



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

The Son of Man must be lifted up

In all four Gospels, Jesus predicts his passion and death. In Matthew, Mark and Luke, (the synoptic Gospels) the prediction is clear, but in John, it is phrased in a more cryptic way, speaking of Jesus being “lifted up”. The first of them we read in today’s Gospel:

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” (*John 3:14-15*)

The second comes when Jesus is in Jerusalem and is talking to the Pharisees who fail to understand that Jesus is speaking about the Father:

“When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.” (*John 8:28*)

The third is the most explicit of these sayings, and comes soon after the triumphal entry into Jerusalem. In the synoptic Gospels this is followed by the cleansing of the Temple, of which we read in St John’s Gospel two weeks ago, and noted that he places this event near the beginning of the public life of Jesus, by which we are reminded that the cleansing of our souls must come *before* we can make spiritual progress.

St John follows up the triumphal entry with a significant story of how some ‘Greeks’ wanted to see Jesus, and Jesus immediately tells the disciples that “the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified”. (*John 12:23*) The ‘hour’ is not a chronological sixty minutes; it is the ‘kairos’, the ‘Time’, the turning-point of history. The ‘glorification’ of Jesus is beginning, and will reach a climax on the Cross and at his Resurrection, the events we celebrate in the ‘Pascal Triduum’, the three Holy Days from the night of Maundy

Thursday to the celebration of Easter at the Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday night.

“When I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (*John 12:32*)

It is only in this last occasion that Jesus is specific about the meaning of being ‘lifted up’. John observes: ‘He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.’

In these three sayings we can read three parts of our Christian life. In the first we believe, in the second we know and in the third we are drawn to Jesus himself. These are not sequential happenings, they are all simultaneous, and continuous.

The ‘lifting up’ of Jesus was an historical event, on Calvary on the first Good Friday, but this ‘hour’, this Kairos is an eternal event, and is made present at every celebration of Mass. We see that lifting up in the Eucharistic Prayer. “Here might I stay and sing”; words of Samuel Crossman in the hymn: ‘My song is love unknown’, but we live in a realm of time, and extending Mass is not always possible, and so the Church offers an opportunity for spending an extended time with the ‘lifted-up’ Jesus during Eucharistic Adoration; here at St Gregory’s on Thursday mornings. It is as though time is frozen at the moment of the Consecration in the Eucharistic Prayer. It is that moment when Jesus says: “It is finished”; not meaning that it is all over, but that his work in his human life was accomplished.

The ‘lifting up’ of Jesus has a continuing meaning, if Jesus lives in us. Whenever we are manifesting the life of Jesus in our words or actions, he is being ‘lifted up’ in us, and his being ‘lifted up’ has the effect of ‘drawing all people’ to himself.



The Season of Creation is continuing

Now is the time to follow words with deeds. “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience” (*Laudato Si’*, 217). By working with love and perseverance, we can sow many seeds of justice and thus contribute to the growth of peace and the renewal of hope. It may well take years for this plant to bear its first fruits, years that, for their part, involve an entire ecosystem made up of continuity, fidelity, cooperation and love, especially if that love mirrors the Lord’s own self-sacrificing Love.

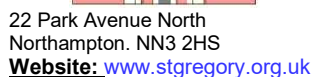
Among the Church’s initiatives that are like seeds sown in this field, I would mention the *Borgo Laudato Si’* project that Pope Francis bequeathed to us at Castel Gandolfo. It is a seed that promises to bear fruits of justice and peace, and an educational project in integral ecology that can serve as an example of how people can live, work

and build community by applying the principles of the Encyclical *Laudato Si’*.

I pray that Almighty God will send us in abundance his “Spirit from on high” (*Isaiah 32:15*), so that these seeds, and others like them, may bring forth an abundant harvest of peace and hope.

The Encyclical *Laudato Si’* has now guided the Catholic Church and many people of good will for ten years. May it continue to inspire us and may integral ecology be increasingly accepted as the right path to follow. In this way, seeds of hope will multiply, to be “tilled and kept” by the grace of our great and unfailing Hope, who is the risen Christ. In his name, I offer all of you my blessing.

