



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

Open for Business!

With the greatest possible joy, we can announce that the church will be open between the hours of 11.00 am and 2.00 pm each day this week. Please come!

The Life of Christ — His Body and Blood

Last Sunday the Church celebrated the mystery which is God Himself, the Sacred Trinity. Today we celebrate another manifestation of God, in the Eucharist.

From time to time in Christian history heresies have sprung up which have at their centre the idea of ‘dualism’. The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of this:

Since the beginning the Christian faith has been challenged by responses to the question of origins that differ from its own. Ancient religions and cultures produced many myths concerning origins. Some philosophers have said that everything is God, that the world is God, or that the development of the world is the development of God (Pantheism). Others have said that the world is a necessary emanation arising from God and returning to him. Still others have affirmed the existence of two eternal principles, Good and Evil, Light and Darkness, locked, in permanent conflict (Dualism, Manichaeism). According to some of these conceptions, the world (at least the physical world) is evil, the product of a fall, and is thus to be rejected or left behind (Gnosticism). Some admit that the world was made by God, but as by a watch-maker who, once he has made a watch, abandons it to itself (Deism). Finally, others reject any transcendent origin for the world, but see it as merely the interplay of matter that has always existed (Materialism). All these attempts bear witness to the permanence and universality of the question of origins. This inquiry is distinctively human. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church §285*)

The Catholic Church has always stood against the heresy that says that the physical world is evil: “God looked on all that he had made, and it was very good” (*Genesis 1:31*). The human Jesus is the supreme manifestation of this goodness — Godness incarnate, God Himself in human form. This manifestation of God in material form did not disappear with the Ascension, because Jesus himself had promised us: “I am with you always.” (*Matthew 28:20*) and “I will not leave you orphaned, I am coming to you” (*John 14:18*). At first sight, this might be understood simply that Jesus is with us in the Holy Spirit, but this was not the experience

of the first Christians: “He had been made known to them in the breaking of bread” (*Luke 24:35*). St Paul warns the Christians in Corinth: “He who eats and drinks without discerning the body eat and drink judgement against themselves” (*1 Corinthians 11:29*).

St Paul and the early Church did not attempt to explain *how* this can happen; they merely accepted that it is true. It was left to later generations to try to explain how the true life of Jesus could be contained within the appearance of bread and wine. The formal definition was formulated by St Thomas Aquinas, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church says:

The mode of Christ's presence under the Eucharistic species is unique. It raises the Eucharist above all the sacraments as “the perfection of the spiritual life and the end to which all the sacraments tend.” In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist “the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, *the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained.*” “This presence is called ‘real’ - by which is not intended to exclude the other types of presence as if they could not be ‘real’ too, but because it is presence in the fullest sense: that is to say, it is a *substantial* presence by which Christ, God and man, makes himself wholly and entirely present.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church §1374*)

O food of travellers, angel's bread,
manna wherewith the blest are fed,
come nigh, and with Thy sweetness fill
the hungry hearts that seek Thee still.

O fount of love, O well unpriced,
outpouring from the heart of Christ,
give us to drink of very Thee,
and all we pray shall answered be.

O Jesus Christ, we pray to Thee
that this Thy presence which we see,
though now in form of bread concealed,
to us may be in heaven revealed.

Notices of Interest

Supporting CAFOD and the Hope Centre: Please see the respective websites to make donations for CAFOD and / or the Hope Centre:
<https://cafod.org.uk/>
<https://northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

The Office: When the Church re-opens for private prayer, I will be happy to see people during office hours. However, I must you to stay at the entrance so that social distancing can be maintained. Thank you.
Caryll

Out of Date Contact Details: I have been working through contact telephone numbers to make sure that as many Parishioners as possible are contacted & are not in need of anything. However, I have found that many phone numbers are unobtainable, & I should appreciate it if you would take the time to email me with your up to date phone numbers/email addresses. Rest assured that your messages will be deleted as soon as I have checked that we have your correct contact details, & our 'address book' is securely password protected. My email address is secretary@stgregory.org.uk. Many thanks
Caryll

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: The regular Thursday adoration is not taking place during this present emergency.

CAFOD Corona Virus online petition: Unite against the Corona Virus. We are living through the biggest Public Health Crisis in a century. Right across the UK it has been having a devastating impact on all our lives. Many people have lost loved ones. This is not a time for divisions. The world should unite in love & compassion. Out of love for our brothers & sisters please sign the online petition to our Prime Minister asking him to ensure the most vulnerable people are a priority in the UKs international efforts as well as at home. Visit <https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1> to sign the petition online.

Hope Centre: The needs of the homeless are not changed during this emergency Please see the separate notice about the Hope Centre.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Please contact Deacon Michael direct (01604) 647750, E-mail: myf@btinternet.com for information.

First Holy Communion — 2020: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established.

Confirmation - 3rd Preparation Session: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established. There is a provisional date for Confirmation of 30th October.

Bible Alive for July is now available. The cost is £3.00. If you want to purchase a copy, they can be bought from the steward at the entrance to the church when the church is open; when the church is closed they are on a table outside the fire door to the foyer during the daytime, with a box of (out of date) green envelopes. You can put the payment in an envelope and post it through the presbytery door. Please help yourself to a copy of The Crusader.

