



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

You are my Disciples

The last words of the Gospel passage for today are:

“By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples” (*John 13:35*)

When there is a war raging between two nations, both of which are allegedly Christian nations, and where the aggressor claims to be a disciple of Christ and is supported by his Metropolitan Patriarch, we may find these words of Jesus quite a challenge.

It is tempting simply to point the finger, but there is a challenge closer to home in terms of our own personal relationships. The first of those relationships, from which all others flow, if we are truly disciples of Jesus, must come from our relationship with him. Read again the longer passage from our Gospel today:

I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples” (*John 13:34-35*)

“Just as I have loved you” is the clue to understanding the love of which Jesus is speaking. It has been described as “actively willing the good of the other as other” (*Bishop Robert Barron, Catholicism, page 48*), quoting St Thomas Aquinas, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church at paragraph 1766. What Jesus has done for us is motivated by his willing the good for us; that is, to share eternity in heaven, but also to enjoy the benefits of this life from conception to its natural end.

We are embarking on the season of First Holy Communion, and over the next three weeks we have 22 young people who will be receiving the life of Jesus into their own life in this wonderful way. We have already read from the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. Those words come near the beginning of the narrative of that meal; later we hear Jesus saying as part of his prayer to the Father:

“That they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (*John 17:23*)

“I in them” takes on a special significance as we receive Christ in Holy Communion. It speaks first to our unity with God, and then to our unity as a Church, both locally and globally.

To be a disciple is to be learning. The word derives from the Latin ‘discere’ – to learn. (There was a school whose motto was “Audio, Video, Disco” — pupils were disappointed to discover that this means “I hear, I see, I learn”.) Our Christian life is a journey of learning and exploration as we discover more and more about the love of God.

It is a journey that our First Holy Communion children are taking a new step upon, but it is a journey that we are all engaged in; a shared pilgrimage through this life and reaching its destination in heaven.

This life is constantly throwing up challenges to us, and a constant one is the working out in practical terms how we love one another, and particularly how we love those who clearly do not love us. This is most obvious when we consider the Russian army attacking Ukraine, and how we should respond to this.

No one should have to put up with bullying, and whether it be in the school playground, in the workplace or on the international stage, bullying must be prevented, and those who engage in bullying must learn a better way. Another way of describing ‘learning a better way’ is ‘conversion’. Just as we are all on a ‘learning curve’, so too are those who wish us harm, and our first prayer should not be that they are punished, but that they learn and change their ways. We must wish the good of the other, however much the ‘other’ may not wish the good of us. To die on a battlefield is not the good, whatever nationality they may be, or under whatever flag they may fight.

The present conflict clearly shows the ancient truth that in war there are no winners, only losers. As we see the tragic loss of life, the loss of homes, the loss of economic prosperity in Ukraine, we also see the suffering of the people of Russia due to the sanctions against their country, and yet more tragically, the knock-on effect of the food production of Ukraine leading to food shortage, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Our own problems due to rising prices are small compared to those who face a total lack of food, but this is still a consequence of the Ukraine conflict. We must continue to pray for peace and that the conflict may end justly and speedily.

Congratulations to those receiving Holy Communion for the first time this Sunday

Micah Heath

Albert Kasimbi

Timothy Kasimbi

Maya Zmuda

Lucy Felce

May God's blessing be with you always; may you grow in discipleship, in knowledge and love of God and in service to all mankind.

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for Easter & June 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.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass and there is a display of First Communion and Confirmation cards and mementoes. We need more helpers prepared to stand for a few minutes after Mass – all stock is marked, so an easy task! *Contact Kath.healey.789@ gmail.com*



Diocesan Pilgrimage, Walsingham: 4th June: A coach will leave from St. Gregory's at 8am on Sat. 4th June, leaving Walsingham at about 5.00pm. **Cost £16 per person (payable in advance).** Please see poster for full details. **To book, please speak to Caryll in the Office, or add your details to the list in the Lobby area and see one of the Clergy to pay.**

Hilary Green RIP: Many thanks for the prayers, Mass cards and condolences following the death of my sister, Hilary. Mass will be said for your intentions. *Michael*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 30th May, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: The preparation now turns to the receiving of Holy Communion for the first time, and we look forward to this in May. Thanks also to the parents in providing support and becoming catechists for their own children.

