



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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!

My dear friends,

On this **Gaudete Sunday**: Rejoice, for the risen Lord desires to fill our heart with His bounteous love. Yes, the Messiah whom we await, longs to make His home within us! Advent is a great time to accept anew the sovereignty of Christ and to renew our friendship with Him. We can do this by refreshing our soul with the Sacrament of Confession; for then we become a Holy House in which Jesus can dwell as we receive Him in Holy Communion. So, let us be a people who rejoice as we prepare for Christ's return in glory and as we prepare to celebrate His Nativity! Let us also rejoice in the example of **St John the Baptist** as we light the rose candle of the Advent Crown in his honour.

As we continue to be unable to meet in St Gregory's Church for Mass, we might feel we have little reason to rejoice. Nevertheless, let us rejoice that we are still able to gather each week for the Sunday Mass (thanks to the generosity of St Gregory's Catholic Primary School) and for the parish friendships we still enjoy!

Do be assured of the prayers and friendship of myself, Deacon Michael, Fr Wayne, Fr Bennie and Fr Tony, who join me in saying to each of you:

“Rejoice in the Lord always!”

Canon Christopher

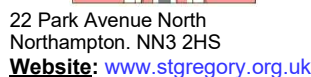


Let us continue in our prayers for Northamptonshire **Fire and Rescue Service** and for Northamptonshire **Police** who have assisted us over recent weeks.

Let us pray for all who are assisting us with restoring our damaged Church, including the **Diocesan Property Department**.

An extra reason to rejoice is that we need a child at each Sunday Mass to add a rose-coloured cope and a crown to the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham!





Third Sunday of Advent

CTS New Sunday Missal
Year A, Page 38

Parish Priest:
Canon Christopher Perry ☎ 713015
E-mail: frchristopher.perry@northamptondiocese.org

Deacon: Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com

Priest in Residence:
Fr Wayne Coughlin ☎ 713015
frwayne.coughlin@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Secretary: Caryll Comley ☎ 713015
Email: parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org

Safeguarding Representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

Please Pray for the Sick:

<p>Gaudete Sunday, 14th December <i>Advent Sunday</i> <i>Three</i></p>	<p>Saint Gregory's Catholic School</p>	<p>HOLY MASS</p>	<p>INTENTIONS: 9.00 am Marcelle Brown & Family 11.00 am The Parish</p>
<p>Sunday, 21st December <i>Advent Sunday</i> <i>Four (page 42)</i></p>	<p>Saint Gregory's Catholic School</p>	<p>HOLY MASS</p>	<p>INTENTIONS: 9.00 am Jean Berchmans Museruka 11.00 am The Parish</p>
<p>Wednesday, 24th December <i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>(page 81)</i></p>	<p>The Cathedral</p> <p>Saint Gregory's Catholic School</p>	<p>HOLY MASS</p>	<p>INTENTIONS: 2.00 pm The Children of the Parish</p> <p>7.00 pm Bishop Francis Thomas RIP</p>
<p>Thursday, 25th December <i>Christmas Day</i> <i>(page 94)</i></p>	<p>Saint Gregory's Catholic School</p>	<p>HOLY MASS</p>	<p>INTENTIONS: 9.00 am St. Gregory's Clergy</p> <p>11.00 am Parish, Parishioners & Families</p>

The Pastoral Area Penitential Liturgy (with individual Confession) is to be held in the Cathedral *tomorrow* - Monday, 15th December - at 7.00 pm.

Margaret Farragher RIP: It is with sadness that we have heard of the passing of Margaret Farragher, a long standing Parishioner of St. Gregory's, who has been in a care home for some time. Her funeral will be 11am at the Cathedral on Friday 2nd January.

Supporting Your Parish: 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)**

Please remember that if you pay income tax, the Church can reclaim this on your giving: £2.50 for every £10 given; this is much simpler if you give by standing order.

Gregory Care - Next dates for your diary:

28th February: Table-Top Sale

9th May: Fun Day (Headlands celebration)

6th June: Picnic in the Park

We hope as many people as possible will join us at these fun-filled events!

The Giving Tree: Thank you for your great generosity! Please do bring any remaining *unwrapped* gifts back as soon as possible so we can get them delivered.