Notice from the Diocese

Online Donation: The Diocese has an online donation facility on the main Diocesan website through Virgin Money Giving (link below). If you use this option we ask that you please indicate in the notes section **which parish, including the parish name and area (St Gregory's, Northampton)** that you would like your donation to be attributed to. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donation
<https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/>

Standing Order via Donor's Own Bank. You can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using either your on line bank account or in branch. The information required to make the donation 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)

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Becoming a Catholic: For adults interested in becoming a Catholic, the parish runs Journey in Faith process (RCIA). Also offered for adults who are Catholic, but have not received all the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist. Please speak to Alex Heath (07963032175) or Fr Andrew.

Forthcoming Alpha Course: The next Alpha Course was due to start on Tuesday April 21st. In view of the current projections for the Coronavirus pandemic, we have to postpone this course. However, those who have registered will be kept informed about any change of date. Much the easiest way to enrol is through the web-site at <http://stgregory.org.uk/alpha/>.

Tots @St Gregory's: As with other meetings, Tots has been cancelled until further notice.

Online Prayer resources during this time

Live-streamed Mass from the Cathedral
<http://northamptoncathedral.org/live/>

Live-streamed Mass from Walsingham
<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

Live-stream Mass from Lourdes
https://www.directfromlourdes.com/lourdes_live_tv

EWTN
<https://www.ewtn.com/tv>

Sacred Space guided prayer
<https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Cardinal Nichols leads Stations of the Cross
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_16s7Nt_P2E

On participating in Mass on-line or through television

For most of us, it is a new experience to participate in Mass over the internet or on television. It is important not to be in the mindset of simply "watching television" or "watching a film". The Church as always asked for "active participation", and the medium of television make this quite difficult.

It is better if you can avoid sitting in an armchair or on a sofa, and try to adopt the same postures as you would in church (sitting, standing or kneeling), and to speak the responses; please do not simply be a viewer. On the previous page of this newsletter is a simple prayer of Spiritual Communion.

Scripture Readings 14th June 2020, Corpus Christi, Year A

Deuteronomy, the "second" book of the law, collected and organised the whole Jewish law from the previous four books. It emphasises that Israel must remember how they had been tested in the wilderness so that they would not again neglect their God. God provided manna and land for their needs, but warned them not to think their success was due to their own efforts.

The psalm gratefully praises the Lord for his many gifts, both rain on the earth and laws for his people.

Paul recalls the wanderings of the Jews in the desert to warn the Corinthians to avoid idols. Worship, more than words and actions, implies the spiritual reality of becoming partners. We cannot share in Christ's body and blood while also seeking demons such as money and power. Belonging to Christ must be total.

Chapter six of John's gospel describes Jesus feeding the five thousand before saying that the manna came not from Moses but it is the Father who now offers "the true bread from heaven", which "gives life to the world" – ie Jesus himself. Jesus' teaching is stark. Many could not accept it then, or now. But Jesus insists: we must show we are united with him body and soul by our physical communion with him – and so be united with all his followers. Faith must always be shown by action.

Psalm Response: **O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!**

(Deut 8:2-3,14-16; Ps 147; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58)

Chris Oliver

The Season of Creation

Tip No. 69: Living Sustainably with creation: "Work is part of God's loving plan, we are called to cultivate and care for all the goods of creation and in this way share in the work of creation"! Pope Francis..

Actions to LiveSimply : Communication regularly (telephone) with of our , 'family in faith,' can cheer our predicament, or with eye contact using WhatApp, Messenger or Skype.

Tip No. 70: Solidarity with the poor: Pope Francis reminds us that when time is not set aside for dialogue with Christ in prayer, we risk serving ourselves and not God present in our needy.

Many thanks to Harry and Helen Charles who have offered to co-ordinate our parish's work towards the "Living Simply Award". Anyone who is interested is being involved in this, please contact them, or speak to Fr Andrew

Re-opening churches

It is a matter for rejoicing that we are allowed to open the church at last, and we must be grateful for the government's U-turn and climb-down over this. There are strict conditions, and there is a risk that if we do not abide by them, permission may be revoked. There must be two stewards on duty while the church is open, hand sanitiser must be available and seats that are used must be washed before the next person sits there. The maximum number of households that are allowed in at any one time is limited by the 2 metre social distancing rule. However, in spite of the difficulties, please make use of the

ability to come and pray in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Public Masses and corporate prayer are still forbidden, but the time on Monday will begin with a time of silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

We have a team of volunteer stewards, but for next week, additions to the team would be very welcome. Please email to Fr Andrew if you are able to help.

Saints this week

Only one saint this week, but three other celebrations; the anniversary of the dedication of our Cathedral, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The saint is St Richard of Chichester.

Richard was born in the closing years of the twelfth century, and although from a farming background, wanted to study and went to Oxford, where he became a disciple of Edmund Rich (now St Edmund of Abingdon). After parish work in Kent, in 1244 he was elected as Bishop of Chichester; however this was opposed by King Henry III. Although Pope Innocent IV confirmed the election of

Richard, the King refused to accept it, and confiscated the property of the diocese. Richard lived in one of the nearby villages , and visited parishes on foot. He was known for his austere lifestyle, and expected his clergy to be faithful, and lead exemplary lives. Any form of corruption among the clergy was severely dealt with, and many of the abuses which later were dealt with at the Council of Trent were already condemned by Richard. He forbade priests to have long hair and insisted that they did not mumble at Mass! He also forbade gambling at Baptisms and Weddings — one wonders what they were gambling on! In spite of his strictness, he was recognised as a saint, and canonised only nine years after his death.

During this time of restricted public worship, please keep reading the Bible. The July "Bible Alive" is now available — see the note elsewhere in this newsletter.