From the message of the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV for the tenth World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, 2025



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Sunday <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm 4.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass in Shona Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	Tom Moran RIP The Parish
Monday Our Lady of Sorrows	9.00 am	Mass	Groot (Fdn)
Tuesday Ss Cornelius & Cyprian	9.00 am	Mass	Maureen Salter & Family's Intentions
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Teresa Redmond RIP & Family
Thursday Feria	9.00-11.00 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Mass	Brendan Moran RIP
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Maureen Moriarty & Family's Intentions
Saturday St. Andrew Kim Tae-Gon & the Martyrs of Korea	9.00 am	Mass	Georgina Donaghue RIP
Sunday <i>25th Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Jude Ebeneza Arthur RIP The Parish

<u>Your Offering to the Parish:</u>	Last Week Was £328.39. Thank you!
<u>Standing Order gifts to the Parish:</u>	Each week £557 is given through standing orders.
<u>Donations through the Diocese:</u>	An average of £75 is given each week.
<u>Second Collection Next Sunday</u>	Evangelii Gaudium
<u>Gift Aid benefits to the parish:</u>	The value of Gift Aid averages £171 per week.
<u>Cleaners This Week:</u>	The Church is cleaned & sanitised on a regular basis.
<u>Counters this Week:</u>	CC & MW.

Readings for this Sunday:

Numbers 21: 4b-9:	<i>If anyone were bitten by a serpent, he would look at the bronze serpent and live</i>
Philippians 2: 6-11:	<i>He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him.</i>
John 3: 13-17:	<i>The Son of Man must be lifted up.</i>

Readings for next Sunday (CTS New Sunday Missal Page 1061)

Amos 8: 4-7: 1 Timothy 2: 1-8: Luke 16: 1-13

<u>During This Season of Ordinary Time, Autumn, We Are Asked to Pray For:</u>	Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest; The Spread of the Gospel; Victims of War; Prisoners & Their Families; Children & Young People.
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Pope Leo returns to Castel Gandolfo



Pope Leo looks across Lake Albano from Castel Gandolfo. To the right of the Papal flag can be seen Monte Cavo, and beneath, halfway down towards the lake is Palazzola, where Fr Andrew does his "Italian Job", and will be this November! It is a wonderful place, and

more information about it can be found on its website: www.palazzola.net
The town of Castel Gandolfo has been the summer retreat for successive Popes for centuries, and it is a joy for the town and the area that once again it is being used for this purpose.

Please Pray for the Sick:

[illegible]

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Charlotte Noone	Helen Keeffe
Margaret Riordan	Maria Mazhowyi
Margaret Warnes	John McGill
Patrick Purcell	Josephine Gilmartin
Catherine Fleming	Gerald Gardner
Charles Clarke	Alfred Robinson
Frederick Burke	H. Brierley
Columba McCart	Trevor Thompson
Celia McNally	Kevin White
Christine Clark	Thomas Hallahan
Mary Fallon	Margaret Hollowell
Ellen Ihme	Miklos Becker
Hugh Talbot-Graham	John Rand
Rodney Brewer	Thomas Sheridan
Eileen Coghlan	Bernard Browne
Adelaide Scanlon	Geraldine Blay
James O'Connor	Bridget O'Keeffe
Peter Ryan	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Prayer for Peace for Ukraine, the Holy Land
and all places of strife.
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.

Notices of Interest

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. Any queries or volunteers please contact Kathleen on 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

Bible Alive: The new edition has arrived and is available in the narthex. **PLEASE NOTE:** Each edition now covers two months, and while the price per month remains unchanged, the two-month edition is priced at £6. It is extremely good value, and is a good way for you to enter into the daily Scripture readings at Mass or to follow them if you are unable to be at Mass. Please put money for Bible Alive into the 'Books and Papers' box in the narthex wall.

