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

Just Imagine

Just imagine a world in which everyone was a disciple of Jesus. A world in which we all measured our thoughts, words and actions following the teachings of the Gospel.

We can start with the words of St John the Baptist:

> "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." (*Luke 3:11-14*)

The teaching of Jesus is often thought of as being summarised in the 'sermon on the mount' in St Matthew's Gospel; and that is a good place to go to, particularly to that part where Jesus says 'You have heard it said' . . . . 'but I say to you . . . .' He speaks of sins of thought; thoughts than can lead to actions, but teaching that the thoughts themselves are sinful, even if they do not lead sinful actions. He speaks of thoughts of anger, of lust, and teaches against retaliation and commands us to love even those who hate us.

He also commands us to be generous, and not to do so to get good publicity. This command to generosity is also made very clear in the parable of the last judgement where we are warned about the sins of omission — what we have **not** done.

> "For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." (Matthew 25:42-43)

The supreme commandment is given at the Last Supper:

> "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." (*John 13:34*)

In our fallen human state, we find living this way of life very difficult, and so Jesus gave us help. First is the gift of the Holy Spirit who, in the sevenfold forms of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and the respect for God empowers us to live as God wishes for us. From these gifts the fruits grow: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

He also gives us the gift of prayer; the ability to have conversation with God; not just to be able to talk to him, but to listen to him, speaking through the pages of Holy Scripture, through the teaching of the Church, through our own conscience.

He has also given us his abiding presence in the Eucharist, and it is significant that it was on the same occasion that he gave us his 'new commandment' that he also, while giving us the pattern of the Eucharist, told us to "do this in remembrance" of him. (*Luke 22:19, 1 Corinthians 11:24*) In that these two commandments were given on the night before Jesus died, they are his last teachings, and therefore both deserve special care and obedience.

If we imagine a world in which not just the teachings of Jesus, but the Christian way of life was universally followed, what a different world we would inhabit.

This may seem to be a 'pipe-dream'; an impossible goal. History has sadly shown that even in religious communities, many fail to live up to the standards of the Gospel. But this does not mean that the attempt should be abandoned. A student may regard 100% in an exam to be impossible, but that does not mean that it is not worth trying to do a bit better.

Today is the day which is designated now as 'Evangelii Gaudium Sunday'; it used to be called 'Home Mission Sunday'. The new name is following Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation entitled 'Evangelii Gaudium', which means 'The Joy of the Gospel'. Apart from the special collection to help fund mission projects in this country, it is also a day when we are asked to support the missionary work of the parish, not so much by financial giving as the giving of our time for evangelistic work in our own parish.

The most obvious mission activity that we are engaged in is the running of the Alpha Course, and this does require a fairly large team to run. Offers of help are always welcome, but it is helpful to have done the course yourself. It is not too late to sign up; there is an on-line form on the parish website (www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha) or speak to one of the Alpha team.

There is also the Diocesan Mission "Re:New which is at the new Cathedral hall (St Thomas Centre) on the second Saturday of each month The next meeting will be on 12th October; some from the parish already attend, all are welcome.

What the Church., led by Pope Francis is trying to do is to shift the focus of parishes towards local mission; to recognise that mission goes on in every parish, and that we are all called to be missionary disciples.

Just imagine how our parish, our country and the world could be different if the teaching of Jesus inspired enough people. Poverty would be ended, war would be ended, forced migration would cease, the riches of the world could be used to combat disease and provide education to everyone so that all people could flourish. The love of Jesus would fill the world and God's will would be done on earth.

22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS
Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

15th September 2024
Twenty Fourth Sunday Of the Year
Parish Mass Book - Year B
Page 71

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 ☎ 07906802615

Sunday ***24th Sunday Of the Year***	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	Brendan Moen RIP The Parish
Monday Ss Cornelius & Cyprian	9.00 am	Mass	Rita & Anthony Bonner's Intentions
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Wilkinson
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Robin Joseph
Thursday Feria	9.00-11am 11.30 am 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Funeral Mass Mass	 Donato Solazzo RIP Aileen Hasdell RIP
Friday St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Cmpns	9.00 am	Mass	Rodney Brewer RIP
Saturday St. Matthew	9.00 am	Mass	Theresa Spenceley's Intentions
Sunday ***25th Sunday of the Year***	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	The Parish Jude Arthur

Your Offering to the Parish: Last Week's collection was £326.72. Thank you!
Standing Order gifts to the Parish: Each week £580 is given through standing orders.
Donations through the Diocese: An average of £90 is given each week.
Gift Aid benefits to the parish: The value of Gift Aid averages £136 per week.
Second Collection This Week: Evangelii Gaudium
Cleaners This Week: The Church is cleaned and sanitised on a regular basis.
Counters this Week: CC & MS

Readings for this Sunday
— see inside for details

Isaiah 50: 5-9: *I offered my back to those who struck me.*
James 2: 14-18: *If good words do not go with faith, it is quite dead.*
Mark 8: 27-35: *You are the Christ, The Son of Man is meant to suffer grievously.*

Readings for next Sunday

Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20; James 3: 16-4: 3; Mark 9: 30-37. (Page 74)

During This Season of Ordinary Time, We are Asked to Pray For: Human Life; Seafarers; Europe; Victims of Persecution or Oppression; Christian/Jewish Relations; The Environment.

