



# 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

## First Holy Communion Preparation

One of the themes of this day derives from the last line of a famous poem by Lawrence Binyon: “We will remember them”. We do remember in prayer, in love and gratitude for those who have died in warfare. With no slight upon them, those words should equally apply to all those for whom prayers are asked. Today, as well as those who have died in warfare, we are asked to remember those who are beginning their journey towards their first Holy Communion.

This is a journey that they do not make alone, and first among those who travel with them are their parents, and maybe their siblings. Near the beginning of the Bible we find the words: “It is not good that the man should be alone”. (*Genesis 2:18*) Jesus called together a group of people; disciples, apostles; people who soon became a community of faith, and later, inspired with the Holy Spirit, became what we now call the Church.

Those who are preparing for their first Holy Communion are not just members of their domestic household, they are members of the Church, and we are all called to remember them in prayer and to support them in any way we can.

In times past it was common to have a notice-board with photographs and names of all those preparing for First Holy Communion; one of the consequences of the Church taking safeguarding and child protection more seriously has been the ending of this. Its purpose was to encourage prayer. Even without this reminder, we will remember them.

The scheme we use is entitled “Growing Up Catholic”, and it is not just to do with Sacramental preparation but with the entire process of bringing up children as Catholic. As in every aspect of bringing

up children, the first responsibility lies with the parents. The Church must be there to support the parents, but cannot replace the parents.

There was a time when Catholic schools and parishes took on the responsibility and deprived parents of the joy of walking this journey together with their children. We have realised that in doing this we were wrong, but we do need to provide parents with the support they need.

There are sessions for parents and their child together, and together they work through the programme. Over the past few years as we have been using this programme, most of the feed-back has been that parents appreciate this ‘quality time’ with their child. It cannot be an imposition to ask a parent to spend time with their child, although in the present age there always seems to there is so much that needs to be done! A wise grandmother gave this advice to a new mother: “Your child will never remember if its pyjamas were not ironed, but will remember if you didn’t spend time together”. The hours parents are able to spend with their children are so precious, and it is good that the Church is now helping this rather than taking children away from their parents

One of the ways in which the congregation supports the families of those on this journey is through simple human friendship. We invite everyone at Sunday Mass to come through to the hall afterwards, and this is a way of bonding friendships in the community of faith. If yours is a family on this journey, please share in the refreshments offered. If there is a family on this journey sat next to you in church, invite them to come through with you.

But, above all, keep them in your prayers. But be warned! Prayer leads us to action.

## We will remember them

The date of November 11<sup>th</sup>, Armistice Day, goes back to the ending of the First World War, 104 years ago. No one living now will remember that, and there are no living veterans of that war. There are few left who fought in the Second World War

Nearly all who have seen action in war would prefer that the world could live in peace, but the sad reality is that evil is loose in the world, and the playground bully at school can grow older into the national leader who carries on in the same way. He may grow older, but does not grow up — he remains the playground bully, but his playground is no longer the school but another country.

While hating the practice of war, the Church recognises that nations have a right to defend themselves against illegal and immoral aggression.



The war in Ukraine is evidence of the failure of international diplomacy, and as we pray for a speedy and just end to the present conflict, we should also be praying that the United Nations will find a way preventing future wars. Aggressor nations and bullying leaders must learn that just claims can be resolved peacefully. Surely anyone with half a brain can see that the waste of national resources on arms and ammunition adds to the hunger and deprivation of the poorest in their own countries, never mind the rest of the world, not to mention the loss of life and the attendant grief and suffering.

Many of us will have ancestors who died in the wars of the last century, and we will not forget them. Neither will we forget those who are dying in the present conflicts; in the main, those who are forced to risk their lives for the sake of the ambition of others.



