



OUR
VISION

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

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You must be transformed

We think of Lent as 40 days in the wilderness, but the Gospel readings take us on a different journey. Last Sunday we read of the temptations that faces Jesus in the wilderness, and noted that all of the temptations were resisted by the knowledge and understanding that Jesus had of the Scriptures. We are challenged to consider whether we have sufficient knowledge and understanding that we can use Scripture to help us to resist temptation.

If, by chance, we realise that our knowledge and understanding is not good enough, there are regular courses, in particular the ‘Bible Timeline’, which can help us to grow in this.

On the second Sunday of Lent each year we read the Gospel of the Transfiguration. At first sight, this may seem to be out of place if we are still in the wilderness, but it is a significant turning point in the Gospel narrative.

Each Lent should equally be a ‘turning-point’ in our life. We began Lent on Ash Wednesday, and perhaps heard the words “Repent and believe the Gospel” as we received the ashes. The word ‘repent’ means ‘turn’; every genuine repentance is a turning-point; a change of direction. It might be a dramatic and vast change, as when one first comes to faith, or it may be a small ‘course-correction’ to embrace some new virtue or give up some sin. If repentance leaves us unchanged, one may well question its genuineness.

Chapter 9 of St Luke’s Gospel tells of several events that mark this turning-point. At the beginning of the chapter the twelve are sent out ‘to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal’ (*Luke 9:2*). Those who will be the first Apostles are being given a taste of what their mission will be. In verses 7 to 9, we read that Herod wonders who Jesus really is, and this leads us to Jesus asking the disciples who people say he is, and then asking: “Who do **you** say I am”. It is Peter who says: “You are the Christ”. (*Luke 9:20*)

Jesus then, for the first time, speaks of his death, and tells the disciples that they must “take up their cross daily and follow me”. (*Luke 9:23*)

“About eight days later” (*Luke 9:28*) Jesus takes Peter, James and John up ‘the mountain’ to pray. ‘The mountain’ is not identified in any of the Gospel accounts; Matthew and Mark tell us it was a ‘high mountain’. In the 3rd Christian century the scholar Origen suggested that it might have been Mount Thabor, and a number of churches and monasteries have been built there, but Thabor is a long way south from Caesarea Philippi, and many modern scholars would suggest Mount Hermon as the actual site as it is nearer. Maybe the fact that we are not told means that it doesn’t matter, and we have to understand the event in a different way.

However, if it is Mount Hermon, it is geographically a turning point as this is the furthest north that Jesus goes, and from there “he set his face to go to Jerusalem”. (*Luke 9:51*)

For the next three Sundays, we hear Gospel passages relating to things that happened on the journey to Jerusalem.

The event of the Transfiguration clearly made a deep mark on those who saw it. Peter writes: “He received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased’. We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain”. (*2 Peter 1:17-18*) It is what inspired John to write: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.” (*John 1:14*)

We, albeit, second hand are shown the glory of Christ on the mountain-top. But we also see Jesus transfigured in another way. In the Blessed Sacrament we see Jesus; his appearance changed. St Luke in today’s account tells us specifically that ‘his face changed’ (*Luke 9:29*), and in the Eucharist we see the face of Jesus, ‘changed into dazzling white’ (*Luke 9:29*).

The Eucharist has been described as ‘food for the journey’ (*Prayer after Communion at funeral Mass, and the hymn ‘O Esca Viatorum’*), and our journey through Lent continues, from the mount of Transfiguration to the mount of Crucifixion.

The particular scenery of the next three Sunday gospels is one of repentance — the making real in our own life the ‘turning-point’ that we see in today’s Gospel. Quite by chance this week’s Wednesday evening Timeline course covers this period

One important and particular turning-point is one the Catholic Church as a whole has reached is that of the recognition that we and every parish need to become a ‘Missionary parish’, and every Catholic needs to become a ‘Missionary Disciple’.

Exactly how this will work out in the life of each of us will be different for each of us, depending on the particular gifts with which God has graced us. To find a certain answer, we need to pray. It will mean a ‘course-correction’, discovering a new avenue of Christian life and maybe giving up something which is preventing us from the journey that God wishes for us.

Chapter 9 of Luke is one of the longest in his Gospel. It is also one of the most important!

Notices of Interest

The Crucifix facing the road: We hope it will be repaired and replaced before Holy Week.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Amelia Smaci and Anna Smaci
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for them and their family.

Bible Alive for Lent 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 and there is a small supply of St. Patrick's Day & Easter cards. 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*

Easter Flowers: Envelopes are available for donations for Easter flowers on the table in the narthex. If you wish your flowers to be in memory of a particular person, please write their name on the envelope. This will appear in the Easter newsletter.

A message from CAFOD: Thank you to all who donated toward the CAFOD Ukraine appeal last week. Debbie invited all to consider promoting CAFOD in the parish or schools if we wanted to do something to help. If you would like to or just to know more, do get in touch with her: northampton@cafod.org.uk. This week we have the CAFOD's Fast Day collection which supports great need all over the world. Please continue to give as generously as you can.

