



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

Christians together cherishing Creation

“Setting up for the latest Northamptonshire Ecumenical Eco Churches Group event, was very different to the indoor event we had held last November. That gathering had mainly been for local Christians, and had involved worship and a keynote speech from the wonderful Ruth Valerio. Ruth was instrumental in setting up A Rocha’s Eco Church Program and had much to tell the hundred and twenty plus gathering from all denominations about working together and being hopeful in difficult times.

Our July event had a different purpose. The group, representing seven different Northamptonshire churches across denominations, had agreed that we wanted to let the wider public in Northampton know what Christian churches are doing to protect the environment and why we are doing it.

So, on Sunday, 27 July we met up in Abington Park after our Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Reformed, Baptist, and Quaker worship and set up our little fair to attract anyone who was interested to come and talk to us. And they did.

Families wandering through the park to listen to the band or visit the museum were curious and enjoyed the craft and Wild Worship activities we had set up. They took nature trails and tree trails (all including appropriate bible texts about Creation), they made junk model boats and flowers from milk flagons, and fish collages from sycamore seeds and found feathers. They planted seeds to take away and heard about the United Reformed Church



Friday Lunch project, which feeds the community every week, using produce grown on its own allotment.



A great hit was the Giant Biodiversity Jenga, which illustrated the interdependency of the natural world. Many showed an interest in the Eco Church stand, which explained what our churches have to do to gain Bronze, Silver and Gold Eco Church Awards and others took magazines kindly donated by Green Christian. Some signed up their interest in Green Christian membership and others (mostly local church ministers who had responded to our invitation and the interview

we had done for local radio) signed up to join our Eco Group of churches and become more involved.

We were particularly happy to meet members of the Town and West Northamptonshire Council and discuss the urgency of addressing climate change and the importance of pursuing net zero targets.

It was a day blessed with perfect weather, beautiful surroundings, happy cooperation between Christians from across the traditions and open and comfortable Christian witness to the preciousness of God’s wonderful Creation.”

*Lorraine Bewley-Tippler
from the Northamptonshire Ecumenical Eco Churches Group
published in the Churches Together in England website:
<https://cte.org.uk/christians-together-cherishing-creation/>*

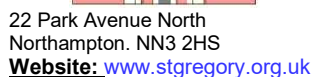
The Season of Creation begins in 2 Weeks

The original initiative of the Season of Creation was from the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Demetrios I, who in 1989 proclaimed September 1st as a day of prayer for creation in the orthodox churches. In 2007 the World Council of Churches proposed that this be adopted by all Christians, and extended it to a season running from 1st September to 4th October (the celebration of St Francis of Assisi). Pope Francis adopted this for the Catholic Church in 2015.

One of the principles of ecumenism is that we should not do separately what we can do together, and encouraging a more responsible attitude to the Creation that God has given us is most certainly something that we can all do together.

It is a disappointment that there are still some Christian communities which have not embraced this as a matter of importance. It is not just a matter of climate change; global pollution, air quality, the use of pesticides and animal extinction, health and migration, mining and rare earth minerals and many other issues are all tied up in our responsibility for God’s creation.

“Seeds of Peace and Hope” is the theme of this year’s Season of Creation, and the local ‘Ecu-eco’ group are planning a prayer event on Sunday evening, 28th September at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. Please come if you can, but, most of all, use this season to try to have a ‘lighter footprint’ of the earth.



17th August 2025
Twentieth Sunday of the Year
CTS New Sunday Missal - Year C
Page 1042

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
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Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

[illegible]

Sunday <i>20th Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	Donato Suzzo RIP The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Tom Donaghue's Intentions
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Thanksgiving
Wednesday St. Bernard	9.00 am	Mass	Giuseppe Tortora's Intentions
Thursday St. Pius X	9.00-11.00 4.30 pm 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Reception of the body of Mass	Ann Cawley RIP Joyce Cheshire's Intentions
Friday The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00 am 11.00 am	Mass Funeral Mass	Thanksgiving Ann Cawley RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Teresa Redmond RIP
Sunday <i>21st Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	Andrew K. Conduah RIP The Parish

<u>Your Offering to the Parish:</u>	Last Week Was £560.91. Thank you!
<u>Standing Order gifts to the Parish:</u>	Each week £557 is given through standing orders.
<u>Donations through the Diocese:</u>	An average of £75 is given each week.
<u>Gift Aid benefits to the parish:</u>	The value of Gift Aid averages £171 per week.
<u>Second Collection Last Week:</u>	Sr of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. £343.06. Thank you!
<u>Cleaners This Week:</u>	The Church is cleaned & sanitised on a regular basis.
<u>Counters this Week:</u>	CC & CP.

