



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

Red Box Sunday next week

For World Mission Sunday in 2023, Pope Francis has chosen the theme: ‘Hearts on fire, feet on the move’ (cf. Luke 24:13-35). Reflecting on the disciples’ encounter with Jesus on the journey to Emmaus in Luke’s gospel the Holy Father writes that ‘their encounter with Christ in the Word and in the breaking of bread sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen. Their hearts burned within them, their eyes were opened, and their feet set out on the way.’

We rejoice in the countless examples of men and women missionaries in the past, and who still today, respond with joy to their call to mission overseas. Our mission has only just begun. Most of the world still needs to discover the Good News of Christ who brings truth, love, and freedom from all that enslaves us.

Pope Francis reminds us that wherever we are in the world, ‘the primary and principal resource of mission are those persons who have come to know the Risen Christ in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist, who carry his fire in their heart and his light in their gaze. They can bear witness to the life that never dies, even in the most difficult of situations and in the darkest of moments.’

We have accepted God’s invitation to the wedding-feast, and at any wedding we will hear the Father’s speech. We must not be found to be unworthy; to be found without the wedding garment. We must abandon all that is unworthy of the royal invitation: deep seated prejudices, false assumptions and irrational fears, worship of society’s current ‘idols’, along with unhealthy desires and cravings for all that is passing and ultimately meaningless; and to give to God our unconditional commitment to his will.

World Mission Sunday is celebrated in every Catholic community in the world. On this day through prayer, reflection and material help we express our support of missionaries who today are striving to preach and live the Gospel among those have yet to receive it.



World Mission Sunday provides us with a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence, and oppression. However, this is not just a once-in-a-year celebration. We are called to reflect on our own call to mission and to embrace a missionary spirit every moment of every day.

Missio, the Holy Father’s charity for overseas mission, helps the Churches too poor or too young to support themselves. Your prayers and donations today will make a difference, to people like Sister Mary and parishioner Linet in Kenya.

Kibera, the biggest ‘slum’ in Africa, is rife with all the problems poverty brings including unemployment, malnourishment, addiction, and abuse. It is easy to see Kibera as a place of despair. But missionary Sister Mary and Linet try to meet the challenges of life in Kibera with

faith and friendship.

With the support of Sister Mary, Linet courageously lives out her faith by rescuing and fostering children who are at risk of harm. Linet has sometimes faced real danger to rescue the children who have been abandoned, orphaned, or trafficked.

World Mission Sunday is a lifeline for missionaries like Sister Mary, who give their whole lives to bring the love and hope of Jesus to situations of extreme poverty and injustice.

This year, Sister Mary needs your support to ensure her work continues to make a difference for many more vulnerable children.

We all have a part to play in igniting God’s love. This World Mission Sunday let us set hearts ablaze with Christ’s love through missionaries, like Sister Mary, and the inspiring people they walk alongside.

*Go forth, messengers of God’s tender mercy.
May your burning zeal be not shackled by fetters.
Go forth, O sisters and brothers, happy you! go forth.*

Notices of Interest

Car Park Safety: Neither the Parish nor the Diocese are responsible for the safety of persons (adults or children), cars or their contents while in the car-park.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass wherever possible! 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.

Bible Alive for October & November is now available - only £3.00! If you wish to purchase a copy, they are in the narthex as you come into church.

Thursday Holy Hour & Adoration: Holy Hour remains as Holy Two Hours, from 9am until 11am. It is important that at least two people are present throughout the time of adoration.

Day of Prayer, Praise & Healing at Turvey Abbey, High Street, Turvey, MK43 8DE, on Saturday 4th November from 10am until 4pm. Bring a plate of food to share. Suggested donation £10. All welcome.

Warm Welcome: Last winter we provided a "Warm Welcome" in the hall throughout the cold weather; this year a slightly different plan is being considered, still on Mondays and Wednesdays from after Mass until lunch. However this will need more volunteers for it to be able to function. No particular skills are required, just to be able to be there! With sufficient people, this would not be an 'every week' commitment. Please speak to Fr Andrew if you can help, even if only occasionally.

