



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

Spirit and Life: God's Word and the Power of Pentecost

The three Biblical words WAIT, GO and COME can be a light for our path as we journey towards Pentecost. They are words of spirit and life, words of Jesus which invite, inspire and instruct us.

WAIT

We know that before his ascension Jesus told his disciples to wait until they had been clothed with power from on high. As disciples in the 21st century we too need to think about creating spaces where we can actively and expectantly wait to be filled anew with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Blessed Elena Guerra, at the turn of the last century, challenged the Church to rediscover life lived according to the Holy Spirit, to return to the Upper Room. She wrote that “the first well-spring of renewing action is prayer, which connects us with the Spirit of Christ, He who renews the face of the earth.” Because of her letters, Pope Leo XIII dedicated the 20th century to the Holy Spirit. He also issued the encyclical ‘On the Holy Spirit’ in 1887 which established the Novena to the Holy Spirit between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost.

In many ways, the Church is the perpetual Upper Room but sometimes we can lose the awareness of this reality because we are so busy. If this is the case then we need to ‘return to the Upper Room’ of prayer and expectant waiting. To remember that we can do nothing without the power of the Spirit.

The Pentecost Novena has sometimes been called the ‘original novena’ because it came at the beginning of the Church’s story. It’s seen something of a revival in recent years across the Church. A wonderful example is the Thy Kingdom Come ecumenical campaign which has a range of useful resources.

GO!

We know that the Church gathered in the Upper Room becomes the Church that is sent and goes forth. From that place of waiting the disciples went out to share the Gospel.

The Vatican II document on missionary activity, *Ad Gentes*, paints a word picture of the “fountain-like love of God the Father”[4]. This captures the idea that God is missionary, God’s life is constantly flowing out to draw others in. The theology of Vatican II concluded that the Church is missionary by her very nature, because God is missionary. The Father sends the Son, the Father and Son send the Spirit and the Church, and the Church carries that life out into the world. This is exactly what we see at Pentecost: the life of God impelling the disciples to go. To go is the most natural thing for every Christian because the life we have within us is always seeking to flow outwards.

How do we go out and share the Gospel? One encounter at a time. There are no silver bullets or magic formulas. Resources may help

us become missionary but in the end are simply tools. At the heart of all the various initiatives are the same realities, and it’s been the same since the day of Pentecost: the community of disciples sharing the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The invitation is to “go”[5] using all of the gifts of the Spirit, both the ordinary and more extraordinary charisms[6]. All God’s gifts are given for mission, to be shared in love so that the life of God may flow out to others.

COME

Jesus called people, he said “come, follow me,” imitate me, do what I do. So it’s personal and there is no substitute for this. Discipling people shouldn’t be just another ‘thing to do’. It should inform what we do and how we do it. For Jesus, all of his other activity was important, but he used all of it to make disciples. He taught them how to serve, how to perform miracles, how to teach, how to respond to people, how to ask the right questions and how to suffer (in the Garden of Gethsemane he brings three disciples to teach them how to face suffering).

Jesus shows us that the model for people growing in holiness is the model of discipleship; it involves accompanying, mentoring and apprenticeship. There’s an urgent need to prioritise discipleship. We should always be inspired by intentionally discipling people, and create environments where people can grow in their prayer, understanding, gifts and in holiness. How many people have you or I intentionally disciplined over this last year?

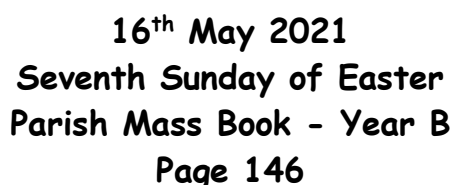
Unfortunately, we can sometimes be too busy to spend time discipling people. But for Jesus it was his priority. It’s not about a programme but about the transforming power of the Spirit, at work in us and our relationships, making us like the Master.

Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa reminds us that our lives as disciples need to be rooted in holiness and that ultimately we learn holiness through the cross. He observes that people who have charisms without lives characterised by the cross resemble a Christmas tree (an artificial one or real tree that has been cut down) with gifts around it. The gifts are wonderful, having landed around our tree at some point. But the tree doesn’t last and as soon as the gifts are opened the tree is discarded. Instead we should be like the tree in Psalm 1 bearing fruit in due season because it is planted by the living water of God’s Spirit.

