



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

Easter Joy

We are fortunate in the northern hemisphere that Easter falls in the spring, and the new shoots of plants, the spring flowers, the end of animal hibernation all speak to us of new life. It is easy for us to see all this in the context of the resurrection of Christ. Warmer days, the promise of summer, thoughts of barbeques all help to bring joy to the body. While all these things help us to celebrate Easter, they barely scratch the surface of the real reason for our joy in this feast. We are celebrating something truly momentous; the defeat of death.

Throughout human existence, the one certainly in life is that we will die. None of us will live for ever here on earth.

The true joy of Easter lies in the knowledge that death is not the final full-stop to life. God, who gave us the gift of life and all the beauty of his creation, loves us so much that he wants us to enjoy not just this life and this world, but to enjoy the beauty of heaven for all eternity.

This world has much in it that is wrong. That is sin. While we are here we are pledged to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and seek to make real our prayer that God's will be 'done on earth, as it is in heaven'.

Through our life of holiness and good works, may we all bring joy to those in sorrow, to those in hardship, those in bereavement and all who do not already share in the joy of the knowledge of the resurrection.

Easter Flowers in Memory of:

Angela McCrarren
Lesley Thompson
Eileen Walton
Percy Walton
Leann Hannelly
Tim Perkins
Gerald O'Rourke
Michael McCabe
Ann Ganderton
George Ganderton
Robert Fleming
Hilary Green
Derek Sanders
Derek Rumsey

Catarina Bradshaw
Diane Murphy
Malcolm Allen
Joan Palmer
Annie Eyles
Anita Grosso
John Perkins
Mary Cashman
Cathy Bicknell
George McCarron
Louise Battye
Fred Jones
Derek Hodgkinson
Marian Cave

Arthur Eyles
Eve Perkins
Clare O'Rourke
Michael Moore
Bridie McHugh
Margaret Shipman
Louie Short
Eddie Moriarty
Brendan Moen
Mary Wall
Antonietta Riseley
Julie Moriarty
Stephen Goddard
Venod Sebastian

Eyre Family
The Liebe Family
The Pallett Family
The Tyrrell Family
The Emanuel Family
The de Verteuil Family
The McCarron-Shipman Family
The Maine & Cleary Families
The Houghton Family
Italia & Ben Jacobs
John & Julie Cahalane
Margaret & Victor Fleming
Phyllis & Arthur Sanders
Brigid & Seamus Kenneally

May they rest in peace and share in the glory of the resurrection

Are you curious about Christianity?

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which will be 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 16th – 17th 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?

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for Lent and Easter 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*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 2nd 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 and for confirmation this year is now closed, no further applications can be accepted. The sessions will run on a Sunday morning from 10.15 am - 11.30 am. Please join us for 9.00 am Mass as part of this course. Confirmation Mass is on Saturday 2nd July at midday.

Deputy Director of Schools – A strategic lead for Catholic schools across the Diocese for Catholic life and Mission, RE and Collective Worship. The Diocesan Education Service is looking to recruit a Deputy Director of Schools (£45,000 - £60,000 depending on experience). For more details or an informal discussion about the role please contact Collette Curtis (Director of School) 07758057244 or email curtis@nores.org.uk. The full application pack is on the notice board or available on the website www.nores.org.uk

Courses for Readers: The Bible Timeline course on Wednesdays ends this week. This week there is a special session on the Eastertide Mass readings (see: **Celebrating Eastertide**), and in the following weeks there is the possibility of running a short course before the summer holiday season.

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)**

Parish and Diocesan Finances: We have drawn up a budget for the coming year and submitted it to the Diocese. We are hoping for an increase in giving as more people come back to Mass week by week. If this materialises, we forecast a very small surplus. 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.

Pro Life Chain – Saturday 30th April: On Sat. 30th April SPUC Northampton is holding a Pro-Life Chain on St Peters Way Northampton. 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 consider joining us at this important event. Last year twelve pro-life supporters stood together in order to proclaim the pro-life message. Abortion is a tragedy for babies, Mothers, Fathers, & society as whole. We have a moral duty to speak out against the horror of abortion. If you can join us or want more information, please contact William on 07393965643(text is fine) or wpcurie@btinternet.com. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Come and Sing a new Mass setting by Teresa Brown (composer of our Mass of St Gregory) on Saturday 23rd April 10.30 am – 12.00 noon (*Tea & coffee from 10.00 am*); St Gregory's Church Hall All Singers & Instrumentalists welcome!

Celebrating Eastertide: The Diocesan Liturgy Formation Team have been running Zoom sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year. This provides a valuable opportunity to develop our engagement with the Scriptures that we hear proclaimed at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. The reading through Eastertide are the focus of the next session which is on Wednesday evening, 20 April 2022, (7.30-8.30 pm) There is 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.

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

Choir Matters: After Easter we will revert to practices being on the first Thursday of the month immediately after evening Mass: 7:40 – 9 pm. So practices will be Thursdays May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6 then – just to cheer you up – we start intensive preparations for Christmas.

Gregory Care Update on Toiletry Donations: Thank you for the gifts of shampoo & washing up liquid over the past few weeks. Gifts of shower gel and household hygiene products would be welcome. If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from this please get in contact with Gregory Care through Fr Andrew.

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!

Mass for the Sick, 30th April, 3pm, livestream and Cathedral: Bishop David will celebrate a special Mass for the Sick on Sat. 30th April at the Cathedral. This is specially for all our housebound, & we hope that they will be able to follow it on the Cathedral livestream via the diocesan website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/live/>. There will be a downloadable Mass sheet so everyone can join in.