Tots @ St Gregory's: St Greg's Tiny Tots are starting again this Tuesday September 12th. We meet each Tuesday in term time from 9:30-11:30 in the church hall. We charge £1 per group which includes snacks and coffee! If you have care of a pre-school child, join us!!

Choir Notes: Next practice will be Saturday October 7th, 11am till 12:30pm. New faces with their voices welcome. *Alec*

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group continues to pray together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Church, from 10am-12pm.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday evening, 6th November. at 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Enrolment for 2024 will be Sunday 8th Oct. after the 11am Mass. There will be a welcome to the children who are registered & their parents at the 11am Mass on Sunday 5th Nov. All sessions will be on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates and times will be available at the registration. Please see the separate article on the way the programme works.

Confirmation in 2023: Confirmation sessions have resumed r, and those enrolled should have received an email with details.

Food Parcels: Please contact Gregory Care (07434 669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

Alpha in the Autumn: Alpha is now running weekly on-line every Tuesday evening. For more information visit: www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha

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)**

URGENT NOTE ON FINANCES If you have transferred to standing orders and pay income tax please contact Fr Andrew (preferably by email) so that the Gift Aid can be linked to your donation. Claims can only be made for up to three years, so there is some urgency about this.

Fewer Electrical Hazards: Many thanks to Daniel and his son, Matthew for changing all the main lights in the church for LED replacements which use much less power. There is now a new board with circuit breakers for the hall, kitchen and sacristy, meeting the current requirements. There are still a few small jobs needing to be done, but mostly we have put right things that were required. Part of safeguarding is to ensure that in every respect the church is as safe as possible for all who come here.

The Northampton Male Voice Choir will be performing at Northampton Cathedral to raise funds for the Healing Garden. The garden, within the Cathedral grounds, is intended to provide a sanctuary for all in need of healing, with a particular focus on the needs of those hurt by abuse. Please join us for a fantastic evening of music & entertainment. The concert starts at 7.30pm on Fri. 20th Oct. All welcome. Tickets cost £15 & can be purchased by calling 01604 714556 or <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northamptoncathedral> or by visiting the Cathedral Parish Office within the St Thomas Centre.

Fire Safety — Important notice. We have had trays made to go under the racks where the candles burn to prevent the possibility of a naked flame falling on unlit candles below. Unlit candles **must not** be placed on these trays in any circumstances & must not be stacked one on top of another.

Free to a Good Home: 8 berth tent, perfect for family camping. Big, solid tent with bed pods at either end, used but not abused, only used twice. Pretty sure all poles present, but they're quite easy to buy on ebay if not! If interested, please speak to Caryll in the office.

Refreshment Donations: From now until the Harvest collection on Sunday October 8th refreshment donations after Sunday Mass and on Wednesday mornings is given to CAFOD. Below is the schedule for refreshment donations through the year:

From the first Sunday in Advent	The Hope Centre
to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:	
From the Second Sunday in ordinary time	Gregory Care
to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:	
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

Mission Prayer

Heavenly Father
it is your will that we should make disciples of all nations.
We ask you to bless the mission of our Diocese of Northampton and guide our hearts and minds so that your will might be done and your kingdom be build up here on earth.
We pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, without which our work is in vain, and we entrust ourselves to your beloved Son, for we know that he is with us for all time, now and for ever.
Amen

Prayer 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

15th October 2023, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

After the desolation of the earth and the final judgement, Isaiah describes in mouth-watering detail the great banquet the Lord will provide. It will be on Mount Zion and all peoples are invited. Not only will all sorrows be wiped away, but also the ultimate worry – death – will be destroyed.

The familiar psalm expresses our personal confidence that the Lord is preparing a beautiful surprise for us to enjoy after death.

Our readings from Paul's letter to the Philippians conclude with Paul again thanking them for their continued support and the money they had sent him. God's help enables him to be content whatever his problems, but their thoughtfulness is especially welcome now that he is in prison. He ends his letter with a fond farewell: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit".

Matthew compares the kingdom of heaven to a wedding feast – the heavenly banquet to which all are invited. But if we accept the invitation we must prepare adequately and be willing to participate fully. Otherwise we may still be thrown out. Our membership must be visible to others. We must do more than just belong. Like the Philippians we must share what we have with the community we have joined, and with those in need.