Therefore we want to make disciples who ‘come and follow’ to the cross, who live holy and fruitful lives, rather than making ‘Christmas tree disciples’.

So, as we prepare for Pentecost 2021 let’s once more respond to God’s words... WAIT, GO and COME.

(© Maria Heath, www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/pentecost/spirit-and-life)



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[illegible]

May they Rest in Peace

Catherine Collard	Marie Townsend
Ernest Caillebotte	Peter Kenny
Madge Murray	Mary Mandley
Amy Ford	Patrick Kilbane
Christopher Malyszewicz	Grace Dibosa
Charles Bromwich	Angela Cotton
Peter Hanrahan	Thomas Grindley
Paula Yeomans	Timothy Coughlan
Winefride Adams	Dominic Cairney
Patrick Franks	James Mapston
Johanna Martin	Helen Gunningham
Mary Naylor	Henry King
Joseph Harte	John Friary
Fr. Stephen McGuinness	Betty Finn
Julia Warren	Peter Warren
Margaret O'Mahoney	James Coll
George Rushmore	Christopher Haggett
Wilhelm Kohlweg	Herbert Williams
Nicolina Ciccone	

We pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

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]

Revised opening times: Due to the new restrictions, the Church will be open every day from 8.45 am until 10.00 am, except on Sundays when it remains open until 12.45 am

Your Offering to the Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £241.01. Thank you!

Standing Order gifts to the Parish:

Each week £512 is given through standing orders.

Donations through the Diocese:

An average of £219 is given each week.

Gift Aid benefits to the parish:

The value of Gift Aid averages £220 per week.

Second Collection This Week:

Mass Media

Cleaners This Week:

The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.

Counters This Week:

CC & CP.

Readings for this Sunday

Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26:

We must choose one of these to be a witness to his resurrection with us.

1 John 4: 11-16:

Anyone who lives in love, lives in God, and God lives in him.

John 17: 11-19:

That they may be one like us!

Readings for next Sunday

Genesis 11: 1-9; Romans 8: 22-27; John 7: 37-39. (Page 22)

During this season

New Members of the Church:

Of Easter, we are

Human Work; Priestly Vocations;

Asked to pray for:

Right Use of the Media; The Church.

Masses and Covid security in Lockdown:

It is of the greatest importance that the church is a place of safety from the COVID virus, & while clergy & stewards do all they can to have systems in place, there is a responsibility on everyone to adhere to government regulations & maintain the safety of **everyone** as well as themselves in church. While ‘bubbles’ & households may sit together, there should be at least 1 metre distance separating those not in the same ‘bubble’ or household. We are still allowed to come to Mass; this is in part because churches are safe places. It is up to us to keep the church safe.

Face masks: Wearing face masks is compulsory in churches & you should wear one if you can. Stewards are not responsible for policing this, but may remind you that this is the law.

Please get in touch with Gregory Care (07434 669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

E-mail: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for May & June is now available. The cost is £3.00. If you want to purchase a copy, they are near the hand-sanitiser in the narthex as you come into church.

Repository: If you wish to buy anything, please come to the Church between 9 and 10am & speak to a Steward who will show you what to do & where to go.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2021: The programme is running through 'Loom', an on line platform used by many schools. Parents need to 'home-school' children. The programme is called "Growing Up Catholic", and there are 6 sessions preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by six sessions preparing for First Holy Communion.

Confirmation: At last we have a date: 1st October; feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux! The Confirmation will be at St Gregory's.

Re-Envisioning Catechesis: The Church has recently produced a new version of the "Directory for Catechesis", which makes clear the link between evangelisation & the teaching of the Faith. One fruit of this is that the diocesan department for catechesis has been moved from NORES to the new department for Mission. To help those engaged in Sacramental preparation, there will be an on line course over 5 consecutive Thursday evenings, starting 17th June 7.30 pm (ending at 8.45 pm) on Zoom. If anyone would like to take part, please let Fr Andrew know (by email, please), and the parish will make the booking.

Gregory Care Toiletries appeal update: Thank you for your continued support. Due to a new incentive from Morrisons we will no longer require sanitary products: Now anyone requiring such items can go to Morrisons supermarket and ask at the customer service desk for –'The package Sandy has left for them.' They will be discreetly be given what they need free of charge! However please continue to give anything you can of other toiletries. Also we are appealing for any surplus carrier bags you may have that would be suitable to pack fruit and veg in. (Let's recycle; please don't buy any specifically for this as they may only be used once.) Many thanks again for your generosity-We will keep you updated!