Readings for this Sunday: — see inside for details

Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10: *You bore me, a man of contention, to the whole land.*
Hebrews 12: 1-4: *Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.*
Luke 12: 49-53: *I have not come to give peace but division.*

Readings for next Sunday (CTS New Sunday Missal Page 1045)

Isaiah 66: 18-21; Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13; Luke 13: 22-30.

<u>During This Season of Ordinary Time, Summer, We Are Asked to Pray For:</u>	Human Life; Seafarers; Victims of Persecution or oppression; Europe; Christian/Jewish Relations; The Environment.
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Still thinking about our Parish Vision

We move from what we seek to be (a thriving Catholic Community) to what we seek to be doing: “confidently and humbly proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ”. The two are absolutely connected; ‘confidence’ and ‘humility’ should be part of the hall-mark of the Catholic, what we are as well as how we live.

Confidence comes from God in the first place, but like all the covenants that God has made with mankind, it has two parts; the part that God does and the part he asks of us.

We know that the Holy Spirit will help us when we don't know what to say (*Romans 8:26*), but we also must be prepared to be able to speak. (*1 Peter 3:15*) Confidence in God is essential, but we also need to have a good understanding of our Faith to have confidence in ourselves. The Church is, and has been good at teaching children, but many of us forget what we learned many years ago. That is why part of the application of our vision must be on-going formation of adults. Pre-pandemic we were doing a lot of this, and sadly much has got neglected since, but for the vision to be fulfilled, we must not disregard our own need to be confident in our own knowledge of Scripture and the teaching of the Church.

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

David Riddell	Ellen Jones
Charles Mulhall	Justin Higginbottom
Joseph Milner	Barbara Jones
Philomena Mayle	James Brennan
Mary Bradley	Patrick Harrington
Mary Smith	Dorothy Clifford
John McGovern	Margaret Hobbs
Florence Percival	Doris Bayliss
Margaret O'Shea	Jenny King
Christopher Leech	Judith Atkinson
John Mulholland	Ronald Savage
John Birney	Audrey Kifer
Bridget Scurfield	Michael Mythen
Mairead Pontin	Michael Milloy
Canon Norman Smith	Edith Perkins
Cornelius O'Donovan	Marjorie Mallon
Frederick Kitchener	Charles Osborn
Kathleen Forsyth	Daphne Wimborne

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological.

Prayer for Peace for Ukraine, the Holy Land
and all places of strife.

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.

Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church
Richard Ugomsinachi Nzeh
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for him and his family.

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. There is a small display of cards and items to commemorate Confirmation in September available at the Repository from this week. Any queries or volunteers please contact Kathleen on 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

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

Parishioners with Young Children: Please, please, do not allow your child to play with/throw around pamphlets/leaflets/booklets etc which are displayed either in the Narthex or the Foyer. They are not toys. Thank you!

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Whatsapp & telephone on the 1st Saturday of the month, in the Hall: 10 am-12pm.

Ceili Dancing: There is no dancing for the month of August. Dancing starts again on Wednesday 3rd September at 7.30pm & continues every first & third Wednesday of the month in the Parish hall. All welcome.

News From the Office: I will be on holiday from 16th August until 31st August (I know, how dare I!). If you know you are going to need something, please try to come in or phone before 15th August. Many thanks. *Caryll*

24-hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in honour of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Sun 7th - Mon 8th Sept. There will be the usual 9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's Shrine, Great Billing on that Sunday. This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will continue until 9am on Monday at Great Billing. Sign-up sheets for the Exposition will be available at the back of both churches.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We start again on Tuesday 9th September!! If you have care of a pre-school child on a Tuesday morning we would be delighted to welcome you. Looking forward to seeing you!

Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (**next – 30th August**), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially the younger, more energetic ones!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be in the Sacristy, 7pm, on Monday 1st September. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2025/6: First Holy Communion 2026 Registration will be on Sunday 19th October after the 11.00 Mass. If you know that you cannot come on that date, there is an alternative after the 10.30 Mass at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on Sunday 12th October. Whichever day you register, it is for the same course, and makes no difference to where First Holy Communion is received.

Confirmation in 2025: The Confirmation will be in the afternoon of Sunday September 7th 2025.

Choir Notes: next practices are from 11-12 on the 2nd Saturday of the month: Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8. *Alec*

Supporting Your Parish: 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)**
Please remember that if you pay income tax, the Church can reclaim this on your giving, (£2.50 for every £10 given) and this is much simpler if you give by standing order.

Blessed Tansi Pilgrimage at Mount Saint Bernard Abbey On Saturday 30th Aug. We are all invited to join the Activities, in person or in spirit if you are unable to attend. May Blessed Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi Intercede for as we continue to pray for his Canonisation.

Gregory Care: dates for your diary:-

20th September 11-3pm African Unity in Diversity Event.
15th November (time to be confirmed) Indian Unity in Diversity Event
On both days the host community will be sharing their culture through food and entertainment.
11th October Parish Quiz and Supper Evening.
28th February Table top Sale.
9 May St Gregory's Fun Day as part of Headlands celebration.
6th June Picnic in the Park.
We hope as many people as possible can join us at these events.

Year of Pilgrimage, Pilgrims of Hope.

We are delighted to be able to sponsor Smitha Robin on a Pilgrimage to Lourdes, working as a nurse on the Across bus, representing Gregory Care. *Across is a charity created specifically to provide transport and support to enable those with special care needs to go on pilgrimages to Lourdes.*

As part of this pilgrimage Smitha will be taking petitions and intentions of this Parish with her. We will soon have a box in Church for any petitions you would like praying for.
Please keep Smitha and her two teenage children (who are also making the pilgrimage as helpers) in your prayers.

Cathedral Hub Business Manager: We are currently recruiting for a full-time, two-year fixed-term position to support the smooth running of the Cathedral Hub, covering three local parish sites. The role involves managing financial and operational tasks, overseeing contracts, SLAs, and facilities, and ensuring strong financial controls. Ideal for someone proactive, reliable, and ready to be a key part of the team. For full info visit; <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs>. All candidates should complete a Diocesan application form & email it to: hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org. Closing date 1st Sept 9am.

Refreshment Donations: Through most of the year all money given in donations for refreshments are given to a variety of charities. However, through the summer, donations top up the fund to buy supplies for the rest of the year. Thank you for your generosity.

Ordinary Time until the end of August: Refreshment Fund

Alpha in the Autumn 2025 — Dates and Subjects

First session:	September 16 th	Is there more to life than this?	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 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
Second Session	September 23 rd	Who is Jesus?	
Third Session	October 7 th	Why did Jesus die?	
Fourth Session	October 14 th	How can I have faith?	
Fifth Session	October 21 st	Why and how do I pray?	
Sixth Session:	November 4 th	Why and how should I read the Bible?	
Seventh Session	November 11 th	How does God guide us?	
Eighth Session	November 18 th	Does God heal today?	
Alpha Away-Day	November 22 nd (Saturday)	Who is The Holy Spirit?	
Ninth Session	November 25 th	How can I resist evil?	
Tenth Session	December 2 nd	Why and how should I tell others?	
Eleventh Session	December 3 rd	What about the Church?	

Scripture Readings: 20th Sunday of the Year, 17th August 2025

Writing during the turbulence just before the exile, Jeremiah was caught between the king, Zedekiah, and jealous nobles, who falsely imprisoned him. In 586 BC Judea again revolted against Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Jeremiah told the king he should surrender because Judea would be defeated anyway, as God's punishment for their infidelity, and resistance would lead to Jerusalem's destruction. But the nobles said Jeremiah's advice was undermining morale and threw him into a cistern. Jerusalem did not surrender, and was destroyed, and most survivors were deported to Babylon.

