



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

40 Hours This Week

There are certain things which are absolutely necessary for the sustaining of material human life: first amongst them is breathing and second comes feeding. Equally there are certain things which are necessary for sustaining spiritual life; the first among them is prayer which is the breathing of the soul, and second is being fed with the Bread of Life, which is the life of Jesus himself.

The process of breathing is known as ‘respiration’, and the taking in of breath is called ‘inspiration’. We need inspiration not just for physical breath but also for spiritual breath, that which is described in one of the creation stories: “Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of

life, and the man became a living creature.” (*Genesis 2:7*) It is the Holy Spirit which is life-giving, both materially and spiritually.

Prayer is a conversation with God; it is not simply the recitation of prayers. Neither is prayer the presenting of a ‘shopping list’ to God. It is us telling God how we are feeling, and then hearing his words of comfort and his words of advice.

Sometimes we hear this directly in our hearts or minds; sometimes through the words of the Scriptures, sometimes through spiritual or even secular reading and sometimes through the words of other people. Above all, like Elijah, we can hear God in the ‘sound of silence’ (*see 1 Kings 19:12*)

Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea)

When the Malaviya Seven ship was detained in Scotland, the crew were abandoned without wages and unable to return home for nearly 18 months. Here, Captain Ashish tells his story

“I remember the first visit by the Stella Maris port chaplain Rev Doug Douglas in the initial days. I was a little wary of all the whole situation namely the detention and the stranding which were all new to us.

There were many, many visits by Doug. He was always smiling, cheerful and ever ready to help us out. He was always full of joy no matter the situation.

Over the months, he was a regular visitor to the extent of three to four visits a week. It was not only Doug who was helping us out, he would also get his friends to accompany him. There was no dearth of people to talk to. Each visitor wanted to help us in their own way. There were weekly visits to parts of Scotland in Doug’s minivan and ship visitor John Murray also took us on a Tuesday named ‘John Day’. There was a sense of excitement amongst the crew for the visits and the prevailing sense of despondency used to be forgotten.

From material support to moral support, Stella Maris represented by their port chaplain was always there. I remember a situation when the diesel was running short and we had to curtail the generator running hours. Doug was always thinking one step ahead and he had already organised local support. Places where we could get burners to cook food and heaters to keep us warm were already planned by him.

When the ship’s crew started running out of phone top-ups, he was ready with portable Wi-Fi which was kept on board and made accessible to all crew. The Ship’s requirement with regards to a generator was also discussed and a generator was promptly placed on board to reduce fuel consumption.

Whenever the crew was demoralised, there would be a new thing organised for us. We had regular outings – a horse riding event (courtesy of Stella Maris ship visitor Pam Millar), an archery event (Stella Maris ship visitor Pam and her husband Keith), badminton evenings at the local club (Stella Maris ship visitor Pam and her husband Keith), and several other outings to museums, art gallery, visits to churches and also to the charity ceilidhs.

The port chaplain also brought in the local Indian community to help us out. Having local Indians on board regularly and talking to them also helped us a lot. The crew was graciously invited to their homes.

I would like to end it by saying that had it not been for the Stella Maris team, the crew condition would have been far different in the end. The photos of the crew leaving the vessel finally after the struggle would have shown a totally different picture. The bond between the Stella Maris Port chaplain and the crew of Malaviya Seven has been so strong that crew made it a point to get together to meet the Port chaplain Doug on his visit to India.

As a seafarer, if I were to be in any kind of difficulty in the future, my first action would be to look up the local Stella Maris address. I know, for sure, that they have the seafarers’ best interests at heart.”
(Shortened version from <https://stellamaris.org.uk/case-study/malaviya-seven/>)

Notices of Interest

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. A small display of cards and items for Confirmation is available. Any queries or volunteers to 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 12th August 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 2025/6: An important date for you diaries! If you have a child in year 3 or older who wishes to make their First Communion next Summer there will be a meeting on 6th October after 11:00 Mass. It's a way off but very important so please save the date!

Confirmation in 2024: The Confirmation will be on Friday evening, 28th June at 7.00 pm. Email to childrens.liturgy@stgregory.org.uk for further information.

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)**

Stella Maris: Seafarers & fishermen play a vital role in all our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. **Sea Sunday is this Sunday.** It is when the church prays for all those who live & work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers & fishermen in need. You can donate in church next Sunday, you can visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or you can text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.

March For Life UK happens in London on Sat. 7th September. This year's theme is "Abortion isn't Healthcare". Join thousands at this family-friendly event. Find out more at marchforlife.co.uk

Tots @ St Gregory's: We have our last session before the summer holidays on Tuesday 16th July from 9:30 - 11:30 and we will start again on Tuesday 10th September.

A Weekend Journey to Emmaus (Luton): Sat. 20th - Sun 21st July, 9.30am - 5pm (Saturday), & 4pm (Sun) hosted by Mission Northampton. Emmaus is a heart-warming journey with Jesus as he explains the Scriptures. 'Emmaus' will deepen your appreciation of the Scriptures, enable you to experience the power of the Word of God, take you on a journey through the Old Testament & show how it is fulfilled in Jesus, give you a burning desire to return from 'Emmaus' to 'Jerusalem' to announce your encounter with the Risen Lord. A commitment to the whole weekend is essential. Sunday Mass is included. The cost of £35 includes: Lunch both days & unlimited tea & coffee. Venue: St John The Apostle Church, 296 Sundon Park Road, Luton LU3 3AL Parking is available on site. To book please call 01604 434362 or visit: <https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/a-weekend-journey-to-emmaus-july-2024-luton/>

Chinese Language Mass with Bishop Joseph Ha on 24th July at St Edward the Confessor, Milton Keynes. All welcome. Rosary at 6pm followed by Mass. At 7.30pm we hope to have a bring-&-share meal. Please email for more details - mk.chinese.catholic@gmail.com.

