



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 Sunday

Today, Peace Sunday, gives every parish the chance to pray and reflect on the Pope's Message for the annual World Day of Peace - 1st January. Every year since 1968 each Pope, in turn, has helped us all to focus on an aspect of our vocation, as Catholics, to be, in Pope Francis' words, "artisans of peace". In his message for the World Day of Peace this year, Pope Francis reflects on coming out of the Covid 19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. "While a vaccine has been found for Covid 19" he says "suitable solutions have not yet been found for the war".

But, he reminds us "Many moral, social, political and economic crises we are experiencing are all interconnected and what we see as isolated problems are actually causes and effects of one another".

He calls on **all** of us, in his words, to "promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to spawn poverty and death"... "to join in caring for our common home and in implementing clear and effective measures to combat climate change"... "to battle the virus of inequality and to ensure food and dignified labour for all, supporting those who lack even a minimum wage and find themselves in great difficulty".

The word 'together' is used so often in the text of Pope Francis' message. The experience of Covid 19, as he says, "has made us all the more aware of the need for everyone, including peoples and nations, to restore the word 'together' to a central place". "We can no longer", he reminds us, "think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests; instead, we must think in terms of the common good". "We cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations of a more just and peaceful world and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common. Pope Francis ends, "To all men and women of goodwill I express my prayerful trust that, as artisans of peace, they may work, day by day, to make this a good year! May Mary Immaculate, mother of Jesus and Queen of Peace intercede for us and for the whole world".

(Pax Christi – message for Peace Sunday)

An example of interconnectedness is clear from the issue of migrants seeking to find a home in Britain. They have risked much to get to the shores of the English Channel and are willing to risk their lives to make the crossing. The first question to ask is 'why are they leaving their home land'. For some, it is because their home has become a war-zone. Yet Britain is the second biggest arms exporter, and many areas of conflict are being supplied with British-made weapons. Others are leaving as a result of climate change, fuelled by the developed world. While Britain is content to see other countries so much poorer than we are, it cannot be a surprise that economic migrants seek to come here. Yet our foreign aid budget is reduced in order to spend more on keeping migrants out. So many of the world's problems are connected to injustices and inequalities. Peace does not stand as an issue all on its own. It is interconnected with climate change, with the arms trade, with international aid, global health issues. We must listen to Pope Francis.

"Even so, at the very moment when we dared to hope that the darkest hours of the Covid-19 pandemic were over, a terrible new disaster befell humanity. We witnessed the onslaught of another scourge: another war, to some extent like that of Covid-19, but driven by culpable human decisions. The war in Ukraine is reaping innocent victims and spreading insecurity, not only among those directly affected, but in a widespread and indiscriminate way for everyone, also for those who, even thousands of kilometres away, suffer its collateral effects – we need but think of grain shortages and fuel prices.

Clearly, this is not the post-Covid era we had hoped for or expected. This war, together with all the other conflicts around the globe, represents a setback for the whole of humanity and not merely for the parties directly involved. While a vaccine has been found for Covid-19, suitable solutions have not yet been found for the war. Certainly, the virus of war is more difficult to overcome than the viruses that compromise our bodies, because it comes, not from outside of us, but from within the human heart corrupted by sin (cf. *Gospel of Mark 7:17-23*).

What then is being asked of us? First of all, to let our hearts be changed by our experience of the crisis, to let God, at this time in history, transform our customary criteria for viewing the world around us. We can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests; instead, we must think in terms of the common good, recognizing that we belong to a greater community, and opening our minds and hearts to universal human fraternity. We cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather, the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world, and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common.

In order to do this, and to live better lives after the Covid-19 emergency, we cannot ignore one fundamental fact, namely that the many moral, social, political and economic crises we are experiencing are all interconnected, and what we see as isolated problems are actually causes and effects of one another. Consequently, we are called to confront the challenges of our world in a spirit of responsibility and compassion. We must revisit the issue of ensuring public health for all. We must promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to spawn poverty and death. We urgently need to join in caring for our common home and in implementing clear and effective measures to combat climate change. We need to battle the virus of inequality and to ensure food and dignified labour for all, supporting those who lack even a minimum wage and find themselves in great difficulty. The scandal of entire peoples starving remains an open wound. We also need to develop suitable policies for welcoming and integrating migrants and those whom our societies discard. Only by responding generously to these situations, with an altruism inspired by God's infinite and merciful love, will we be able to build a new world and contribute to the extension of his kingdom, which is a kingdom of love, justice and peace." *(From Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace, 2023)*