Psalm Response: **In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.**

Isa 25:6-10; Ps 22(23) r.6; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Matt 22:1-14

Chris Oliver

Sacrosanctum Concilium — The Liturgy

Sacrosanctum Concilium, The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, promulgated on December 4, 1963, is the first document issued by the Council fathers of Vatican II.

Fittingly, it focuses on the Eucharist, by which "the work of our redemption is accomplished" and which is the source and summit of the Christian life. (§2)

Being the first document of the Council, *Sacrosanctum Concilium* lays out the objectives of Vatican II in the introduction.

They are four-fold: "To impart an ever-increasing vigour to the Christian life of the faithful; to adapt more closely to the needs of our age those institutions which are subject to change; to foster whatever can promote union among all who believe in Christ; to strengthen whatever can help to call all mankind into the Church's fold." (§1)

Lofty goals indeed. We see clearly in these ideals that the vision of the Council was to renew the life of the Church for the sake of evangelizing the modern world.

Perhaps, in this present time, we are just beginning to understand that this was the fundamental purpose of Vatican II.

What happens at Mass

In the Eucharist, Christ continues the saving sacrifice of the Paschal Mystery by which we obtain the promise of eternal life and the forgiveness of our sins.

The Mass is the action of Christ in union with His Mystical Body, the Church.

When we participate in the earthly liturgy, we are experiencing a foretaste of the heavenly liturgy where the Communion of Saints worships God, is joined together as one in the love of Christ and is fed at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. (§8)

In the Mass, God speaks to us through the proclamation of the Word, we offer the gifts of our lives in union with the sacrifice of Christ, we share in the death and resurrection of the Lord, and we receive the Bread of Life, the Sacred Body and Blood of Christ. "Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations . . . to which the Christian people . . . have a right and obligation by reason of their baptism." (§14)

A reform of the Sacred Liturgy

Sacrosanctum Concilium calls for a reform of the Sacred Liturgy, laying down some general norms for the changes to come, including that all Catholics have the right to attend Mass celebrated according to the rite of the Catholic Church as in the Missal and not altered on the whim of the priest. "Careful investigation — theological, historical, and pastoral — should always be made into each part of the liturgy which is to be revised, and that there must be no innovations unless the good of the Church genuinely and certainly requires them, and . . .

any new forms adopted should in some way grown organically from forms already existing." (§22-23)

All the reforms were intended to re-emphasise the fundamental truths enshrined in our liturgy and to remove those things which obscured them.

The calendar was reformed to give greater emphasis to Sunday as the 'Easter of the Week' and to reveal more clearly the different seasons of the liturgical year. The feasts of some of the saints were removed while others were introduced, and the reading of the scriptures at Mass was reformed to include more of the Bible, over a 3 year Sunday cycle, and 2 years on weekdays.

The Council fathers sought to encourage a greater participation of the laity in the Mass through fundamental liturgical formation and their sung and spoken responses, to amplify the importance of the Scriptures by expanding the lectionary cycle, to encourage the inclusion of a homily, to restore the prayers of the faithful, and to make allowance for the usage of the vernacular, especially in the readings and the petitions.

A valid criticism can be made, not of the document itself, but of its implementation, that the 'fundamental liturgical formation' was inadequate in many places, and that congregations were subjected to change without the explanation, leaving many people disappointed, bewildered or feeling no longer at home at Mass. The instruction that "care must be taken to ensure that the faithful may also be able to say or sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them" (§54) was widely ignored.

There is a chapter on Sacred Music which encourages the continued use of the great legacy of music, including plainsong and polyphony, while encouraging composers increase the store of treasures. Sadly in many places everything old was discarded, and much of the new was of questionable quality, and some composers paraphrased or even completely changed the texts of the missal.

This is not to say there were no parishes where the liturgical changes of Vatican II were implemented faithfully and well.

The intention of the Council was that through a better understanding of the Mass, congregations would be able to participate better in the celebration

This aim has, even now not been fully realised. It was the purpose of the Council, and remains the desire of the Church that people come to profoundly know, keenly understand, ardently believe, and faithfully participate in the Eucharist as the centre of our lives and the very meaning of our existence, grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ.

That hope is the driving force of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.