Confirmation in 2022: Registration for confirmation preparation & confirmation this year is now closed, no further applications can be accepted. The sessions will run on Sunday mornings from 10.15 - 11.30. Please join us for 9am Mass as part of this course. Confirmation Mass is Saturday 2nd July at midday.

Dachau, Germany 1933: The first concentration camp set up by the Nazi regime. As the trains rolled through Dachau filled with people about to die, the local population suspected what was happening at the camp. **2021, United Kingdom:** nearly 200,000 babies were killed by abortion & we KNEW.... But what did we do? What as Catholics have you done to combat this evil? This is what we will be asked at our judgement. Please consider joining the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. For further details contact William Currie on 07393965643 or wpcurrie@btinternet.com. Thank you. *William*

Red Boxes/Missio for Foreign Missions/Mill Hill Fathers:

Despite difficult financial times, 2021 was a good year for Missio, supported through prayer, with almost £2.5 million donated through England & Wales via Red Boxes, direct debits, cheques or online. Northampton Diocese raised £66,000+ - St Gregory's contribution being £4,177 - a bumper year after some lean COVID ones. Thanks & God bless those who helped. The founder of this network, Pauline Jaricot, will be beatified 22 May this year. This remarkable woman's life was marked by intense suffering & great trust in God. Pauline's life helps us to see how every prayer, however short, & every contribution, however small, is valued by God & transforms the world for the better. Thank you for being part of Pauline's legacy. Visit mission.org.uk to find out more about Pauline & how your support of Missio changes lives for the better. If you wish to become one of our donors or need other details please contact Alec or Dorothy.

Food Parcels: Please get in touch with Gregory Care (07434669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

Choir Matters: Practices start after evening Mass, 1st Thursday each month: 7:45-9pm. The June practice is one week earlier to coincide with Ascension Thursday's evening Mass, May 26. Other dates are July 7, Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6. Old age & infirmity are catching up with some familiar voices - including myself - & new members are needed... the view from the Gallery is great. *Alec.*

Vocations to Priesthood: Vocations weekends are planned three times a year. These are weekends for men who are discerning priesthood. You may be in the very early stages of discernment and don't worry — you don't have to sign anything! You can take your time and meet priests who can share more about this incredible life. Priesthood is a gift to our diocese, and we would love to connect with you as you continue your journey with God. At any point you can contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Andy Richardson – (01582 502400) or vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org.

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)**

Planned Giving Envelopes: If you use envelopes, please take your new box from beside the confessionals. Apologies to any who have transferred to standing orders but have still been issued with envelopes. Standing orders are managed by the Diocesan Finance Office, and the parish does not always have full details.

Parish and Diocesan Finances: A new financial year has begun, and as soon as we have the complete accounts from the Diocese, they will be published. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, and if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

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

Wednesday evening Bible Study by Zoom: 8 week course on Romans led by Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, subtitled "The Gospel of Salvation".

Session 1, 18th May	Introduction:
Session 2, 25th May	Chapters 1-2:
Session 3, 1st June	Chapters 3-4:
Session 4, 8th June	Chapters 5-6:
Session 5, 15th June	Chapters 7-8:
Session 6, 22nd June	Chapters 9-11:
No session on June 29th	Feast of SS Peter and Paul, Mass at 7.00 pm
No session on 6th July	Diocesan 'Year of the Word' Webinar on the Sunday readings through the summer
Session 7, 13 th July	Chapters 12-13:
Session 8, 20 th July	Chapters 14-16: The End of the Story.

Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

Tots @ St Gregory's: TINY TOTS look forward to seeing you: if you have charge of a pre-school child, from 9:30- 11:30 on a Tuesday morning, you are most welcome!