Parishioners With Young Children: Please, please, do not allow your child to play with/throw around pamphlets/leaflets/booklets etc which are displayed either in the Narthex or the Foyer. They are not toys. Thank you!

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

Parking: Our car-park is small, & many have to park on the road. We are in a residential district, & our neighbours also like to park. Please be considerate, & remember that there are laws regarding where you may park. It is illegal to block a drive to a house where there is a dropped kerb or where a white line is painted indicating the needs of a disabled driver. It is also illegal to park at a road junction. There is usually space on Wellingborough Road at the side of Abington Park opposite the bottom of Lime Avenue.

Tots @ St Gregory's: If you have care of a pre-school child on a Tuesday morning we would be delighted to welcome you. Looking forward to seeing you!

Ceili Dancing: Dancing continues every first & third Wednesday of the month in the Parish hall. All welcome.

Choir Notes: next practices are from 11-12 on the 2nd Saturday of the month: Oct 11, Nov 8. *Alec*

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Whatsapp & telephone on the 1st Saturday of the month, in the Hall: 10 am-12pm.

Missio Matters: It seems only recently that the summer mag became available but now is the time for you to collect your autumn version! The focus here is to prepare for World Mission Sunday on Oct 19. Copies will be available at the church main entrance, on the left hand side as you come in, & are in alphabetical order to make it easier. Your generous support for the work of missionaries continues to impress: God bless you all for that. New donors most welcome, if only to replace others who are now deceased - at least four in the last year. Speak to Dorothy (9am) or Alec (11am) or the clergy for further details.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be in the Sacristy, 7pm, on Monday 13th October. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2025/6: First Holy Communion 2026 Registration will be on **Sunday 19th October** after the 11am Mass. If you know that you cannot come on that date, there is an alternative after the 10.30 Mass at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on Sunday 12th October. Whichever day you register, it is for the same course, and makes no difference to where First Holy Communion is received.

Confirmation in 2025: The Confirmation will be in the afternoon of Sunday September 7th 2025.

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

Marriage support: Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? The next programme starts on 17th October www.retrouaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296 983

Gregory Care: dates for your diary:-

20th September 11-3pm African Unity in Diversity Event.
15th November (time to be confirmed) Indian Unity in Diversity Event
On both days the host community will be sharing their culture through food and entertainment.
11th October Parish Quiz and Supper Evening.
28th February Table top Sale.
9 March St Gregory's Fun Day as part of Headlands celebration.
6h June Picnic in the Park.
We hope as many people as possible can join us at these events.

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

Alpha in the Autumn 2025 — Dates and Subjects

First session:	September 16 th	Is there more to life than this?	Alpha is a basic introduction to faith in God, in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is not a complete teaching scheme for the entire Christian faith. We need to recruit more helpers; if you are able to help in any way, please contact Daniel Davighi or speak to Fr Andrew. For more information and to book please see: https://stgregory.org.uk/alpha
Second Session	September 23 rd	Who is Jesus?	
Third Session	October 7 th	Why did Jesus die?	
Fourth Session	October 14 th	How can I have faith?	
Fifth Session	October 21 st	Why and how do I pray?	
Sixth Session:	November 4 th	Why and how should I read the Bible?	
Seventh Session	November 11 th	How does God guide us?	
Eighth Session	November 18 th	Does God heal today?	
Alpha Away-Day	November 22 nd (Saturday)	Who is The Holy Spirit?	
Ninth Session	November 25 th	How can I resist evil?	
Tenth Session	December 2 nd	Why and how should I tell others?	
Eleventh Session	December 3 rd	What about the Church?	

Let's get *inviting.* 
alpha.org.uk/promote

Scripture Readings: Exaltation of the Cross, 14th September

The Book of Numbers carries Israel's story forward from the giving of the covenant to Moses on Mount Sinai, to the end of their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. God walked with them throughout, always caring for them, often in face of their grumblings. Today we hear how they were still grumbling even as they neared the Promised Land. The rebellious people are forgiven for the last time before leaving the wilderness. Moses raised up an image of a fiery serpent on a standard which cured the serpents' bites. Incense was later offered to a bronze serpent standing in the Temple. Serpents appeared to regenerate themselves by shedding their skins, so they were seen as symbolising life.

