July. We start again on Tuesday 12th September at 9:30.

Dog lovers wanted! Hearing Dogs for Deaf People urgently need volunteers to care for and help train their gorgeous puppies. For more information, ring 01844 348122 or email volunteer@hearingdogs.org.uk

Electrical Hazards: We have recently had our statutory fixed wiring test, which was overdue thanks to the pandemic. The good news is that there were no serious deficiencies, but a number of repairs are needed to be done and in a few areas where the regulations have changed some up-dating is required to achieve compliance with the latest standards. While doing this it seems sensible to update the lighting to the latest LED lamps which will significantly reduce our electricity consumption and therefore our carbon footprint, particularly in the winter. The lights in the side aisles and at Our Lady's shrine have already been changed. The plan is to change the lights in the nave before the clocks change in October. The circuit breakers for the hall lights are now obsolete, and must be changed; this is work in hand. Part of safeguarding is to ensure that in every respect the church is as safe as possible for all who come here.

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

13th August 2023, 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

The books of Kings, Joshua, Judges and Samuel tell the story of Israel from entering the Promised Land until frequent unfaithfulness leads to exile. After Elijah successfully called on God to produce rain, and killed all the failed prophets of Baal, he fled from Jezebel's threat of revenge to Mount Horeb, ie Sinai. After Elijah recognises God in "a light murmuring sound" – "a sound of fine silence", God promises a remnant of faithful Israelites will survive, and gives Elijah more tasks.

In the Psalm a prophet, after the return from exile, first listens to hear what the Lord has to say, and then reports the joyful future happiness revealed to him.

Paul shows the Romans just how great is his agony that most of the Chosen People have failed to recognise God in Jesus: he would be willing to give up even his own hope of salvation "if it

could help my brothers of Israel".

Matthew describes a small group who do recognise Jesus, and are willing to step out into the unknown to be with him. Jesus encourages them: they have "little faith", but it is enough for them to believe that he is "Son of God". (Matthew teaches what the disciples understood after the Resurrection, although Mark says "they did not understand".)

Psalm response: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help

(1 Kgs 19:9,11-13; Ps 84(85); Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33)

Chris Oliver

Thank you for your generosity

We aim not to run at a deficit, and thanks to your generosity, we have shown a small surplus for the three months from April to June. This is important for us as a parish, but it is also important for the diocese, to help recover the finances of the collective parishes.

Even before lockdown, Diocesan reserves were very low, and coming out of the pandemic the situation is even more extreme, and parishes have needed to increase their contributions.

Fynnius Fogg in Abington Park Today

Fynnius Fogg who will be playing at the Cathedral Hall on 2nd September, raising funds for the Foodstore will be playing in Abington Park this Sunday afternoon from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Tickets will be available after Mass today at £12:50 for the fund-raising evening at the Cathedral Hall on 2nd September. This is to raise money for the Foodstore – Supper is included!

Artificial Intelligence and World Peace

Pope Francis' message for World Peace Day on 1st January 2024 will focus on the need to ensure that emerging new digital technologies are used in a responsible way, at the service of humanity and contribute to the promotion of justice and peace in the world.

Pope Francis has repeatedly called for making "the intrinsic dignity of every man and every woman the key criterion in evaluating emerging technologies."

There is a wide-spread concern about society's increasing reliance on digital technologies, and the impact that such systems can potentially have on the general good of humanity.

For many, the advances in this field are as disruptive as the Industrial Revolution – with advocates keen to point out the unimaginable benefits that the technology can bring us, whilst sceptics and critics warn of a society controlled, and even perhaps destroyed, by rogue robots.

For the digital theologian (yes, that's already a recognised discipline!) the fundamental concern about AI is that it should never wield executive power because it lacks emotion, which is crucial for moral decision-making. Critics argue that power combined with the absence of emotion, empathy and a moral compass creates 'the perfect psychopath' – a system that is highly intelligent but lacks the essential human qualities to be able to measure (or show concern for) the consequences of its actions.

This decision-making capacity might some resolve some vexing questions – after all, the annihilation of the human species would certainly end the climate crisis – but the prospect of an inanimate machine finding its own highly logical solutions to human problems is not a technology we should be keen to create. However, a highly intelligent machine that can analyse huge amounts of global medical data to make accurate and life-saving decisions about human health, surgery and the distribution of medications would have immeasurable benefits to humanity. The challenge in letting this particular genie out of the bottle is to unleash the benefits whilst still being able to maintain ultimate control over a technology that is being encouraged to develop ideas of its own.

For those who seem less intimidated by the arrival of AI, the arguments are more esoteric, but no less valid. Indeed the ideological divide between threat and opportunity is being defined increasingly in terms of those who believe in a rational world, and those whose arguments have their basis in faith. It is often argued that machines do and will always lack a soul, though there is less certainty amongst experts about how this gives humans a clear advantage over the machines we have created.

The soul is intrinsically indefinable – because of its nature it is both irrational (in the worldly sense) and is beyond human definition.

However complex and manipulative computer technology becomes, it remains a very binary entity that can only process and manipulate what has been input to it, and it can only draw rational conclusions and make rational decisions. One only has to look at the lives of our Catholic saints to understand that the rational decision in a particular situation is sometimes something far different from the 'correct' decision.

Earlier this year Pope Francis said he was convinced that the development of artificial intelligence and machine learning has the potential to contribute in a positive way to the future of humanity. "we cannot dismiss it," he stated, but also warned: "at the same time, I am certain that this potential will be realised only if there is a constant and consistent commitment on the part of those developing these technologies to act ethically and responsibly."

Clearly, emerging digital technologies have the capacity to do immense good, but equally could become utterly destructive. Whilst they may never pose an existential threat, it's vital that we are having this ethical discussion now, and it's comforting to see that the Vatican is taking a lead in this challenging new societal narrative.

[Abridged from an article published by The Catholic Network 9/8/23]

The Three Bees — The sign of the welcoming Church



Belong

Believe

Behave