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Website: [www.stgregory.org.uk](http://www.stgregory.org.uk)

## 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Thirty Third Sunday Of the Year Parish Mass Book - Year C Page 97

**Priest:**  
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015  
E-mail: frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org  
**Deacon:**  
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com  
**Parish Secretary:**  
Caryll Comley ☎ 713015  
Email: parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org  
**Safeguarding representative**  
Carol McNeil ☎ 621807

Sunday <i>33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Victims of War The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Carlo Marchese
Tuesday St. Albert the Great	9.00 am	Mass	Roseanne Ogbata & Family, Living & Dead
Wednesday St. Margaret of Scotland	9.00 am	Mass	Jim Campbell's Intentions
Thursday St. Hugh of Lincoln	9-11 am 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Mass	For the blessing of Nora Scott & Family
Friday Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter & Paul	9.00 am	Mass	Gerry Boyd RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	Des Keohane RIP
Sunday <i>Christ the King</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Gina & Louigi Mansi The Parish

Normal opening times: Due to the relaxation in restrictions, the Church will be open every day from 8.45 am until 5.00 pm, except on Thursdays when it remains open until 7.45 pm

**Your Offering to the Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £491.34. Thank you!  
**Standing Order gifts to the Parish:** Each week £590 is given through standing orders.  
**Donations through the Diocese:** An average of £116 is given each week.  
**Gift Aid benefits to the parish:** The value of Gift Aid averages £136 per week  
**Second Collection Last Week:** Bishop's Maintenance Fund. £293.54. Thank you!  
**Second Collection This Week:** Sick & Retired Priests' Fund  
**Cleaners This Week:** The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.  
**Counters this Week:** CC & EP

Many thanks to new standing order givers and the increase in giving.

**Readings for this Sunday** (Readers 9am: Jehanne Houghton & Colin Sheehan;  
11am: Linda Fleming)

**Malachi 3: 19-20— see inside for details:** For you the sun of righteousness will shine out.  
**2 Thessalonians 3: 7-12:** Do not let anyone have food if he refuses to work.  
**Luke 21: 5-19:** Your endurance will win you your lives.

**Readings for next Sunday** (Readers 9am: Joel Varghese & Paul Sefton, 11am: Marcelle Brown)  
**2 Samuel 5: 1-3; Colossians 1: 11-20; Luke 23: 35-43. (Page 99)**

**During this season** Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest;  
**Of Ordinary Time, Autumn,** The Spread of the Gospel; Victims of War;  
**We are asked to pray for:** Prisoners & their Families; Children & Young People.

### Up, Down, Up, Down All together now.

The rates of Covid infections are bouncing around, but with no free testing, there can be little certainty of the true rate of infection. However, on the basis of safety, we ask that everyone continues to be cautious. Refreshments will be offered after both Masses, but please remain cautious. Please, everyone, think of the well-being of others. Please remember that if you are ill or caring for an infant or someone who is ill, there is no obligation to do what is impossible! Please pray for all who are suffering with Covid.

**If you feel unwell, DO NOT COME**

### A New way to help the Cathedral Foodstore — Christmas Donation Gift Cards

Christmas Gift cards are available, priced at either £5 or £10, suitable gifts for those for whom you cannot think what to buy. The money helps to buy food for the Cathedral Foodstore, the card is your gift.

Cards can be bought after Sunday Mass or from the parish office on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays

The number of food bags distributed each week is increasing, but so too is the cost of food. Each bag provides 2 days' worth of food, and two items of toiletries per bag. Research shows that when the money is short, toiletries are the first thing people stop buying. You donations come at a time when everyone is under financial pressure so you are providing a life line to those in our community in most need. Many thanks

### Please Pray for the Sick:


### Anniversaries:

#### May they Rest in Peace

Lianan Dolan	Anne Rafter
Hynek Hlustik	Jacqueline Sohal
Bartley Folon	Martin Callaghan
Arthur Cannell	Mary Bamell
Grace Pond	Bridget Lalor
Clara Woods	Rose Madden
Margaret Madeiros	Philip Joseph
Eileen Bell	Stella Lane
Eileen Guy	Terry McMahan
Emme Lewin	Nellie Bartela
John Kennedy	Kellie Falsey
Winifred Grigg	Rudolpho Berni
Margaret Nicholson	George Franklin
Jozef Luha	Norah Holloway
Leo Boullemier	Bridget Rushmore
Paul Hanley	Winifred Wittich
Thomas Allitt	Carmel Smith
John Driscoll	Margaret Byrne
Arthur Lewin	Veronica Sheppee
Alice Jepson	Mary Confue
George Ganderton	Ronald Battle
Florence Treacy	Noel Ridpath
Ann Achong	

#### POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER:

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

**Please pray for the soul of Mary Vickery, formerly head of St Gregory's School, who died on All Soul's Day**

# Notices of Interest

**Bible Alive** for November 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 – Catholic Diaries for 2023 are now available, as are Christmas cards and mementos! 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*

**Thursday Holy Hour and Adoration:** As a trial, Holy Hour will be a Holy Two Hours, from 9am until 11am. 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.

