



# 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

# Peace and War

The Christian understanding of warfare largely derives from St Thomas Aquinas, and this has fed into present day thinking, even among totally secular scholars.

It is not always a sin to go to war. If war is the only way to prevent a greater wrong. In this way, the Second World War is a justifiable event in order to prevent the atrocities committed by the Third Reich. It also explains why America and her allies were so determined to find evidence of ‘weapons of mass destruction’ in Iraq, as a justification for going to war against Saddam Hussein.

There are other conditions which also must be met before a war can be started. There must be lawful authority for the declaration of war. The purpose of the war must be to ‘right a wrong’, not for national or personal gain. War must be a last resort after all other means have been tried and failed.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church expresses this in these words:

- The strict conditions for *legitimate defense by military force* require rigorous consideration. The gravity of such a decision makes it subject to rigorous conditions of moral legitimacy. At one and the same time:
- the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain;
- all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective;
- there must be serious prospects of success;
- the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated. The power of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition

*(Catechism of the Catholic Church §2309)*

There is a further area of Christian teaching regarding the manner in which war is conducted. This is expressed in the Catechism:

- Non-combatants, wounded soldiers, and prisoners must be respected and treated humanely. Actions deliberately contrary to the law of nations and to its universal principles are crimes, as are the orders that command such actions. Blind obedience does not suffice to excuse those who carry them out. Thus the extermination of a people, nation, or ethnic minority must be condemned as a mortal sin. One is morally bound to resist orders that command genocide.
- Every act of war directed to the indiscriminate destruction of whole cities or vast areas with their inhabitants is a crime against God and man, which merits firm and unequivocal condemnation. A danger of modern warfare is that it provides

the opportunity to those who possess modern scientific weapons especially atomic, biological, or chemical weapons - to commit such crimes.

*(Catechism of the Catholic Church §2313 & 2314)*

The principles regarding non-combatants make any form of modern warfare very difficult to justify. The Fourth Geneva Convention: “*relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*” was adopted in 1949, and theoretically protects civilians, although it has so many loopholes as to make it little more than a bland statement of intent which can be set aside for the smallest excuse.

As well as those who are directly killed or injured by military action, a far greater number are rendered homeless or their livelihoods are destroyed, forcing them to become refugees.

More recently we have seen refugees themselves weaponised as they become migrants seeking a home of safety and the chance to have a productive life for themselves and their children. Many refugees are fleeing from areas of conflict, but now, even more, refugees are fleeing from the effects of climate change. In fact, the most serious global conflict in progress at present is over climate change, with the weather as the main weapon. The problem for the countries that think they have power is that they are also vulnerable from the very weapon they seek to deploy. That which can bring famine to Madagascar can also bring flooding to south-eastern China.

COVID has surely taught us that we are a global community, and that ‘taking back control’ is a mirage as much today as it was for King Canute. The nationalism which has so often been the cause of wars is now being a major obstacle to preventing continuing climate change.

Just as in more conventional war, there are no real winners, unless all the nations work together, all the nations will be losers. Tragically, it will be the poorest nations that lose most because they have the least ability to adapt to changed circumstances.

Whether the conflict is local or global, conflict swallows up resources that could be used to support the most needy, bring increased prosperity to deprived areas and generally increase the happiness and well-being of all people in all parts of the world.

The fundamental cause of this conflict is sin. The sin of avarice and greed; the sin of wanting power; the sin of pride — sinfulness in general fuels conflict and brings misery to millions. We know that there is only one remedy for sin, and that is given to us in Jesus. That is why the call to evangelisation is a clarion to this generation.



# Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Percy Michael Brown  
who received Christian Baptism recently.  
Please pray for him and his family.

**Repository:** A display of Christmas cards & other items are available in the Hall foyer. Due to Covid & the lack of new staff this will be in reduced form. Please observe Covid recommendations. I am grateful that my small but very loyal helpers will try to be available, but if there is no-one to help, please put money into wall box to the right of the Sacristy door. *Kathleen Healey (01604) 629103*

**Bible Alive** for November & December 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.

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

**Baptism Preparation:** The next preparation will be in the Sacristy on Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 7pm. Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

**First Holy Communion 2022:** We have enrolled as many children as we are able to prepare for First Holy Communion in 2022. Please keep the children and their parents in your prayers. Increasingly we are emphasising the importance of parents in the growth in faith of their children; it would be worth-while for parents to look out for the next Alpha course.