The Psalm reinforces the need to remember the lessons of the past: Israelites were punished for giving mere lip service to God although they had seen his power in the plagues of Egypt.

Paul is generally believed to have written this letter to the Philippians from Ephesus around 57 AD. The Christians in Philippi were suffering both internal divisions and antagonism from their neighbours. Paul is united with them through his own suffering, and together they are united with Christ in his suffering. He exhorts them to selflessness, encouraging them by quoting this early Christian hymn.

These readings come together in John's Gospel: Jesus tells Nicodemus that "the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert". Through the Cross "everyone who believes" in Jesus as God's Son "may have eternal life".

(Num 21:4-9; Ps 77(78):1-2,34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17)

Chris Oliver

Please pray for the soul of Chris Oliver who died on 22nd June. May he rest in peace and may God reward him for all the good he has done.

Coming Up

Saturday 20th September
African Cultural Experience

Sunday 28th September
Season of Creation Event
5.00 pm, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Tuesday 30th September
"Vale et Salve"
(Farewell and Welcome)
Farewell to Fr Andrew;
welcome to Fr Christopher
Mass at 7.00 pm

With the prayers of St Carlo Acutis, we have two volunteers to prepare PowerPoints for the 9.00 am Sunday Mass.
Deo Gratias

ETHICS UNPLUGGED:

A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO KEY ISSUES—ZOOM MEETINGS
2nd, 16th, 30th OCTOBER & 13th NOVEMBER 2025

A Partnership between Caritas, Mission Northampton & the Cathedral

Would you like to know more about the Churches response to some important current ethical issues? Join any of our four online Zoom sessions each exploring a different ethical challenge through a Catholic lens.

Week 1 - Thurs 2nd October, 7.30-9pm:
A Catholic Response to Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery.

Speaker Miriam Cakebread, Policy & Network Officer, Santa Marta Group

Week 2 - Thurs 16th October, 7.30-9pm:
A Catholic Response to Gender Identification

Speaker: Bishop David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton

Week 3 - Thurs 30th October, 7.30-9pm:
A Catholic Response to Artificial Intelligence

Speaker: Aidan Cottrell-Boyce, London Jesuit Centre

Week 4 - Thurs 13th November, 7.30-9pm:
A Catholic Response to Ageing, Life & Death in British society today
Speaker: Dr David Jones, St Mary's University & the Anscombe Bioethics Centre

To book your place and receive the zoom link please go online:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/ethics/>

We are blessed to have a relic of the True Cross at St Gregory's, and today's feast is actually on the anniversary of the day on which the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was consecrated.

The legend is that the mother of the emperor Constantine was sent to the Holy Land and was able to find the true cross by means of excavation on the site of Calvary. According to an early historian, after the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, a temple of Venus had been built on the site of the Crucifixion, and Helena was given the task of destroying this pagan edifice.

About 25 years after this, St Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem writes about how pieces of the Cross of Jesus have been sent to many places all over the world. It is certain that some came to Rome, others to Constantinople and to many other cities as well as the piece that remained in Jerusalem. Ours is an authenticated piece from that which is in Rome.



Every year on Good Friday as part of our Solemn Liturgy, we are invited to venerate 'the wood of the Cross', although for this purpose a large crucifix is used, not the actual relic. Good Friday is a day of solemnity as we remember the terrible ordeal suffered by Jesus culminating with his death on the Cross.

The celebration associated with today is connected with the troubled history of the city of Jerusalem. In the early seventh century it was captured by the Persians, and the holy relic was stolen, but thirteen years later it was recovered, and it was probably this event that caused a joyful celebration connected with the Cross.

We approach the Cross with a deep sense of gratitude for the great love of Jesus in giving his life for us. The Cross is the instrument of our salvation, and in dying on it Jesus transforms it from a symbol of disgrace into the very means of grace itself; the grace of forgiveness and salvation.