



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

World Day of Prayer for Peace

In the days following the end of the Second World War a movement began in France to pray for peace and reconciliation between France and Germany, and within five years this had grown to become an international Catholic movement for peace. In 1958 the first British group started, and following encouragement from the Second Vatican Council, became an official part of the life of the Church.

This year the message from Pope Francis is entitled “A Culture of Care as a path to Peace”. He writes of the wonderful examples of care that we have seen during the pandemic:

“I think . . . of physicians and nurses, pharmacists, researchers, volunteers, chaplains and the personnel of hospitals and healthcare centres. They have made, and are continuing to make, great sacrifices to be present to the sick, to alleviate their sufferings and to save their lives; indeed, many of them have died in the process. In paying tribute to them, I renew my appeal to political leaders and the private sector to spare no effort to ensure access to Covid-19 vaccines and to the essential technologies needed to care for the sick, the poor and those who are most vulnerable.”

He contrasts this with

“a surge in various forms of nationalism, racism and xenophobia, and wars and conflicts that bring only death and destruction in their wake.

These and other events that marked humanity’s path this past year have taught us how important it is to care for one another and for creation in our efforts to build a more fraternal society. That is why I have chosen as the title of this year’s Message, A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace. A culture of care as a way to combat the culture of indifference, waste and confrontation so prevalent in our time.”

Pope Francis makes eight points:

- 1 God the Creator, the source of our human vocation to care
- 2 God the Creator, a model of care
- 3 Care in the ministry of Jesus
- 4 A culture of care in the life of Jesus’ followers
- 5 The principles of the Church’s social doctrine as the basis for a culture of care
- 6 A compass pointing to a common path
- 7 Educating for a culture of care
- 8 There can be no peace without a culture of care.

We see the contrast between the examples of care and the examples of selfishness in our own town and community, where those on the front line in health-care and in community care and many others are showing wonderful love and self-sacrifice, while others are putting themselves and others in danger by failing to keep to observe social distancing and meeting in large numbers.

There is a need for the culture of care needs to be better established, and Pope Francis sees this as a necessary step to peace in the world.

The origins of the “culture of care” lie in God himself, shown in creation, fully revealed in Jesus, and demonstrated by his followers in the early years of the Church. The Scriptures attest to this. It is from this model that Catholic Social Teaching has grown. It could rightly be said that the Church has been too slow to fully realise the implications of the teaching of the Bible in this area, and that the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us into all truth is still a work in progress. We are not ourselves teaching from a position of perfection; we are fellow pilgrims seeking better understanding ourselves, but we are speaking with the prophetic charism of the Church.

Within Catholic Social Teaching, Pope Francis highlights four specific areas of care; first as **the promotion of the dignity and rights of each person**. This ties in well with our special collection today for the LIFE house in our parish. This exists to protect the God-given dignity of the unborn, and of their mothers to a decent life. It also reflects the reality that much conflict arises from poverty and the need for food. While so much of the world lives in poverty and facing starvation, people will fight to survive. Initially this fight may be against a hostile environment or climate, it can easily become a fight against neighbours with an easier life.

The second area which the Pope highlights is **care for the common good**. This understanding of commonality must be both international and within nations. Political divides along ‘class’ or ‘ethnicity’ or any other perceived identifier work against this understanding of a ‘common good’. The common good is the good of all people, not just those our one particular social group.

Third is **Care through Solidarity**. This follows on from the second; it is the recognition that we are a single human race, that we occupy a single planet, and that all humanity must act in solidarity for the common good. We are all ‘on the same side’ in our human life; gang culture can have no place in a civilised world.

Finally, this must be shown in **care and protection of creation**. This does not mean least important. Environmental disasters are a regular cause of migration, social unrest and even warfare. However, care for creation is not just motivated by the risk of disaster; it comes from the very act of creation itself, and our response to the love of God revealed in his gift of creation.

When a culture of care is truly established, there will no longer be the appalling waste of resources on weapons of war, but rather, there will be enough food for all, enough health-care for all, enough education for all, and we will all be able to live in peace.