**Confirmation in 2022:** The next Confirmation programme will be announced soon, but there will be a time of reflection before any definite plans are made. Please keep looking at this space where information will appear.

**Parish Finances:** Continued thanks for the wonderful generosity that you are showing to the parish.

**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)

**SPUC - Silent Prayer Vigil:** Please note that the Pro Life Vigil planned for 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. will now start on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. from 10am to 12pm. In St. Giles Terrace. Further info from William on 07393965643 or [wpcurie@btinternet.com](mailto:wpcurie@btinternet.com). The plight of the unborn child and the horror of abortion is the preeminent moral issue of our time. As Catholics we all have a duty before God to do all we can to save unborn children from abortion. Please consider joining us and if you are unable to do so then please support all Pro Life organisations and keep them in your prayers.

**News from the Foodstore!** Thank you for the magnificent supply of toiletries last week. This was much appreciated, and the need continues. We as a parish continue to support the Cathedral Foodstore by supplying toiletries to add to food bags. The Cathedral supply these provisions each week to families in need from around Northampton. Please donate what you can, & continue to pray for this work. Remember that as the weather gets colder, the need becomes greater. Many Thanks, *Gregory Care.*

**Choir Matters:** To avoid travelling in the dark on Thursday's, choir members have asked for practices, up to Dec 17, to be moved to Fridays every week: 2-3:15. Our next session will be Nov 19. *Alec*

**Red Box Scheme Donors:** Missio have sent me your free calendar for 2022. These are at the back of the church in (as near as I could get) a Red Box. The envelopes are addressed to those concerned and are in alphabetical order. Please keep them that way! I do have some calendars spare so if others would like to financially support our Foreign Missionaries please speak to Alec or Dorothy or one of the clergy. *Alec.*

**We now have heating again!** Please, please, please can we all help to keep the heat in by closing the outside doors, and not leaving them open. Even if you think someone is following you, unless they are right behind, please close the door. And if someone does close a door in front of you, please do not be offended!

**Catholic Mental Health Workshop:** For all who serve young people - you are invited to join us on Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. for a Catholic Mental Health & Wellbeing workshop where we will explore what our faith has to say on this topic & how to support young people at this time. The workshop is just £5 & can be paid on the day. The workshop will take place in the parish hall of St. Martin De Porres Catholic Church, 366 Leagrave High Street, Luton, LU4 0NG. To book, please email [fiona@nymo.org](mailto:fiona@nymo.org).

**Tots @ St Gregory's:** We will be in the hall from 9:30-11:30 each school week Tuesday! If you have care of a baby or pre-school child Tuesday mornings why not join our very friendly & fun group? We only charge £1 for an adult & however many children they bring & this includes snack & all activities!

**Thomas Becket School:** Learning Support Assistant required. Start date 13<sup>th</sup> December, 30 hours per week, 8.30-3.30. See poster in Narthex for full details.

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

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** will not meet during this time.

**St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School Vacancy:** Class Teacher (Maternity Cover) for KS1 starting January 2022 until July 2022, please contact the school for details 01604 403511

**St. Gregory's Primary School:** Reception Open Afternoon - Mon 22 Nov 2pm - for parents of children starting school in Sept 2022, please join us for a tour of our school and a presentation by our Head Teacher.

**Courses for Readers:** The Bible Timeline course has started on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7.30pm. on 13<sup>th</sup> October. All are welcome, but those who proclaim the Scriptures at Mass are particularly encouraged to take part. Please email to Fr Andrew for further details. It is not too late to join!

**Love Christmas Campaign:** The diocese is putting on an online workshop on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm to explore a number of practical ways that we can reach out into our community, from outdoor cribs to bags of kindness, including the ecumenical Love Christmas Campaign. We will explore Ideas for every parish and school community to get involved. If you are interested in joining, please contact Fr. Andrew ([priest@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:priest@stgregory.org.uk))

**Diocesan Safeguarding Administrator:** The Diocese is currently recruiting for a Safeguarding Administrator to provide admin support to the Safeguarding Office. Hours will be 4 hours per week. Full info for the position & application form can be found at <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/> or via email [hradmin@northamptondiocese.com](mailto:hradmin@northamptondiocese.com). Closing date for applications Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. Interviews to be the following week.