The Venerable Ignatius Spencer CP

Loving Father, your servant,
Ignatius Spencer
spent his entire life preaching the love shown for us
in the Passion of Your Son,
and working tirelessly
to bring the people of this country
to know that love.Help us to follow his example,
and show us that you are well pleased with his life,
by granting the favour we now ask through his intercession,
In particular, at this time we pray
for your blessing on the mission of the Church in Northampton.

Mary, Mother of Holy Hope, Pray for us.
Amen.

Please Pray for the Sick:

Anniversaries:
May they Rest in Peace

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
John Rand	Hugh Talbot-Graham
Rodney Brewer	Thomas Sheridan
Eileen Coghlan	Bernard Browne
Adelaide Scanlon	Jeraldine Blay
James O'Connor	Bridget O'Keeffe
Peter Ryan	William Costello

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER:

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Notices of Interest

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. 2025 diaries now available. Any queries or volunteers to 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 16th September 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 2024/5: An important date for your diaries! If you have a child in year 3 or older who wishes to make their First Communion next Summer there will be a meeting on 6th October after 11am Mass. It's a way off but very important so please save the date!

Confirmation in 2025: January 5th after the 9.00 Mass is the enrolment date for the next Confirmation. The Confirmation will be on Sunday afternoon, September 7th 2025, exact time to be decided.

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)**

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Hall: 10.00 am-12.00 pm.

Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (**next – 28th September**), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially younger, more energetic ones!

Retreat Day, Diocesan Shrine, Our Lady's, Great Billing: 28th Sept, 9am-4pm. Evangelisation & the writing of Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta. Day talks by Tony Hickey. Programme starts with Rosary at 9am followed by Mass at 9.30am. Please bring a light lunch. Light refreshments available: tea, coffee, biscuits & cake. For further info please contact Mark: 07724337202

Pilgrimage to Northern France You are invited to join Bishop David & Canon John Udris on pilgrimage to Northern France from 15-22 Oct. For more details visit: https://northamptondiocese.org/france/

Bethsaida: Are you a leader in your parish? Do you feel called to lead? Do you find yourself wishing you had the confidence to take a lead with a project in your Parish or Pastoral Area? Do you want to grow in your leadership skills? If your answer is yes to any of these we are happy to share with you that the Diocese of Northampton is offering the opportunity to take part in a year-long leadership training course beginning in January 2025, called the Bethsaida Leadership Course. The Bethsaida Course will help you to become a leader who is able to make effective missionary disciples wherever you are. This course visits these 5 key principles of leadership that the disciples learnt while in Bethsaida: *Calling; Character; Charism; Competence; Confidence.* To find out the answers to all these great questions and to read more essential information please head over to the dedicated page we have set up on line. Please also feel free to pass on to anyone who you think would benefit from the course so they have the invitation and opportunity. https://northamptondiocese.org/catholic-leadership/

Thomas Becket Catholic School open evening Thurs. 19th Sept. Head Teacher talks 5.30pm & 6.30pm. For details of how to book a place, please see the notices in the Narthex on the left as you come in to the Church. Thomas Becket was oversubscribed for this year, so it's worth having a look early to plan for 2025!

Choir Notes: Next Practices are 11-12 on Saturdays: Oct 12th and Nov 9th 16th 23rd 30th, Dec 7th and 14th *Alec*

Music to Welcome Michaelmas at St. Aidan's Church, Kingsthorpe Sun 22nd Sept, 3pm. A selection of music by Mozart inc the Sparrow Mass sung by Amicorum & accompanied by Kaye Tomkins. Refreshments and a raffle will be available during the interval. Funds raised go towards the upkeep of the Church and Parish Room. Tickets £5, available by calling 01604 714556 or at the door – please see posters for full details.

Tots @ St Gregory's: If you have the care of a baby or pre-school child on Tuesday mornings join us in the church hall. From 9.30-11.30 - charge just £1 for you & any number of children. This includes snacks for the children & yourself - excellent value for money! We run throughout term time. Looking forward to seeing you!

Fire Safety: Please be careful with the votive candle stands, and especially please ensure that children are safe. Unlit candles must not be placed on the trays under the places for candles and candles must not be stacked one on top of another.