Notices of Interest

LUX.VALOUR Weekend: On Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st January 2021, we can all come together online for LUX.Valour! During our LUX.Valour weekend, we will be exploring what it means to be a young person of great bravery. How we can walk into the unknown of this New Year, confident that we are “not given a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power.” 2 Timothy 1:7.
<https://nymo.org/lux-valour/>

Repository: Despite the difficulties this year we have managed to donate some funds to our charities, the Hope Centre and our own Parish help for those in need. The amounts have had to be reduced, but perhaps conditions will improve in 2021. Once again a great vote of thanks to our customers and especially to the small but loyal band of helpers. Anyone wishes to volunteer help after services when normality returns would be very welcome. At the moment, goods can be looked at with the help of the stewards as before. Kathleen Healey

COVID-19 Precautions We are in lockdown, & as responsible members of our community, we obey the Government Regulations in solidarity with so many others on whom are being imposed restrictions which impact severely on their lives & livelihoods. Now that we can return to Mass, we must continue to try to suppress the spread of the virus & support those who remain vulnerable.

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.

Bible Alive for January 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.

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School. If you have a child due to start primary school in September 2021, St Gregory's are welcoming parents to visit the school and see it in action. Contact 01604 403511 to arrange a visit. Closing date for place applications is 15th January 2021 at 5pm.

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

Exploring the Post-Lockdown Church: The webinar series has been wonderful, and thank you to all who promoted it and came along throughout the series. We have had over 3,000 views! This is definitely something we will be looking to do again in the future. If you want to catch up with any you missed, all the videos are here: <http://formationpathways.co.uk/exploring-the-post-lockdown-church-webinar-series/>

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

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Second Collections 2021: Please see the poster in the porch for next year's second collections.

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.

Financial Support for Self-Isolation: Please see the following article regarding financial help available for those who are self-isolating:
<https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/health/coronavirus/how-apply-self-isolation-financial-support-now-available-across-northamptonshire-3004756>

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: If you have a child who wishes to make their 1st Holy Communion next year & are in school years 3-6, please email Stella at swatts49@outlook.com, who will note your name & the name & age of your child. This is still very much a first step as we are still unsure of how we can prepare the children at the moment; please be patient &, as soon as we possibly can, we'll give you more info about our programme & timings at which stage you can decide whether or not you wish to proceed.

Confirmation: Yet again we are thrown into confusion! We await more information. This continues to be difficult!

Parish Finances: As colder weather is here & have the heating on, our finances will come under a bit of strain. We have kept solvent through the lockdown; great thanks to all who have been so generous.

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)**

The Big Church Read

Each year we mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with a joint Bible Study. With the current regulations in force, our normal event cannot take place, but in its place, there is an interesting opportunity which is being organized by Broadmead Baptist Church

The Big Church Read which encourages churches to form book clubs and read a book together with videos and group questions put together by the author – all completely free. All a person has to do is buy the book and even that can be discounted.

Starting at the beginning of February, Churches, small group, book clubs, huddles and individuals across Northampton are coming together to read Pete Hughes bestselling book 'All Thing New'.

Starting in Genesis and working through the Scriptures, The Big Northampton Church Read through All Things New will take you on a journey into the very heart of God and His relentless passion to redeem lives, heal the nations, rewire the culture, and bring renewal to all of creation. This book sits beside the Bible Timeline, and should prove to be interesting and worthwhile.

If you are interested, then please check out the website <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/allthingsnew/>, where you can order the book and sign up to receive more information.

The author will be providing a weekly video as well as group questions and as a huge bonus will also be doing a live virtual Q&A.

Scripture Readings 17th January 2021, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

In the first Book of Samuel Hannah, the devout but barren wife of Elkanah, prayed for a child in the temple at Shiloh. She promised if she has a son she will give him to the Lord as a Nazirite. Her prayers were answered, and Hannah gave Samuel up into Eli's care in the temple.

Luke's story of the birth of John the Baptist recalls the miraculous birth of Samuel, and Hannah's song of thanks is echoed by Mary's Magnificat. In our first reading Eli realises it is Samuel who is to succeed him as prophet to bring the word of the Lord to the people.

The Psalm expresses gratitude to the Lord for saving us, recognising that obedience is better than ritual sacrifice – as later seen in the supreme example of Jesus' obedience.

Paul devotes several parts of his letter to the Corinthians to sexual immorality, which some Corinthians did not see as sins, but Paul sees as sinning against your own body.