Some Joyful News: Whilst our focus is ensuring that we can return to St Gregory's Church as soon as possible, two smaller projects remain underway! These are covering the sanctuary platform and ambo in new carpet called: **"Gilded Chalice"** and the creation of a tabernacle veil, ambo fall and lectern falls in **"All Seasons fabric"**:



“The birds have a symbolic significance; they are the mediators between Heaven and Earth and in early Christian art they signified

saved souls. The elegantly decorated urn, a container for oils and perfumes, signifies Mary Magdalene, one of the most popular of Christian saints and consequently much depicted in Christian art. Amongst the many flowers in the design, it is possible to distinguish the Blue Iris, a floral symbol of the Virgin Mary and the Thistle, a symbol of the Passion of Jesus Christ and the sufferings of the Christian martyrs. Finally, the grapevine symbolises abundant life and the grapes, the Eucharist.”

Please contact Fr Wayne for more details.



**St Michael
the Archangel,
defend us in this
day of battle.
Be our safeguard
against the wickedness
and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray, and do
thou, O Prince of the
heavenly hosts, by the
power of God, thrust down into hell Satan, and
all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen**

The Parish Litany:

Our Lady of Walsingham: **Pray for us!**

St Joseph: **Pray for us!**

Pope St Gregory the Great: **Pray for us!**

St Thomas of Canterbury: **Pray for us!**

All saints and angels of God: **Pray for us!**

The Divine Assistance Prayer:

**May the divine assistance remain with us always,
and may the souls of the faithful departed, +
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen**

Right To Life UK: 2025 has been one of the most challenging and busiest years ever for the UK pro-life movement, with the biggest battles on abortion and assisted suicide in over 50 years. Thanks to the support of our diocese there has been a strong and coordinated response in Parliament, the media and the wider public. Visit righttolife.org.uk/2025 to read the "Year in Review" and to find out more.

Bambinelli Sunday: **Next Sunday** you are asked to bring the Baby Jesus from your Christmas Crib to Mass for it to be blessed. Once the 'Bambino' is back home you wrap it up and open the 'gift' on Christmas Day when it can be placed in the Crib. This was greatly promoted by Pope St John Paul II.

"May the Virgin Mary, whose entire life was a response to the Lord's call, always accompany us in following Jesus." Pope Leo XIV, *Angelus*, 11 May '25

Christmas Eve & Day Collections: These will be divided between Canon Christopher and Fr Wayne who, in advance, offer their sincere appreciation for your generosity. Our two Priests receive a small 'wage' and therefore the collection on Christmas Eve and Day (and likewise on Easter Sunday) form a sizeable part of their annual taxable income.



'O Antiphon' Novena: Receive the daily prayers in your inbox and join with people from the Diocese in praying these sacred texts from 17th December to Christmas Day to prepare for the Nativity of the

Lord. This devotion has been developed by Janet Northing, from Our Lady of Walsingham Parish in Corby, and is being promoted by our Diocese to unite us in prayer at such an extraordinarily special time of the year. There are more details here:

www.northamptondiocese.org/advent-novena/

→ Unique prayer beads for this lovely devotion (and an accompanying leaflet) are available for sale for just £2.00 after each Sunday Mass **this weekend**; please see Janet Northing for more details.



Over the coming months look out for further details regarding the founding of the **'Confraternity of the Holy House, Corby'** in our parish. Life Membership is just £5 to cover the cost of the lovely enamel badge and prayer card. → Janet Northing, one of

Founders of the Confraternity and its current Lay Guardian, will also provide us with an update at the Sunday Mass **this weekend** about the way forward and is also happy to answer any questions you have.

The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham

Called to the Fullness of Life and Love



A new religious community dedicated to Our Lady of Walsingham offering talks, parish missions, retreat days, accompaniment and more, both in Norfolk and around the country. Retreats, both personal and guided are also available at their convent in Dereham, located thirty minutes from Walsingham and with good public transport links to Norwich.

Mary's House Appeal

Help us to establish a place of prayer and service in Walsingham, our spiritual home.

Please support as we raise funds for the purchase of a mission house in Walsingham as our community continues to grow, visit the website to find out more. Any donation you can give is appreciated!



| office@walsinghamcommunity.org |
| www.maryshouseappeal.org | 01362 692574 |

THE ORDER OF THE MASS

(Extracts)

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have
failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

THE GLORIA

This is omitted in Advent and Lent

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including
the Virgin Mary, all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*After each intention that is vocalised by the
Deacon there is a short pause while the faithful
pray. Therefore, the Deacon leads us in the
Intercessions, but we do the praying, hence why
it is also called "The Prayer of the Faithful".*

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

*For Catholics, the Holy Eucharist is the source
and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the
vital centre of all that the Church is and does,
because at its heart is the real presence of the
crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing
and making available his saving work among
us. Holy Communion is the literal Body, Blood,
Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.*

After the Preface, the people sing:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the
world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the
Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be
healed.**

DISMISSAL

*Then the Deacon, or the Priest says one of the
following:*

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.