Monday evening Zoom session: These will continue for any who would like to share in them; we have been studying the lives of saints and other people whose life has been significant in the history of the Church. The long-postponed session on St Augustine of Canterbury will be this week. Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

Scripture Readings 15th May 2022, 5th Sunday of Easter, Year C

Last week in Acts the first mission of Paul and Barnabas started. They preached in synagogues, with mixed receptions. Many Jews became Christians. But many did not, stirring up hatred and violence against the Apostles, leaving Paul for dead. Barnabas and Paul then preached to the Gentiles, showing how they could recognise God's activity in nature. Today we hear how this first mission ends, with religious leaders appointed in each church, and a report of "what God had done".

The Psalm praises the Lord's kindness and care for creation.

In Revelation the promise of salvation described last week is now accomplished. The new Jerusalem comes down adorned as a bride for her marriage with the Lamb, the union of the Messiah with the community of the elect. God dwells with men on earth, after the "former heaven and the former earth" are replaced by a

"new heaven and a new earth". God's ancient covenant is fulfilled.

In John's Gospel we hear the first of Jesus' farewell discourses at the Last Supper. Jesus is sad to leave his followers. After washing the disciples' feet, Jesus draws out the meaning of this action. He predicts his coming death and gives a new commandment: love one another. The true mark of discipleship is that we "have love for one another".

Psalm Response: **I will bless you name for ever, O God my King.**

(Acts 14:21-27; Psalm 144(145):8-13; Rev 21:1-5; John 13:31-35)

Chris Oliver

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

LIFETEEN SUMMER CAMP 2022

Sunday 24th to Thursday 28th July 2022
Alton Castle: For more information and to go to the bookings page visit <https://nymo.org/summercamp/>

40 Hours Adoration

There will be our annual 40 hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for 2022, from 7.00 am on June 24th until 11.00 pm on Saturday June 25th. Please keep this date in your diary.

ALPHA IS NOW RUNNING

The current Alpha course is now in progress, but there will be another starting in the autumn.

There is a small team of leaders and helpers. Now is not too soon to be thinking about whether you could join them. Catherine Mulligan leads the catering team, and offers of help in the kitchen and in the preparation of the hall on Tuesday afternoons is always welcome.

GREGORY CARE UPDATE

Difficult choices.....

Hygiene products, like food, are a basic human need yet today in our community many people will have to face difficult choices about whether to buy food or hygiene products for themselves and their families. Soap, Toothpaste and Laundry products are not a luxury they are an essential element in helping people to maintain their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

In recent weeks there has been much discussion in the media about the negative effects on people's lives if they don't have access to these products. 'In Kind Direct' have stated 8 in 10 primary teachers have seen a rise in the number of children coming to school unwashed or not looking presentable in the last

5 years. Nearly half of all teachers have said they have seen bullying because of hygiene issues.

Research by 'The Trussel Trust' has found that long before people go to a food bank they stop buying toiletries.

For many months St Gregory's parishioners have been very generous in supporting Gregory Care in its efforts to supply hygiene products to all families who receive food from the Cathedral Food Store. These hygiene products have been much appreciated by the recipients, every item donated makes a difference to someone. We anticipate the need for such items will continue to grow over the coming months so once again **we sincerely ask for your continued support** so that together as a parish we can continue to make a difference to people's lives.

The Letter to the Romans — Wednesday evening Bible Study (Zoom)

In the Second Letter of Peter we read: There are some things in Paul's letters hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. You, therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your own stability' (3:16-17). It has long been known that Paul is not easy.

Nevertheless, the Letter to the Romans is the most worthwhile of all Paul's letters, presenting as it does in all its fullness 'the Gospel of Paul', not a gospel invented by him, but an inspired explanation of the full meaning of Christ's death and resurrection.

Romans will reward the efforts we make to understand it. It expresses the heart of the good news in a way no other New

Testament document does. "He died for our sins, and rose again for our justification' (4:25).

'There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus' (8:1). 'The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith' (1:16).