22 Park Avenue North
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Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

15th January 2023
Second Sunday of the Year
Parish Mass Book - Year A
Page 55

Priest:
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org
Deacon:
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com
Parish Secretary:
Caryll Comley ☎ 713015
Email: parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org
Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 621807

Sunday	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish Margaret Refoy's Intentions
2nd Sunday Of the Year	11.00 am	Mass	
	5.00 pm	Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	
Monday	9.00 am	Mass	Tony Bull RIP
Monday Feria			
Tuesday	9.00 am	Mass	Evie O'Connell's Intentions
Tuesday St. Anthony			
Wednesday	9.00 am	Mass	Muriel Collins RIP
Wednesday Feria			
Thursday	9-11.00 am	Holy Hours of Adoration	May Murtagh RIP
Thursday St. Wulstan	7.00 pm	Mass	
Friday	9.00 am	Mass	Canonisation of Bl. Cyprian Tansi
Friday St. Sebastian			
Saturday	9.00 am	Mass	Canonisation of Bl. Cyprian Tansi
Saturday St. Agnes	9.45 am	Confessions	
Sunday	9.00 am	Mass	O'Neill & Neculaes Families (living & dec'd). The Parish
3rd Sunday Of the Year	11.00 am	Mass	
	5.00 pm	Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	

Normal opening times: Due to the relaxation in restrictions, the Church will be open every day from 8.45 am until 5.00 pm, except on Thursdays when it remains open until 7.45 pm

- Your Offering to the Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £298.73. Thank you!
- Standing Order gifts to the Parish:** Each week £590 is given through standing orders.
- Donations through the Diocese:** An average of £116 is given each week.
- Gift Aid benefits to the parish:** The value of Gift Aid averages £136 per week!
- Second Collection Last Week:** Hope Centre £1151.20. Thank you!
- Second Collection This Week:** Life House
- Cleaners This Week:** The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.
- Counters this Week:** CC & MS

Readings for this Sunday (Readers 9am: Joel Varghese & Kathleen Fisher: 11am: Mila Mazur)

- Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6**— see inside for details: *I will make you the light of the nations.*
- 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3:** *May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.*
- John 1: 29-34:** *Look, there is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.*

Readings for next Sunday (Readers 9am: Tony Wittich & Jehanne Houghton, 11am: Linda Fleming)

Isaiah 8: 23-9:3; 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17; Matthew 4: 12-23. (Page 57)

During this season Migrants & Refugees; Open-ness to God's Word;

of Christmastide, The Bishop, Clergy & People of the Diocese;

We are asked to pray for: Expectant Mothers.

When will it all end — Covid precautions!

The last two weeks have seen falls in the numbers of Covid infections; the surge after Christmas was probably caused by seasonal celebrations and many more social gatherings. Many are asking when we can return to exchanging the sign of peace, receiving from the chalice and our pre-Covid behaviours. There has been no change in advice from the Church nationally for some time and remains that we should exercise caution, but those who are watching Mass on line from other places will be seeing a variety of practices. Covid is not the only infection around, and seasonal 'flu is also prevalent. When the weather improves it may be appropriate to consider relaxing our precautions.

The most important piece of advice is that if you feel unwell, please do not share your misfortune, but as far as you can, remain at home and do not pass on your infection, whatever it may be. Please remember that if you are ill or caring for an infant or someone who is ill, there is no obligation to do what is impossible! Please pray for all who are suffering with Covid.

If you feel unwell, DO NOT COME

Please Pray for the Sick:

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Veronica Wrighton	Colin Chisholm
Andrew Cooke	Mary Grant
Daniel Whitworthy	Mark Ventour
Berta Pumroy	Gorda Hamilton
Maureen Cumberpatch	Rose Miller
Mary Loakes	Bridget Mapstone
Sr. Ann of Arundel	Colin White
Mabel Knight	Mary Stopforth
Patricia Priest	Liz Bass
Walter Sedgwick	Mary Hurley
Elizabeth McDonagh	Michael Clifford
Mary Simkus	Henryka Szczowjka
Catherine Gould	Alice Turvey-Hardy
Patrick McDonald	Jean Wiles
Thomas Burke	Hector Grace
Joan Cairney	Michael Duffy
Mary Duffy	Belinda Ferrison
Theresa Bartley	John English
Joseph Gutt	Dorothy Remedios
Gwynneth Ducrow	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY:

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Cathedral Foodstore: The number of food bags distributed each week is increasing, but so too is the cost of food. Each bag provides 2 days' worth of food, and two items of toiletries per bag. Research shows that when the money is short, toiletries are the first thing people stop buying. Your donations come at a time when everyone is under financial pressure so you are providing a life line to those in our community in most need. Many thanks

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for January & February 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.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: There will be a shared Bible Study based on the theme of the World Council of Churches: "Praying for Unity amidst Injustice". This year we are hosts, and the meeting is on Tuesday 24th January, with refreshments from 7pm and the meeting to start at 7.30pm.