**Advent Retreat:** Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec, St Gregory's Church, 22 Park Avenue North. Starts with Mass at 9am & ends at 4pm. Please bring packed lunch. "The New & Perpetual Pentecost, the coming era of peace. A new springtime for the Church". Derek Williams, catholic lay evangelist, will give a retreat on the gift of living in the Divine Will, a new dawn for the Church. All are welcome.

**Church Heating:** 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. Please come in warm clothing! We will heat the church and hall on Sundays, but the extra cost of this will be more than the saving on weekdays.

**The God who Speaks:** The 'Year of the Word' continues and the Diocesan Bible Study sessions for the Sunday Mass readings are continuing. There will be a session on 'Preparing for Advent and Christmas' on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 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: Important Dates for First Communion Families:** Congratulations to all children who have enrolled on the First Holy Communion programme. You will now have all the dates of sessions. Please try to attend them all, and please enjoy the course!

**Confirmation in 2023:** Please watch this space for information.

**In honour of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** there will be 24 hours of Exposition at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. Adoration will start after the 10.30 Mass on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December and will conclude with 9.30 am Mass on Thursday. If you can commit to an hour please phone Gillian on 07724337202 or just come along. Thank you.

**Choir Matters:** Rather than be in a cold church on Thurs evenings I have switched practice dates & times to Sundays after 11am Mass till no later than 1pm. This gives us less practice time to check Sunday music & prepare for Christmas but the programme for this year is shorter than previously & much of it should be familiar. We have vacancies for new singers & membership of the choir is free. Give it a try. You will enjoy it even if I have to get out my tickling stick. *Alec*

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

**Safe Haven** is starting a Monday Coffee Morning group at Great Houghton Village Hall for the Afghan ladies who are living in Northampton, The Holiday Inn. We would appreciate some volunteers to assist on a rota basis. If interested please contact Aileen Fogarty. [Firstaid.k@btinternet.com](mailto:Firstaid.k@btinternet.com) Tel 01604630546

**A course on the Psalms:** It is sub-titled "The School of Prayer", with the invitation to 'learn to pray like Christ'. Continues.

**Memorial Mass: On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 11am,** there will be a Celebratory Mass for Philip Ndekwe RIP. All welcome.

**Would You Like to Join (online) for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies or Diocesan Certificate in Religious Studies?** Both courses offer the same 8 modules in Scripture & Catholic Theology with the CCRS leading to a nationally recognised qualification. Those who follow the CCRS/DCRS say they gain a great deal from the course, deepening their knowledge & understanding of their faith.

To find out more about the course, contact Ann Collon Email: [educationsserviceadmin@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:educationsserviceadmin@northamptondiocese.org) or visit our website: [www.northamptondioceseschools.org](http://www.northamptondioceseschools.org)

**St Gregory's Catholic Primary** are recruiting for a Key-holder to secure & lock up the school at end of day, 1 hour each evening from 5pm-6pm, Monday - Friday during term time. The hourly rate will be £9.50. Closing Date is 18 November 2022 - Please contact the school on 01604 403511, or apply via our website <https://www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk/>.

**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!!

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

**Save the Date: Saturday 18th March 2023** Encounter Northampton, a day hosted by Mission Northampton in St Gregory's Hall from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. More details later!

**Flame 2023:** The theme of Flame 2023 – which is exactly 150 days before World Youth Day in Lisbon – takes the WYD Scripture "Mary arose and went with haste" and crystallises it into the theme, "Rise Up!" Rise up after the pandemic, Rise up as young Catholics, Rise up – as Mary did – for the surprising and beautiful adventure that is our Catholic faith. **Sat 4<sup>th</sup> March 23 - book the date - more details soon**

**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)**

**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 13th November 2022, 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Writing anonymously about 460 BC, after the Jews returned from their Babylonian exile to rebuild the Temple, Malachi criticises the people's religious indifference, priestly abuses, intermarriage with pagans and divorce: "Where is the God of justice?" But he promises the day of the Lord is coming, preceded by a messenger to prepare the way, seen by Christians as John the Baptist. When that day comes evil-doers will be burnt up, while those who fear the Lord will be energised and healed, gambolling with joy, treading on ashes of evil-doers.