In a sermon on a text of Romans, Blessed John Henry Newman wrote: 'Nothing can deprive us of our hope of heaven. But on the other hand how little we understand our privileges; how little we understand the words of the sacred writers about them. May God enlighten our eyes to see what the privileges are.' (Faith and Prejudice 109)

(From the introduction to "The Letter to the Romans" by Fr Adrian Graffy – available from online booksellers; ISBN 978-1-906278-16-8.)

Are you curious about Christianity?

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which is 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. 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

First session:	April 26th 2022:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	May 3rd 2022:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	May 10th 2022:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	May 17th 2022:	How can I be sure of my faith?
Fifth Session:	May 24th 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	June 7th 2022:	How does God guide us?
Seventh Session:	June 14th 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Away-Day:	June 17th – 18th 2022:	Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session:	June 21st 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	June 28th 2022:	Why and how should we tell others?
Tenth Session:	July 5th 2022:	What about the Church?
Eleventh Session:	July 12th 2022:	What about the rest of my life?

How Alpha Works — and Why

Alpha works because it uses the same methods that Jesus himself used. It uses personal contacts. Jesus said to Andrew: “Come and see” (*John 1:39*), and it is the same invitation that we make. Like Jesus, who so often in the Gospels is seen at a meal with others, Alpha is set in the context of a meal. It is not Mass, but could be seen as looking forward to when everyone at Alpha can share in the Eucharistic meal — what theologians call an ‘allegory’ of the Mass. St Paul speaks of ‘children in the faith’ not being ready for solid food (*1 Corinthians 3:1-2*), and Alpha is like coming to see Jesus in the person of some of his disciples. Having ‘come and seen’, people are free to make their own decision. Thankfully, many decide to get to know Jesus better. Alpha is also ideal for the Church community as it uses so many different talents and skills, and does not force people out of their ‘comfort zones’. It needs the talents of the cooking team; the team who prepare the room, the table hosts and table leaders. It needs the skill of the technicians, and of musicians. Above all, it needs the support of prayer, and it needs people to invite others to ‘come and see’.

DIocese of Northampton Liturgy Commission- LITURGICAL FORMATION

The God Who Speaks - Our Liturgy of the Word



A Series of online Zoom Sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year. A valuable opportunity to develop our engagement with the Scriptures that we hear proclaimed at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass.

Led by the Liturgical Formation Team with presentations by Liz Clark, Fr Allan Jones CRIC, Mgr Kevin McGinnell & Fr Andrew Behrens

Wednesday 20 April 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)
Celebrating Eastertide

Each session will include input, prayer and the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

Cost: No charge but there will be the opportunity to make a donation

Please register in advance to secure a place by e mail or phone:

email admin@nores.org.uk or phone: 01582 723312 (ext 1)
Once your booking is received you will be sent details of how to join the online Zoom sessions. Thank you.

(Photo from www.pexels.com)

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

Recently, Revolution Zero have opened a community food larder (social supermarket) in the former UCR Church, The Headlands. Their aim is to make food accessible to everyone & reduce the amount of food going to landfill. 15 items of choice for £5. Please take a look at the link-<http://www.revolutionzero.org/> They have a Facebook page & are open Tues 1-3pm, Wed 1-4pm, Thurs 1-3pm & Sat 11-12 noon.

Thank you again for amazing contributions and please keep this initiative in your prayers.

An act of Spiritual Communion

I prostrate myself at your feet, O my Jesus,
and I offer you the repentance of my heart,
which abases itself in its nothingness
and in your Holy Presence.

I adore You in the Sacrament of your Love;
I desire to receive You in the poor abode
that my heart offers You.

While awaiting the happiness of Sacramental Communion, I wish to possess you in spirit.
Come to me, O my Jesus, that I may come to You. May your Love inflame my whole being
in life and in death.

Jesus, I believe in You, I hope in You,
I love You. Amen. *Pope Francis [20 March 2020]*

Repainting in the church: If you can help, please can you contact Cliff Snelling at cliff.snelling@btinternet.com, indicating which weeks (when weather is warmer) you would be available to help.