Jeremiah might have used this Psalm to give thanks after being rescued from the well. And to ask God for help in the troubles to come.

Last week we heard part of the discussion in Hebrews about the meaning of faith, "the conviction of things not seen", giving the example of Abraham. After further examples, Hebrews says yet all

these "did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better". With so many witnesses confident of this unknown reward, we must persevere in our faith, enduring, like Jesus.

The themes of turbulence and suffering continue in today's reading from Luke's gospel, which follows the insistence last week that unfaithful servants will be punished. Jesus' message brings division between believers and non-believers, whose evil deeds are thrown into relief by the gospel.

Psalm Response:

Lord, make haste to help me!

(Jer 38:4-6,8-10 Ps 39(40):2-4,18 Heb 12:1-4 Lk 12:49-53)

Chris Oliver

Please pray for the soul of Chris Oliver who died on 22nd June. May he rest in peace and may God reward him for all the good he has done.

Coming Up

**Anniversary of the Consecration of
the Church and the Feast of St
Gregory**

Sunday 31st August

Anniversary of the Consecration of the
Church

Mass at 9.00 and 11.00 am

Wednesday 3rd September

Feast of St Gregory

Mass at 9.00 am and 7.00 pm

Sunday 7th September

Bishop's Visitation

Mass at 9.00 and 11.00 am

Confirmation Mass at 3.00 pm

Saturday 20th September

African Cultural Experience

Sunday 28th September

Season of Creation Event

5.00 pm, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Tuesday 30th September

"Vale et Salve"

(Farewell and Welcome)

Farewell to Fr Andrew; welcome to Fr
Christopher

Mass at 7.00 pm

I Came to Cast Fire on Earth



The words of the Gospel today were adopted as the motto of the English College in Rome at its foundation in 1579. They spoke of

the persecution that would face the students of the college on their return to England in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. This connection is made clear in the next sentence of today's Gospel: "I have a baptism to be baptised with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished", (Luke 12:50)

Today we can interpret the fire, not as a sign of martyrdom, but in terms of the gift of the Holy Spirit, who comes in form of fire and wind.

There are three things needed to start a fire: fuel, oxygen and ignition. In relation to our faith, two of these are supplied by the Holy Spirit, the oxygen in the wind and the ignition in the form of the flame. The fuel has to come from ourselves, and like a gas cooker, the tap can be set to low or high; or anything in between. It can also be turned off completely.

If the gas is set to a low flame, a pan will take a long time to come to the boil. The same is true for the individual Christian and for a Christian community.

The fuel is, of course, also provided by God in his wonderful work of creation. It is widely accepted, even by the most militant atheist, that there is a spiritual component to human existence; that we are not just physical beings, but that there is more to us than just the material.

The task of mission is to share in what Jesus came to do — to bring fire to the earth; to set the world ablaze with the love of God.

Today we seem more of the wild-fires of war, of oppression, of greed. These are not the fires of the Holy Spirit; they are burning from a different fuel, the fuel of pride, of avarice, of lust — of sin.

If we are to be effective agents of God's work on earth, our own gas-tap needs to be on 'high'. A lighter with a feeble flame will not start a bonfire; the flame of faith must be bright in our own life before we can begin to influence others.

The Holy Year hymn has its chorus: "Like a flame my hope is burning", and this links the divine hope for the proclamation of the Gospel 'to the whole of creation' (Mark 16:15) to the flame of the Holy Spirit.

The last verse of the Jubilee Hymn expressed this: "Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing, for our God is born in time. Son made man for you and many who will find the way in him."

The 'many who will find the way to him' number among them those whom we know, and to whom we are called 'confidently and humbly' to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

While the English College adopted the words from today's Gospel as their motto, those words have a universal application. They are not just about those in formation for the Priesthood; they are for all of us. One way in which we can all, at a very simple level, is to invite someone to come with you to the autumn Alpha course.

Let's get *inviting.*

alpha.org.uk/promote