Hold the Date! There will be a Seder (Passover) meal in the hall on Tuesday April 5th starting at 7.00 pm. This is a wonderful way of growing in understanding of the Mass. More details soon.

Next Alpha Dates: See opposite for full dates and subjects of the evenings.

Annunciation of the Lord: 24 hours of Adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

In honour of the Annunciation of the Lord, there will be 24 hours of Exposition of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. Adoration will start after the 10.30am Mass on Friday 25th March. The 24 hours will conclude with the usual Saturday 9.30am Mass. There will not be any further Exposition that day. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet available at the Shrine and the Sacred Heart Church or contact either the office or Gillian on 07724337202.

Tots @ St Gregory's: TINY TOTS look forward to seeing you: if you have charge of a pre-school child, from 9:30- 11:30 on a Tuesday morning, you are most welcome!

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)**

Parish and Diocesan Finances: We have drawn up a budget for the coming year and submitted it to the Diocese. We are hoping for an increase in giving as more people come back to Mass week by week. If this materialises, we forecast a very small surplus. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, and if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

The Free Dinner: A good number came to the Alpha taster evening; and we are looking forward to the beginning of the course after Easter. Alpha is intended as an introduction to the Christian Faith, but also helps us to deepen our faith. Do come and bring a friend! Please talk to anyone wearing an 'Alpha' badge if you want to know more about it.

Gregory Care Update on Toiletry Donations: Continued thanks to all who have donated toiletries & hygiene products to the Cathedral Food Store. There is a need for shampoo and washing up liquid at present. If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from this please get in contact with Gregory Care through Fr Andrew.

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 4th April, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: Congratulations to those who have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time during the past week. The preparation now turns to the receiving of Holy Communion for the first time, and we look forward to this in May. Thanks also to the parents in providing support and becoming catechists for their own children.

Confirmation in 2022: Application forms now available from the Sacristy after Mass. Please submit form with fee and hand it to a helper on 14th March or 20th March after 9.00 am or 11.00 am Mass. There will not be an option to join after this time. The sessions will run on a Sunday morning from 10.15 am - 11.30 am. Please join us for 9.00 am mass as part of this course. Confirmation Mass is on Saturday 2nd July at midday.

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

Choir Practice in Lent: Fridays 1:45 - 3 pm: Mar 18, 25, Apr 1 & 8. We are now blessed with a strong contingent of men singers but we need more ladies to keep the men in check & to replace others who have become unwell or simply had enough of me. *Alec*

Courses for Readers: The Bible Timeline course continues on Wednesdays, starting at 7.30 pm. on Zoom. Last week we were studying the first nine chapters of St Luke's Gospel which takes us up to the Transfiguration of Jesus. This week we look at the journey to Jerusalem, as told in chapters 10 to 19:27, which takes us to where Jesus is about to enter Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Please email to Fr Andrew for further details. New people are welcome to join!

Pivotal Players: We are looking at Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who was probably the first 'tele-evangelist'. This is a genre that has come in for a lot of criticism due to a small number of fraudulent examples, but new technologies do open up new ways of communicating the Gospel, and the Church should make the best use of the opportunities that we have. In the parish we have a website and a Facebook page and have been using Zoom for on line courses. Please email Fr Andrew for the Zoom links for future sessions.

Repainting in the church: If you can help, please can you contact Cliff Snelling at cliff.snelling@btinternet.com, indicating which weeks (when weather is warmer) you would be available to help.

Scripture Readings 13th March 2022, 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year C

While Abram was wandering round Canaan before 1500 BC, his kinsman, Lot was captured in Sodom. Abram and his allies freed him. To celebrate this victory, bread and wine were brought out and Abram was blessed by Melchizedek, Priest-King of Salem, traditionally identified with Jerusalem. Then the Lord promised Abram a land of his own, an heir, and numberless descendants. A firebrand signifying the Lord's presence, pass between the halves of the animals, a common way at that time of confirming a covenant.

The Psalm asserts complete confidence that God will not abandon but will rescue us, while asking for guidance and protection.

Paul wrote to the Philippians about 60 AD. A devout Jew and Pharisee, Paul has nevertheless concluded that righteousness does not come from the Law but through faith in God, as shown by

Prayers for Ukraine: The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has already cost the lives of many, and threatens the peace of much of Europe. There will be a prayer for peace and for the victims of war included in Mass each day. Please use this prayer yourself.

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

LIFETEEN SUMMER CAMP 2022
Sunday 24th to Thursday 28th July 2022
Alton Castle
For more information and to go to the bookings page visit <https://nymo.org/summercamp/>

A Weekend Journey to Emmaus
(Milton Keynes): Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th March 2022 (£35)

A heart warming journey with Jesus as he explains the Scriptures.