Divine Music Day: Sat 21st Sept. 11am to 3.30pm. Holy Ghost, Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD. When the Church Sings, She Comes Alive! A day of song & prayer with Chris Walker. "Come for practical ways to enliven our parish music & help our musicians prepare for the Year of Prayer & Jubilee." Christopher Walker is an inspirational Composer & Conductor of Church Music. Adults £10, children free but accompanied by an adult. Booking details to follow. For Group bookings please email music@northamptondiocese.org

Missio Matters: thanks to all those new supporters of Missio's work in foreign lands. Some of you agreed to help through prayer & Direct Debit. Others intend to join Red Box holders. For the latter, if you need further information on how this works in St Gregory's see Alec who has prepared a guidance document.

Training Sessions: (Please note the corrected dates) There will be two sessions for each ministry, Ministers of the Eucharist & Proclaimers of the Word, & ideally everyone will come to both. The first will look at the spirituality of the ministry, the second will focus on the practicalities. All the sessions are in the evening, start at 7pm & end 9pm, but if needed morning sessions can be arranged. The dates are:

Proclaimers of the Word	**Ministers of the Eucharist**
Mon 23rd Sept & Mon 30th Sept	Wed 25th Sept & Wed 2nd Oct

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

Gregory Care

Please contact Gregory Care (07434669011)
if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel, or is in material need.

New/nearly new clothes sale plus toys and household goods.
coming soon at St Thomas Centre
In aid of The Cathedral Foodstore.

Prayer for Peace for Ukraine and the Holy Land

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

Scripture Readings 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B, 15th September 2024

Second Isaiah was writing during the exile in Babylon. Israel had lost land, king, and Temple. But Isaiah confidently proclaims hope of returning to Jerusalem: have no fear, whatever ills beset us, God is on our side and will save us.

The Psalm offers an individual's grateful praise to the Lord: in danger of death he trusted in the Lord who saved him.

James' letter develops last week's theme of what faith is: real faith cannot help but be expressed in good works. James insists that you cannot show you have faith without showing the good works it produces. He then gives examples: Abraham, who offered Isaac; and Rahab the prostitute, who protected Joshua's spies in Jericho. Both were justified by their works of faith. This message challenges us today: is giving money enough?

For the first time in Mark's Gospel a human being acknowledges Jesus as the Christ. But then Peter immediately gets it wrong and is severely chastised by Jesus: God's ways are not our ways. Jesus has to suffer the humiliation Isaiah described to show the way we must follow to salvation. The way of the Cross is the only way, and we must imitate Jesus' faith in his Father and follow his way in faith.

Psalm response: **I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

(Isaiah 50: 5-9; Psalm 114(115); James 2: 14-18; Mark 8: 27-35)

Chris Oliver

Alpha starts this week — Dates and Subjects

First session:	September 17th	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session	September 24th	Who is Jesus?
Third Session	October 1st	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session	October 8th	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session	October 15th	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	October 22nd	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session	November 5th	How does God guide us?
Eighth Session	November 12th	Does God heal today?
Alpha Away-Day	November 16th (Saturday)	Who is The Holy Spirit?
Ninth Session	November 19th	How can I resist evil?
Tenth Session	November 26th	Why and how should I tell others?
Eleventh Session	December 3rd	What about the Church?

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 plan to run Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism' course in the autumn for those who have completed Alpha.

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

A Parish Initiative — Avoid food waste

Anyone with fruit-trees and a surplus of fruit is invited to bring their produce to the church for turning into chutney or jam which then can be sold with the proceeds given to CAFOD.

We can all undertake an audit of our larders and fridges to avoid throwing away food that has reached its "smell by" date or worse.

The Season of Creation

We can wonder at the size of space and the distance to the stars; the mechanism which holds stars in their place and controls the orbit of the planets, but above all, the sheer beauty of God's creation. Even from here in Northampton, we can see wonderful sunsets; and (if we are up early) sunrises too.

This week the photograph was taken near Finedon and is of a sunrise when there was a partial eclipse of the sun in October 1996. Again, thanks to Steve Bell for this example of the wonder of God's creation.

After Alpha — what next?

Alpha is a basic introduction to the Christian faith; it makes no claim to be a complete course in all that the Church teaches. As can be seen from the list of subjects in the table on this page, it is a 'starter' course, and deals with the foundations of our faith. It should not be dismissed on that score; we all of us need to keep our foundations in good order. But it is also where someone enquiring into the faith can meet people who are already and begin to become part of the 'faith community'.

After Alpha, many people feel that they want to go further in finding out what we believe (and why). There is a magnificent course by Bishop Robert Barron entitled 'Catholicism', and this will be run in the Sacristy at the same time as the Alpha video is running in the hall. Those wishing to come are invited to the Alpha meal at 7.00, and after to meal to come to the sacristy for the video. **IT IS VITAL THAT YOU BOOK IN FOR CATERING PURPOSES**. Please email Fr Andrew before Tuesday midday if you wish to come.