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

Inspire Younger Generations With CAFOD: Do you enjoy working with children & young people? If so, you are invited to be part of CAFOD's education programme which inspires students to act on their sense of justice. A background in education is not necessary. We are looking for people with good interpersonal skills, an interest in CAFOD's work & who can connect well with young people. You will be asked to go into Catholic schools in the locality to deliver prepared assemblies and/or workshops about once a term. All necessary training, travel expenses & resources will be provided & you will have the ongoing friendship & support of a local team. Please get in touch with Deborah to know more about this amazing role: northampton@cafod.org.uk We look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful team.

Help for refugees from Ukraine: If you want to find out more about how you could help or be involved, please visit: <https://northamptondiocese.org/ukraine/>

Thomas Becket Catholic School: Induction Mass for Paul McCahill, Headmaster at the Cathedral, Tues. 26th April, 6pm, followed by refreshments in the St. Thomas Centre. RSVP by 20th April to scrawford@tbc.nor.olicatschools.org.

Scripture Readings 17th April 2022, Easter Sunday, Year C

Luke's Book of Acts describes how after his death Jesus continues his work on earth through his Holy Spirit, who interrupts Peter's speech to Cornelius. Peter then realises that forgiveness of sins is offered to "everyone who believes" in Jesus' name.

The dramatic Psalm thanks and praises the Lord for rescuing us from the dangers threatening us. It includes the shouts that welcomed Jesus into the Temple on Palm Sunday, now the second verse of the "Holy, Holy, Holy".

Our second readings are all from Paul's letters. The vigil reading from Romans compares baptism to death: our sinful life has died: we have risen to a new life in Christ. The Sunday reading from Colossians draws attention away from earthly marks of religion: our focus should be on our new life in Christ. The alternative

reading is an early Easter homily. In the Jewish calendar Passover was followed by the feast of Unleavened Bread.

In the three synoptic gospels three women discover the tomb empty and run to tell the apostles, who disbelieve. But in John's gospel Mary of Magdala, alone, finds the stone removed from the tomb. Without going inside she runs to tell Peter. Peter goes in first and sees the empty burial cloths. When the other disciple goes in, he believes.

Psalm Response:

This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.

(Acts 10:34,37-43; Ps 117(118); Col 3:1-4/1 Cor 5:6-9; Jn 20:1-9)

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.

Health and Safety

There is a concern regarding the mix of cars and people in the church car park on Sundays before and after Mass. In particular, small children cannot always be seen by drivers if they are close. Parents and Carers, please make sure children do not run round unsupervised in the car park.

**Our Lady, Queen of Peace,
Pray for Russia and Ukraine**

A Letter from Bishop David

Dear brothers and sisters,

Since the end of the Second Vatican Council, there have been thirty bishops' synods. The next one will take place in 2023 and the theme is synodality itself - journeying together as a synodal Church in the areas of communion, participation and mission. So clearly, this is not a discrete event, but a seeking from the Holy Spirit of how we live together as missionary disciples with the ancient task given to us by the Risen Lord, *go and make disciples of all nations*. This missionary mandate is at the heart of what it means to be the Body of Christ in our world today.

We are not called to be navel-gazers, but a communion of communities that looks beyond themselves and reaches out to those who do not know Jesus and the Kingdom he came to establish.

And so it is imperative that we need to become a synodal diocese, building upon the conversations we have held over the past few months. What questions do we need to focus upon in the months ahead? These will become clearer as we continue to discern together where the Holy Spirit is leading our diocese. There is already much for us to ponder as we reflect upon what has been said in this first part of the journey.



I want to express a heart-felt word of gratitude to all those who took part in the synodal conversations. You contributed from parishes, schools, various pastoral and spiritual groups, and a number of individuals. The data became a book of some four hundred pages!

My sincere gratitude to the diocesan synodal listening group. Under the leadership of Canon Francis Higgins and Ms Avril Baigent, they have worked with a group of trained listeners to gather the views of many participants. There has

been a focus on gracious speaking and gracious listening. This group has sought to listen to the listeners and ten pages of material have been forwarded to the Conference of Bishops of England Wales.

And so we call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us in the next stage of our pilgrim journey together as a diocese. In the words of the Prayer for the Synod, 'Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it' and '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.'

May our crucified and risen Saviour continue to be with us in this journey.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

✠ David

Alpha starts on Tuesday, 26th April.

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.

Easter Flowers in Memory of:

Angela McCarrren	Malcolm Allen	Fred Jones
Lesley Thompson	Eyre Family	Derek Hodgkinson
Eileen Walton	Joan Palmer	Marian Cave
Percy Walton	Annie Eyles	Arthur Eyles
Leann Hannelly	Anita Grosso	Eve Perkins
Tim Perkins	John Perkins	Clare O'Rourke
Gerald O'Rourke	Mary Cashman	Michael Moore
Michael McCabe	Cathy Bicknall	Bridie McHugh
Ann Ganderton	George McCarron	Margaret Shipman
George Ganderton	Louise Battye	Louie Short
The Emanuel Family	The Tyrrell Family	The Pallett Family
Robert Fleming	Margaret & Victor Fleming	
Hilary Green	Phyllis & Arthur Sanders	
Derek Sanders	Eddie Moriarty	Julie Moriarty
Derek Rumsey	Brendan Moen	Brigid & Seamus Kenneally
Catarina Bradshaw	Mary Wall	The Liebe Family
Italia & Ben Jacobs	Antonietta Riseley	Stephen Goddard
Diane Murphy	Dec'd Members of the de Verteuil Family	
The Maine & Cleary Families		
John & Julie Cahalane		
Dec'd Members of the McCarron-Shipman Family		
Dec'd Members of the Houghton Family		