The psalm urges all creation to praise the Lord for His victorious salvation.

The Thessalonians had heard a forged letter saying the Lord's second coming was very close. Some had stopped working for a living and were "interfering in everyone else's" work. Paul says they are "busybodies", stirring up trouble! They should be

shunned until they pull their weight in the community, as Paul did when he was with them.

In the Gospel Jesus foresees the destruction of the Temple, and the disasters, persecutions and false prophets that must precede the second coming. But we must not worry about these future problems, nor try to guess the day of the Lord's second coming. We should concentrate on the day-to-day following of Jesus, placing all our trust in Him.

Psalm Response: **The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness.**

(Mal 3:19-20 Ps 97(98) 2 Thess 3:7-12 Lk 21:5-19)

Chris Oliver

## Bibles for our Children

Today we are giving Bibles to the children who are enrolling in the First Communion programme, and it is hoped that these will become good friends and be well-used.

There is an important story in the Bible about a man who was reading from the Scriptures but not understanding what he was reading. (*Acts 8:26-35*) The Bible is uniquely treasured by the Church, and in every age the Church is tasked with revealing its truths to each new generation. Through the 'Growing Up Catholic' programme, the children will become more familiar with the wonderful story of God's plan for salvation.

Alpha is a programme which also helps us to understand the Bible, and maybe some of the parents of children in the First Holy Communion programme might like to come on the next Alpha which will be in the spring. It is completely free, but donations are cheerfully accepted for the delicious meal which is served at every session. For catering purposes, please register at [www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha](http://www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha)

First session:	September 20 <sup>th</sup> 2022:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	September 27 <sup>th</sup> 2022:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	October 4 <sup>th</sup> 2022:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	October 11 <sup>th</sup> 2022:	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session:	October 18 <sup>th</sup> 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	October 25 <sup>th</sup> 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session:	November 8 <sup>th</sup> 2022:	How does God guide us?
Away-Day:	November 11 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> :	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 15 <sup>th</sup> 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	November 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2022:	Why and how should I tell others?
Tenth Session:	November 29 <sup>th</sup> 2022:	Does God heal today?
Eleventh Session:	December 6 <sup>th</sup> 2022:	What about the Church?

## Congratulations to the Life Charity

The Life Charity has been awarded a "Trusted Charity Mark" by the Growth Company sponsored by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, a nationally recognised quality mark. It indicates that Life operates efficiently and effectively. It is good that we have the LIFE house in our parish, and that we are strong supporters of it.

## And to St Gregory's School

The latest Ofsted report for St Gregory's Catholic School has been published and can be read here: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50198271>.

The overall rating is 'Good', and it is described as 'a happy and cohesive school'

# Warm Welcome in the Hall

As fuel bills increase, many find it impossible to heat their homes in the cold weather. There are a number of places offering a 'Warm Welcome' to any who would like to come; it is open to all without question. Offers of help should be made to Rayner Willnecker or to Daniel Davighi.

Every weekday (Monday to Saturday) there will be somewhere in this area open and offering a warm welcome during the morning; some offering lunch as well. The detailed plan will be published soon, but for St Gregory's, the plan is for the hall to be open and heated on Mondays from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm, and on Wednesdays from after Mass until 12.00 noon. On both days there will be the offer of hot drinks and simple food (probably soup and a roll). St Gregory's will start this on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November.



Apparently, some people don't know that St Gregory's Church has a Brownie Unit, who meet in the hall on Wednesday evenings. We have lots of fun doing challenges, learning new skills, helping other people, going on pack holiday together, day trips out etc etc.

We have some spaces due to some of our girls going up to Guides and would love to meet some new prospective Brownies. We are all aged between 7 and 10 years, and please get in touch with the leaders on [tw.lewis@ntlworld.com](mailto:tw.lewis@ntlworld.com) for more information or a little chat.

**The Funeral Mass for Mgr Tony McDermott will be at the Cathedral on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00 am. May he rest in Peace.**