Pru Hill RIP

The funeral for Pru Hill will be by invitation only, to comply with Covid restrictions, but we welcome all who would like to pray for her on the day of her funeral, to a Mass at St. Gregory's dedicated to the repose of Pru's soul at 9.00 am 2nd June.

There will also be a memory post-box in church from that day – Pru's family would love you to contribute your memories of Pru and messages there. It is also possible to share your memories online on her obituary page at www.legacy.com. The link to view the live-stream of Pru's funeral can also be found on this page.

Chris would like to thank the very many parishioners who have sent cards, love and support, and shared their experiences of Pru and how much she meant to them. It means a great deal to him and his family, and has been a source of much solace to him at this very difficult time.

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

Tots @St Gregory's: As with other meetings, Tots has been cancelled until further notice.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

The Summer webinar series Monday 17th May, 7.30pm.
Diocesan Summer Webinar: Divine Renovation week 5, *The Sacraments as our greatest pastoral opportunity*. Fr Simon is a priest of our diocese, a former president of the Sion Community, and is director of our new agency for evangelisation, Mission Northampton. This session is an opportunity to apply the Divine Renovation principles that we talked about last week to something that every parish does: our sacramental programmes. Why do so many people stop coming to Mass straight after the sacraments, and how can we keep more of them? You can find out more and register here: https://readalong_divine_renovation.eventbrite.co.uk.

CAFOD: As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support to poor communities. Already £200,000 has been pledged. This helps to distribute PPE kits to health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, & set up safely run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: cafod.org.uk/give. Please pray for the people of India & all those affected by the pandemic.

Lifeteen Summer Camp 2021: From Wednesday 28th July, 3pm to Sunday 1st August till 2pm. Cost £225.00 for camping (provide own tent), £275.00 for dormitory, £50.00 for online camp. You will be required to pay a £50.00 non-refundable deposit when booking, final payment due by 1st July 2021. Alton Castle, Staffordshire (transport will NOT be provided). Summer Camp is 5 days of fun and activities where young Catholics gain formation and friendships. Included in the price is accommodation, all food, daily Mass and Reconciliation, all activities including a day at Alton Towers Theme Park, biking, trekking, climbing, archery, campfires and much more. For more information and to go to the bookings page visit <https://nymo.org/summercamp/>.

On Thursday 20th May 2021, the NYMO team will be back in the Studio for our online event for young people! Watch YouTube channel 'luxnymo' at 8pm on Thursday 20th May

Track and Trace: The government have now released their app to support track & trace & we have a QR code which can be scanned to record your presence at church. This is not obligatory, but should help in the important task of controlling the spread of the virus. As responsible members of society, we should comply with this request.

Parish Finances: Thank you to everyone who has been so very generous during this lockdown. Our parish finances are reasonably stable. Your generosity is much appreciated!

Standing Order via Donor's Own Bank. You can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using either your on line bank account or in branch. The information required to make the donation 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)**

Pro Life Chain - Saturday 29th May 2021: Sat. 29th May SPUC Northampton holding Pro Life Chain St Peters Way. This act of silent witness is to remember the millions of lives lost to abortion since the Abortion Act 1967. It will take place between 11am & 1pm. Please join us at this important event. Last year twelve pro-life supporters stood together in order to proclaim the pro-life message. It is not easy to take part in a public display in relation to such a controversial subject, but it is so important that we speak up for the unborn. If you can join us or want more information then please contact William on 07393965643 or wpcurrie@btinternet.com. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Scripture Readings 16th May 2021, 7th Sunday of Easter, Year B

After the Ascension of the risen Jesus to his Father in heaven, the apostles, some women, and the mother and brothers of Jesus had formed a small community in Jerusalem. They met regularly in the upper room, praying together. They elected Matthias as an apostle to replace the traitor, Judas. It was urgent to rebuild the 12, the 12 judges of Israel, who were to become the foundation of Jesus' church. Matthias is never mentioned again.

This thanksgiving psalm tenderly praises the Lord's generosity to each one of us. God's mercy is so great because he knows our frailty, so all creation is called to join in this grateful praise.

Concluding our readings from his first letter, John continues to emphasise the importance of love and remaining in Jesus, who shows us all we can and need to know about God.