# Scripture Readings 14th November 2021, 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

The Book of Daniel belongs to “apocalyptic” literature, which secretly looks forward to the day of the Lord at the end of history, when all will be made right. It was written about 165 BC to strengthen the Jews who were suffering bitter persecution. The hero, Daniel, is saved by adhering to his faith in face of many trials. Daniel is promised that the just will live for ever, an early expectation of resurrection.

The Psalm rejects idolatry and expresses confidence in the Lord, who will bring us to everlasting life.

Our final reading from the Letter to the Hebrews also looks forward to the end time. The daily animal sacrifices in the Temple could not take sins away. They have now been replaced by the one sacrifice of Christ, who now sits enthroned until he

comes again. His perfect sacrifice has made forgiveness available to all. No further sacrifices will ever be needed.

An earlier chapter in the Book of Daniel, which we will hear next week, describes a vision of “One like a Son of Man” coming to rule God’s kingdom on earth. In today’s gospel Jesus graphically describes the heavenly signs that will accompany his return as the “Son of Man”.

Psalm Response: **Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.**

(Daniel 12: 1-13; Psalm 15(16): 5.8-11; Hebrews 10: 11-14.18; Mark 13: 24-32)

Chris Oliver

## A WEEKEND JOURNEY TO EMMAUS

*Hosted by Mission Northampton*

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

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00 am–8.00 pm and

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 10.00 am–4.00 pm:

**a commitment to the whole weekend is essential.**

**St. Thomas Centre, Northampton Cathedral, Primrose Hill, Kingsthorpe Rd, Northampton, NN2, 6AG.**

**Details of how to register & pay coming soon.**

**Please email your interest to: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk to reserve your place.**

## 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

## New Methods:

**“Catholicism — The New Evangelisation”**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm**

**and running for one more week on Mondays at 2.00 pm**

“The Catholic Faith is not about myths or legends, symbols or literary devices. It’s about an encounter so overwhelming that you want to tell the whole world. It’s an encounter with Jesus Christ. Throughout history the call of Christ has sent people to the corners of the earth with a message of great joy - a message that has built civilisations, inspired cultures & even sent some believers to prison & others to their graves.

**We have the same call. That is evangelisation**

*A course by Bishop Robert Barron, delivered by Zoom!*

Pope Paul VI, in a vitally important ‘Apostolic exhortation’ addressed to all Christians, “*Evangelii Nuntiandi*”, wrote: “The question of ‘how to evangelise’ is permanently relevant, because the methods of evangelising vary according to the different circumstances of time, place and culture, and because they thereby certainly challenge to our capacity for discovery and adaptation” (*Paragraph 40*)

One of the new technologies that was available to the first Apostles were roads, which the Roman Empire had built to move their legions around. St Paul used those roads to travel from place to place, proclaiming the Good News. We now have many other technologies for evangelising, but the very first remains to this day the best — the human voice and the human life. However other means can be used to support our personal evangelisation; the means to communicate and the means to bring people together so that we can communicate with them.

**Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.**

**SOCIAL EVENING  
TEN PIN BOWLING**



Come along and join us for a fun evening.

When: Thursday, 16th December 2021  
Time: 19h00  
Cost: £10 per person  
Contact Daniel (Dan.Davighi@outlook.com)

Let's smash those skittles down!

**DO YOU SING OR PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?**



Why not join our fabulous CHOIR!

See Rosemary or Alec after Mass

Come and give it a bash!

**HELP IS NEEDED IN OUR KITCHEN!**



We are looking for volunteers, to assist with serving coffee and tea, on Sunday after 09h00 Mass

Please see Jehanne or Rayner after Mass

## **St Gregory's next Alpha:**

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which we are hoping will be able to 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](http://www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha)

<b>First session:</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> September 2021:</b> Is there more to life than this?
<b>Second Session:</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b> Who is Jesus?
<b>Third Session:</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b> Why did Jesus die?
<b>Fourth Session</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b> How can I be sure of my faith?
<b>Fifth Session</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b> Why and how do I pray?
<b>Sixth Session</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> How does God guide us?
<b>Seventh Session</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> Why and how should I read the Bible?
<b>Away-Day</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> Who is the Holy Spirit?
<b>Eighth Session</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021</b> How can I resist evil?
<b>Ninth Session</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> Why and how should we tell others?
<b>Tenth Session</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b> What about the Church?
<b>Eleventh Session</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b> What about the rest of my life?