Repository: I would like to give heartfelt "thank you" to the very small band of devoted helpers. Some of you may have noticed we have not been able to cover all Masses this year as there has been a limited response to my pleas for more help. None of us is getting any younger and it would be a shame if this service has to be curtailed. It requires only a few minutes after Mass and all stock is clearly marked. *Kathleen Healey*. PS There are still some Church Art Calendars and Diaries available.

Concert in aid of St. Gregory's Warm Space: The Sheppard Singers will be performing in the Church on Saturday 28th January at 7.30pm. Free entry & interval refreshments available. Highly recommended! Retiring collection in aid of St. Gregory's Warm Space. All welcome.

A course on the Psalms: It is sub-titled "The School of Prayer", with the invitation to 'learn to pray like Christ'. The course will continue for two more sessions after Christmas; on 18th and 25th January.

Celebration of the work of Street Pastors: There is a general invitation to us all to come to the celebration of the work of the Street Pastors and the commissioning of new workers on Friday 20th January at the New Life Church, 9 Tower Street NN1 2SN. Street Pastors are drawn from a variety of churches including from the Catholic Church, and do valuable work in the town centre.

Thursday Holy Hour & Adoration: As a trial, Holy Hour will be Holy Two Hours, from 9am until 11am. This can only continue if there are sufficient numbers to sustain it. No one is expected to remain for the entire two hours, come for as long as you can or want to.

Residential for all in Year 7-Year 13: NYMO are once again running our annual LUX weekend from 3rd-5th Feb. The weekend is packed full of fun activities, moving times of prayer and inspirational talks. Come and join around 100 other young people from all parts of the diocese for an unforgettable weekend! For more information and to book a place check out our website www.nymo.org/lux

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

Food Parcels: Please contact Gregory Care (01604 713015) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

Change of Date: Now Saturday 25th March 2023 Encounter Northampton, a day hosted by Mission Northampton in St Gregory's Hall from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. More details later!

Flame 2023: The theme of Flame 2023 – which is exactly 150 days before World Youth Day in Lisbon – takes the WYD Scripture "Mary arose & went with haste" and crystallises it into the theme, "Rise Up!" Rise up after the pandemic, Rise up as young Catholics, Rise up – as Mary did – for the surprising and beautiful adventure that is our Catholic faith. **Sat 4th March 23 - book the date - more details soon**

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages: Help Your Marriage. Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending & using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential info or to register for the next programme commencing with a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, or a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023, call/text 07887296983 or 07973380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Choir Matters: Ash Wed is 22nd Feb. We will use the Pilgrimage Mass every Sunday till then. There is an extra practice, mainly about this Mass setting, next Thurs 19th starting at 7:45pm after Mass, in the (heated) Sacristy & will finish by 9pm. Session is open to all though it is hoped that choir members from 9 & 11 Masses will attend. We are fortunate to have the services of the composer, Teresa Brown, who will lead the practice. *Alec*

CAFOD is looking for people to give some time and join in our parish mission of global outreach. Could you help develop our work in parishes or Catholic schools? Training and support is provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch - Deborah Purfield 07786 114 390 | dpurfield@cafod.org.uk

Church Heating: The Church heating has to be on for two hours before it even begins to warm up, so not running it for weekday Mass is a way of making a considerable saving. Please come in warm clothing! We will heat the church and hall on Sundays, but the extra cost of this will be more than the saving on weekdays.

Sing along to 60s/70s Music, by the Burton Latimer Ukulele and Drum Group, In aid of 'The Cathedral Foodstore'. 7pm Monday 23rd January — St Thomas Centre. Admission: £5. Tickets available after Mass.

The Sunday of the Word of God: Next Sunday is the day that Pope Francis has asked us to celebrate the Word of God in Holy Scripture, and there will be a celebration in the Cathedral at 3.00 in the afternoon, at which readers will be commissioned. All our readers are specially invited to be there; everyone is welcome.