At the end of the Last Supper, just before his arrest, Jesus prays for the Church, that it may be protected from the evil one, and that it should be one united body, just as Jesus is one with the father. Before crossing the Kidron Valley to a garden Jesus prays for those who come to believe in him – and the Father through him – through the apostles' teaching.

Psalm Response: **The Lord has set his sway in heaven.**

(Acts 1:15-26, Ps 102 (103), 1 John 4:11-16, John 17:11-19)

Chris Oliver

Pentecost Novena of Prayer

This is the first and original Novena; nine day of prayer, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:12-14). We continue to pray with them.

Sunday: Intercession for the unity of the Church

Begin by invoking the Holy Spirit using Pope John XXIII's 'invocation' prayer:

Renew your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost.
Grant to your Church that, being of one mind
and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus,
and following the lead of Blessed Peter,
it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour,
the reign of truth and justice,
the reign of love and peace. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit, unite your church – 'Father, make them one that the world may believe.'

'I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you therefore to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.' (Ephesians 4: 1-6)

Prayer Intention: Pray for reconciliation, the purification of memories and the healing of the Christian body – in the world, in your nation and in your own life.

Monday: Intercession for the renewal of society

Pray again the 'invocation prayer of Pope John XXIII as you did yesterday.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth – transform society by the power of your Spirit.

'The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' (Luke 4: 18-19)

Prayer Intention: Pray for the coming of the Kingdom and for the Culture of Life born of the Spirit, to penetrate the whole of society; for governments and those in public office in your continent and nation.

Tuesday: Intercession for conversion and holiness

Pray again the 'invocation prayer of Pope John XXIII as you did yesterday.

Come Holy Spirit, let faith and hope arise in the hearts of people and let your glory be manifested in your Church.

'We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified; and with those he justified he shared his glory.' (Romans 8: 28-30)

Prayer Intention: Pray for the conversion of sinners, for growth in holiness and the revelation of God's glory – in the Church, in the world, in your family and in your life.

Wednesday: Intercession for reconciliation and healing

Pray again the 'invocation prayer of Pope John XXIII as you did yesterday.

Come Holy Spirit; help us live together in unity, humility and love. 'And when you stand in prayer, forgive whatever you have against anybody, so that your Father in heaven may forgive your failings too.' (Mark 11:25)

Prayer Intention: Pray for reconciliation in broken relationships and the healing of life's hurts. May the peace of Christ that has broken down every dividing wall, lead us into unity. Pray for this for your diocese, parish, family and yourself.

Thursday: Intercession for empowerment for evangelisation

Pray again the 'invocation prayer of Pope John XXIII as you did yesterday.

Come, Holy Spirit, empower us to fulfil your call to be witnesses to the ends of the earth and to be bearers of the Good News.

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (Acts 1:8)

Prayer Intention: Pray for a new empowerment by the Holy Spirit so that we can be effective witnesses and for a new boldness in bringing the Gospel to the whole of creation; for the work of 'New Evangelisation' in the Church.

Friday: Intercession for the victory of the Holy Cross

Pray again the 'invocation prayer of Pope John XXIII as you did yesterday.

Come, Holy Spirit, let your victory be proclaimed and your glory be revealed upon the face of the earth.

'For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed. The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on their way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way see it as God's power to save.' (1 Corinthians 1:17-18)

Prayer Intention: Pray for a new empowerment by the Holy Spirit so that we can be effective witnesses and for a new boldness in bringing the Gospel to the whole of creation; for the work of 'New Evangelisation' in the Church.

Saturday: Intercession for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Pray again the 'invocation prayer of Pope John XXIII as you did yesterday.

Come Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth. 'When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is', he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' (Acts 1: 4-5)

Prayer Intention: Pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life. May the gifts of the Spirit be more fully manifest for building up his body in love and to bring all things in heaven and on earth under his headship.

www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2020-01/Catholic%20Novena.pdf



SECOND COLLECTIONS 2021

28th February	CAFOD (Lenten Fast Day 26th Feb)
2nd April	Good Friday Collection for the Holy Places
25th April	Diocesan Priests' Training Fund
16th May	Mass Media
20th June	Day for Life
27th June	Peter's Pence
11th July	Apostleship of the Sea
19th September	Home Mission Sunday
3rd October	CAFOD (Harvest Fast Day 1st October)
24th October	Mission Sunday
7th November	Bishop's Maintenance Fund
14th November	Sick & Retired Priests' Fund