In John's Gospel the Baptist prophetically points Jesus out to his own disciples as the "Lamb of God", so they follow him instead. Like the rest of Jesus' disciples, they come to Jesus through the testimony of others, responding to the invitation to "Come and see".

Psalm Response: **Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.**

(1 Samuel 3: 3-10, 19; Psalm 39(40); 1 Cor 6: 13-15, 17-20; John 1: 35-41)

Chris Oliver

LIFE HOUSE STORIES

Kelly's story

Hello my name is Kelly, I live in one of the houses which is supported by Life. Without the support of this charity and support workers I wouldn't have known where I would be now nearly three years down the line. I've have so much support and help, for which I am so grateful and all this wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for all the lovely kind donations that the Life house received. They are able to help so many mothers and families through hard times and give them the choice and freedom to achieve anything with all the support they need.

I am so thankful for the donation that we have just received and to know how many people life's will now change because of this is amazing, without your donations the life house charity wouldn't be able to help as many people. With the donations that we receive we are able to maintain the support within the life house charity, able to take on more mothers, able to maintain property's so more families have a place to come for support, and it gives me and many mother the reassurance that the life charity will be here to help for many more years even when you feel you're ready to move on they will still be there if you need advice and support.

I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart who has helped with donations and support for Life without you Life wouldn't be able to reach out and support mothers and family's. I am great full to life house for everything they did for me and have done for the last nearly three years I've become a strong women and my independent has rocketed with the support from this charity I know I will be moving on and leaving life house charity soon but I know they will always be here for me and my family for many years after Incase I need a little support. Thank you so much again for the donations you have really changed people's life's for the better.

Janet's story

I moved in [to the Life House] April 2009 when I was 14 weeks pregnant. There were two other girls living here, both with young babies. This was good for me to learn about the day to day routine of looking after a baby. I moved in with not much knowledge on life skills. Such as cooking, cleaning, practical skills, health and safety, money and budgeting, health and pregnancy and parenting skills.

For example we cook a meal once a week, for 4 of us with a budget of £10. I have learnt now to do lots of practical things like, putting a dining room chair together and fixing a toilet seat. We have done arts and crafts sessions like scrap booking, Christmas cards, painting. All these things will help me to enhance my son's development when I move on. We also have health professionals, work and career advisors and we have had in the past people from the emergency services doing a talk on prevention causes and what to do in the emergency of a fire.

I am hoping to move out within the next month. Without the Support Workers and life housings support I don't think I'd be ready to move on.

.....
Please be generous in your support for the LIFE
house in our parish; the costs of the support
worker and the other services of the LIFE
Charity are considerable.
.....

The God Who Speaks- Our Liturgy of the Word

The next of the series of 3 Online Zoom Sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year is this week. A valuable opportunity to develop our engagement with the Scriptures that we hear proclaimed at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Led by Mgr Kevin McGinnell, Chair of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission and Alex Heath, Adviser for Adult Faith Formation

Tuesday 19 January 2021, (7.30-8.30 pm) 'He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures' (Lk 24:45) ¹¹ The importance of God's Word for Christian identity & everyday living

Tuesday 16 February 2021, 7.30-8.30 pm: 'Many more began to believe in him because of his Word' (John 4:41) John's Gospel & The Season of Lent

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 Once you booking is received you will be sent details of how to join the online Zoom sessions.

Next Sunday

Last year Pope Francis instituted a new occasion in the life of the Church: the 'Sunday of the Word of God'. Of course, every Sunday, indeed, every day should be a 'Day of the Word of God', but in instituting this celebration, the Church seeks to more deeply embed the Scriptures in the lives of the faithful. We know that at Mass there are two tables; the Table of the Word and the Table of the Eucharist. We are familiar with the perpetual presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, enthroned in the Tabernacle. Pope Francis has asked us to enthrone

the presence of Jesus in the Scriptures, and last year we placed a copy of the Bible on a stand, where it has remained throughout the year. Just as we access the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, not just enthrone him, so we need to access Jesus in the Scriptures. As part of next Sunday's celebration there will be a re-commissioning of readers — inevitably in most cases remotely — but emphasising the importance of this ministry. In these difficult times, we have the Scriptures in our homes. We are not deprived of the Word of God!

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), of which CAFOD is an active member has launched a nationwide appeal for funds. Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal> or use a CAFOD envelope and give through the parish.



SECOND COLLECTIONS 2021

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