Called & Equipped Webinar: We are running our final introductory webinar on zoom on Tues 16th July at 7:30pm. Please come & join us to see if this is the course for you. For more details & to sign up go to <https://northamptondiocese.org/called-equipped/>

Youth Worker Vacancy: The Diocese is currently recruiting for a Youth Worker to join the Youth Ministry Office, 35 hours pw & will include evening & weekend work. Full info for the position, including how to apply, visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/>

Choir Notes: I have had to change several of the dates of our Saturday practices, 11-12:30. The new details are July 13; August 24; Oct 12; Nov 9, 16, 23, 30; Dec 7 and 14, then some time in February 2025 (Happy Christmas!). *Alec*

Abington Avenue URC Friday Lunch - enjoy a hot lunch and pudding for £6 every Friday! Refreshments from 10.30am, lunch 12pm (**pre-booking required**). For more info please email office.aaurc@gmail.com or visit www.aaurc.co.uk

Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (**next - 27th July**), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially younger, more energetic ones!

Fire Safety: Please be careful with the votive candle stands, and especially please ensure that children are safe. Unlit candles **must not** be placed on the trays under the places for candles and candles must not be stacked one on top of another.

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Hall: 10.00 am-12.00 pm.

Pilgrimage to Northern France You are invited to join Bishop David & Canon John Udris on pilgrimage to Northern France from 15-22 Oct. For more details visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/france/>

Knights of St Columba: As a practising Catholic man, you may have an interest in helping those in need, serving your parish, developing your faith & giving something back to your community. By joining the Knights, you can do all that & more. You will work with like-minded men across your Diocese who can offer their experience & support. Working together towards a common goal, creates a strong bond of fraternity with new friends who become 'Brothers'. See poster for full details.

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



For Sale: Small plaques of the church, gift-boxed, artist hand-made, a limited number available in the repository. £5 for Gregory Care.

Gregory Care

Please contact Gregory Care (07434669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel, or is in material need.

Prayer for Peace for Ukraine and the Holy Land:

Please continue to pray for an end to wars, and for all victims of war:
**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 7th July 2024, 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

The first six chapters of the Book of Amos show in detail why the Jews will suffer judgement. Amaziah denounces Amos to the northern king for his unwelcome prophecies. Speaking around 760 BC, Amos bravely ignores him, and continues to warn the people. 200 years later his warnings were written down — because he was right: the northern kingdom had rejected God, and was destroyed.

The Psalm describes the coming happiness revealed by the Lord: virtues are imagined as courtiers of the returned king.

Over the next seven weeks we hear extracts from Paul's breathtaking letter "to the Ephesians". Its ideas can flow past us so quickly that we can easily miss their significance. If we stop after each phrase and ponder its meaning, we see a God very different from common belief. A God who lovingly "chose us in Christ" "before the world

was made". A God whose "hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning", so that we might "live through love in his presence". This was no 'plan B', suddenly concocted to correct a mistake!

In Mark's gospel, after his rejection in his home town we heard last week, Jesus now sends the disciples out on mission. Next week we hear about their experiences.

Psalm Response:

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy,
and give us your saving help.**

(Amos 7:12-15; Psalm 84(85): 9-14; Eph 1: 3-14; Mark 6: 7-13)

Chris Oliver

The sign-up sheet for the 40 Hours

Time	Devotion	Signature 1	Signature 2	Signature 3
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The sheet has five columns, the first indicates hour-long slots during the time of Adoration, and the second indicates a particular event or devotion that will be taking place during that hour. The further three columns in each row are for people to make a commitment that they will be in church at that time. It is important that at least two, and preferably

three people are there throughout the time. Those who are leading the event or devotion do not need to sign the sheet. It would be useful if this could be completed as soon as possible.

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is Sunday 14th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.

We are blest in having Bob Maine as our parish representative of Stella Maris; he spent many years at sea, and knows what life afloat is like, and he has a great team of knitters making hats and gloves. This week is the special collection for the work of Stella Maris, providing port chaplains to care for the needs of seafarers.



STELLA MARIS

A Letter from Pope Francis

Pope Francis has written a letter to Parish Priests arising from the "International Meeting of Parish Priests for the Synod" which took place from 28th April to 2nd May at Sacrofano just north of Rome. Part of what he says is very topical to our 40 Hours prayer.

"We will never become a synodal and missionary Church unless parish communities are distinguished by the sharing of all the baptized in the one mission of proclaiming the Gospel. If parishes are not synodal and missionary, neither will the Church be."

The word 'co-responsibility' came up in the conversations at Sacrofano — the shared responsibility between priests and people for the mission of the Church. The Pope writes to priests:

I ask you first to live out your specific ministerial charism in ever greater service to the varied gifts that the Spirit sows in the People of God. It is urgent to discover with faith, the many and varied charismatic gifts of the laity, be they of a humble or more exalted form, which are indispensable for evangelizing any number of human situations and contexts. I am convinced that in this way you will bring to light many hidden treasures and feel less alone in the demanding task of

evangelization. You will experience the joy of being true fathers, who do not dominate others but rather bring out in them, men and women alike, great and precious possibilities.

In the prayer of the 40 Hours, we can all be thanking God for the particular gifts that we have been given, and seeking his guidance in how those gifts can be used in the service of the mission of the Church.



We are not lacking in gifts; God has provided all that is needed. All that is required is for those gifts to be released to be used in the vital task that faces the Church in our generation; that of the proclamation of the Gospel.