To book please go to:
<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/a-weekend-journey-to-emmaus-march-2022/>

Concert at St Gregory's
Saturday 19th March 2022, 7.30 pm
Northampton Philharmonic Choir
Northampton Philharmonic
Chamber Ensemble and Soloists:
Gabriel Fauré – Requiem
Cantique de Jean Racine
Vaughan Williams — Five Mystical Songs
César Franck — Panis Angelicus
£10.00 admission (Students £5)

James: Discerning God's Will

The course will take place over seven Wednesday evenings on Zoom, from 7.30 to 9.30 pm on: 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March, 6th, 20th, 27th April 2022. (£5)

.To book please go to:
<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/james-discerning-gods-will/>

This Tuesday Evening

Local church choirs are coming to St Gregory's to practice singing Gregorian chant, and sing Night Prayer.

Health and Safety

There is a concern regarding the mix of cars and people in the church car park on Sundays before and after Mass. In particular, small children cannot always be seen by drivers if they are close. Parents and Carers, please make sure children do not run round unsupervised in the car park.

St Gregory's next Alpha:

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which will be 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. It is good to have established believers as well as potential converts and those who simply want to know more about our faith. 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

First session:	April 26 th 2022:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	May 3 rd 2022:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	May 10 th 2022:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	May 17 th 2022:	How can I be sure of my faith?
Fifth Session:	May 24 th 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	June 7 th 2022:	How does God guide us?
Seventh Session:	June 14 th 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Away-Day:	June 16 th – 17 th 2022:	Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session:	June 21 st 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	June 28 th 2022:	Why and how should we tell others?
Tenth Session:	July 5 th 2022:	What about the Church?
Eleventh Session:	July 12 th 2022:	What about the rest of my life?

A way to say 'Thank you': An Invitation to all who volunteer in the Parish

The parish could not function without the help of many, many volunteers who help in a vast number of different ways. Some are very obvious and can be seen; but others are 'behind the scenes' and less visible. We have been going through a tough time in many different ways, and this is a way of saying 'thank you'. On Friday March 18th there will be a dinner in the hall, to which all volunteers

for the parish are invited. There is no charge – this is not a fund-raising occasion, no raffle, no collection plate, just an occasion for the parish to say thank you to all who give so generously. The only condition is that you RSVP to this invitation by email to Helen at helentme00@hotmail.com so that we know the numbers. This week is the last chance to book a place!

This Friday; March 18th

How Alpha Works — and Why

Alpha works because it uses the same methods that Jesus himself used. It uses personal contacts. Jesus said to Andrew: “Come and see” (*John 1:39*), and it is the same invitation that we make. Like Jesus, who so often in the Gospels is seen at a meal with others, Alpha is set in the context of a meal. It is not Mass, but could be seen as looking forward to when everyone at Alpha can share in the Eucharistic meal — what theologians call an ‘allegory’ of the Mass. St Paul speaks of ‘children in the faith’ not being ready for solid food (*1 Corinthians 3:1-2*), and Alpha is like coming to see Jesus in the person of some of his disciples. Having ‘come and seen’, people are free to make their own decision. Thankfully, many decide to get to know Jesus better. Alpha is also ideal for the Church community as it uses so many different talents and skills, and does not force people out of their ‘comfort zones’. It needs the talents of the cooking team; the team who prepare the room, the table hosts and table leaders. It needs the skill of the technicians, and of musicians. Above all, it needs the support of prayer, and it needs people to invite others to ‘come and see’.

DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON LITURGY COMMISSION- LITURGICAL FORMATION



The God Who Speaks - Our Liturgy of the Word



A Series of online Zoom Sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year. A valuable opportunity to develop our engagement with the Scriptures that we hear proclaimed at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass.

Led by the Liturgical Formation Team with presentations by Liz Clark, Fr Allan Jones CRIC, Mgr Kevin McGinnell & Fr Andrew Behrens

Wednesday 23 February 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)

Preparing for Lent

Wednesday 6 April 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)

Preparing for the Triduum

Wednesday 20 April 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)

Celebrating Eastertide

Each session will include input, prayer and the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

Cost: No charge but there will be the opportunity to make a donation

Please register in advance to secure a place by e mail or phone:
email admin@nores.org.uk or phone: 01582 723312 (ext 1)

Once your booking is received you will be sent details of how to join the online Zoom sessions. Thank you.

(Photo from www.pexels.com)

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen

Recently, Revolution Zero have opened a community food larder (social supermarket) in the former UCR Church, The Headlands. Their aim is to make food accessible to everyone & reduce the amount of food going to landfill. 15 items of choice for £5. Please take a look at the link-<http://www.revolutionzero.org/> They have a Facebook page & are open Tues 1-3pm, Wed 1-4pm, Thurs 1-3pm & Sat 11-12 noon.

Thank you again for amazing contributions and please keep this initiative in your prayers.

An act of Spiritual Communion

I prostrate myself at your feet, O my Jesus,
and I offer you the repentance of my heart,
which abases itself in its nothingness
and in your Holy Presence.
I adore You in the Sacrament of your Love;
I desire to receive You in the poor abode
that my heart offers You.

While awaiting the happiness of Sacramental Communion,
I wish to possess you in spirit.
Come to me, O my Jesus, that I may come to You. May
your Love inflame my whole being
in life and in death.
Jesus, I believe in You, I hope in You,
I love You. Amen. *Pope Francis [20 March 2020]*