Deacon Rory & Anne Stewart's New Address:
c/o Widmouth Farm, Watermouth, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 9RX

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 16th Jan 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 2023: Congratulations to all children who have enrolled on the First Holy Communion programme. You will now have all the dates of sessions. Please try to attend them all, and please enjoy the course!

Confirmation in 2023: Those interested in Confirmation preparation should have spoken to Helen and will know the plan for the coming months.

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)**

Tots @ St Gregory's has restarted: tots and their carers welcome, 9.30-11.30 on Tuesdays during term-time £1 per adult!

Refreshment Donations: From this week, refreshment donations will be given to Gregory Care which supports those in material need in our own parish, but also operates the toiletry collections for the Cathedral Foodstore. The total of donations to the Hope Centre has been magnificent, we have not separated refreshment donations from the Crib offerings, but the combined total will provide significant help for the homeless of our town.

Prayers for Ukraine: Please continue to pray for an end to the war in Ukraine:

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 15th January 2023, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Second Isaiah's servant songs were written after the Israelites had been released from their captivity in Babylon. The servant, chosen before he was born, is to take God's salvation to the whole world, as well as to Israel.

The psalm offers thanks to God for rescue from danger. Doing God's will is the best sacrifice we can offer, trusting in God's Law and his plans for us.

From now until Lent we read from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, written from Ephesus about 56AD. Paul cannot stop talking about the centre of his life: Jesus, who called him to be his envoy. Those in the "assembly called by God in Corinth", are called to be holy, part of the universal fellowship of believers, and subject to Christ's authority. He blesses them with grace – God's unconditional love – and peace.

John's Gospel does not have Jesus being baptised. Instead, after the Baptist insists to questioners from Jerusalem that he is not the Messiah, he recognises Jesus. Uniquely he describes Jesus as the Passover sacrificial "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world", the "Chosen one of God", who "baptises with the Holy Spirit". This gift of new life in God, is greater than the cleansing given by John's baptism with water.

Psalm Response: **Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.**
(Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6; Psalm 39(40); 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34)

Chris Oliver

Warm Welcome

St Gregory's hall has been offering a warm welcome since the cold weather began a few weeks ago, and we have been given a generous donation of food for anyone who comes. We are one of a number of places in the neighbourhood which are offering a place which is heated and providing food and welcome; between them all there is welcome throughout the week.

Each house that is heated is not only using up the energy supply which is not unlimited, and if the weather turns colder again (which is likely) there is a risk of power cuts, but also is generating greenhouse gasses which

contribute to our carbon footprint, and add to climate change. Taking advantage of the 'warm welcome' not only saves money; it also helps save the planet!

There are children's toys, and we now have a Wi-Fi provision for any who are working 'from home', and continuous provision of tea, coffee and soft drinks. Please do make use of this facility.

Family Peace Quiz

1. Pax Christi is a Latin name. What do those words mean in English?
2. Who is Malala Yousafzai and how did she become the youngest person to win the Nobel Prize for Peace?
3. What is specially remembered on each of these dates every year: 15 May / 6 August / 21 September / 11 November?
4. Who wrote and recorded a song with the repeated line: 'All we are saying is give peace a chance'?
5. How many countries are members of the United Nations?
6. What is Mahatma Gandhi famous for?
7. What do you call a person who believes it's always wrong to fight?
8. Who are known as the blue berets? The white helmets?
9. Which English nurse said 'Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness in my heart for anyone'?
10. Which animal did St Francis persuade not to attack the local villagers? Was it a lion / a bear / a wolf / a snake?

Answers 1: The Peace of Christ 2: The Pakistani schoolgirl shot by a Taliban gunman in 2012 for speaking up for girls' education. She came to the UK for medical treatment, attended school then studied at the University of Oxford. She remains an activist for female education. 3: 15th May International Conscientious Objectors' Day, 6 August the atomic bomb dropped over Hiroshima, Japan; in 1945, 21st September International Day of Peace, 11th November Armistice Day, the day in 1918 that the First World War came to an end. 4: John Lennon & the Plastic Ono Band. 5: 193. 6 For his long campaign of nonviolence leading India to independence from Britain. 7 A Pacifist. 8 Soldiers of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force, Volunteers helping civilian victims of the war in Syria. 9 Edith Cavell during the First World War. 10 Wolf.