



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.”**

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The Bible in Translation

There is a myth which is perpetuated by many historians that what sparked off the Protestant reformation was the Church forbidding translations of the Bible into languages other than Latin.

The reality is far more complicated than that. There had been for centuries translations of parts of the Bible into other languages which the Church encouraged and approved, but these were few in number because few people could read at all, and those who had the benefit of education could read Latin, so the demand for translations was small. There were specific translations that were not approved, largely because of footnotes added to the text offering interpretations which did not conform to Catholic teaching. Ironically, the main way in which the majority of people knew the stories of the Bible came from the wall paintings and (in larger churches) stained glass windows. These were in large measure destroyed by the reformers, leaving those who could not read with no direct access to the Bible at all.

We live in altogether different times today, and the vast majority of the population of England can read English, but few can read Latin or Greek. It is important that we have good translations of the Bible into our own language, and into all modern languages.

Living languages develop and words can, over time, change their meaning, and this means that a translation of the Bible into a living language will need, from time to time, to be modified. The Jerusalem Bible, which we have used at Mass for many years is now 56 years old, and in 2018 our Bishops decided to change to the English Standard Version: Catholic Edition.

The text below is reprinted from the website of the Bishops' Conference. (Slightly modified to update the expected date of publication.)

Lectionary

Here are answers to some frequently asked questions on the new Lectionary.

What is a Catholic edition of the Bible?

There are a number of characteristics of a Catholic edition:

-  It includes the deuterocanonical books. These are texts in the Old Testament where there is an ancient Greek Jewish source but not a Hebrew one. These include Tobit, Wisdom, Sirach and Baruch. They have always been accepted by the Catholic Church as part of the Canon of Scripture.
-  The translation reflects a Catholic understanding of scripture
-  The translation has received an imprimatur from a Bishops' Conference
-  There should be study notes to assist the reader.

What is the English Standard Version: Catholic Edition?

The English Standard Version is the latest in a series of English translations which go back to the 16th Century. These translations have all been based on a 'word for word' principle. The ESV is directly based on the Revised Standard Version and it is suggested that c. 6% of the text has been revised. Changes were made to modernise the language and reflect the latest scholarship. The publisher Crossway emphasizes 'word-for-word' accuracy, literary excellence, and depth of meaning. Work on the Catholic Edition was done by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India in collaboration with Crossway.

What is the Abbey Psalms and Canticles?

The Grail Psalms have been part of Liturgy in English since before the Second Vatican Council. They are used in both the Lectionary and the Divine Office. In 2008 a revision of the text was undertaken by the monks of Conception Abbey, Missouri. It sought to bring the latest scholarly understanding of the text and to review the text where the English was essentially a paraphrase of the Hebrew. This text will be used in the Lectionary and in subsequent liturgical books, such as the Liturgy of the Hours.

Are there changes to the readings?

This is a new publication of the Lectionary using different scripture translations — the content remains the same.

What is new?

There will be provision for Saints who have been inserted into the Universal Calendar since the last Lectionary published in 1981. There will also be the readings for the National Calendars. In addition, some of the revised liturgical rites, such as Marriage, have additional readings.

Will the text be mandatory?

It is normal practice in the Roman Rite that there is only a single edition of a liturgical text in use in a particular territory. So in the same way as only the third edition of the Roman Missal (2010) may be used in the celebration of Mass (in the Ordinary Form); the same will be true for the Lectionary.

Who will be publishing the Lectionary?

The Catholic Truth Society have been appointed publishers for the Lectionary. They are working closely with the bishops to ensure that the published volumes are worthy, clear in page layout, sturdy and reflect the daily needs of the liturgy.

When will the Lectionary be published?

The aim is to publish it in time for Advent 2023. It will be important that People's Missals and other ancillary material are available at the time of publication. (<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/liturgy-lectionary/>)

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for July & August 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. 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

Sea Sunday: Thank you for giving to Sea Sunday. Our parish raised £186.94. Your generous gifts will ensure that Stella Maris Chaplains can continue to be a friend for seafarers and fishers in times of need. Many thanks too to the knitters of hats and the suppliers of wool. These are most appreciated. Anyone who would like to join the knitters, please contact Bob Maine. To find out more about how your support helps those who live and work at sea please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 1st August, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Please watch this space for information. The programme will take a similar form to last year, in which a parent/carer will take a primary position in the teaching. The feedback from this system has been very encouraging.

Confirmation in 2023: Please watch this space for information.

Vocations to Priesthood: Vocations weekends are planned three times a year. These are weekends for men who are discerning priesthood. You may be in the very early stages of discernment & don't worry - you don't have to sign anything! You can take your time & meet priests who can share more about this incredible life. Priesthood is a gift to our diocese, & we would love to connect with you as you continue your journey with God. At any point you can contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Andy Richardson – (01582 502400) or vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org.

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)**

Young Catholic Adults (YCA) Weekend - 7th - 9th

October: Theme: "The Communion of Saints' prayer and the veneration of Holy Relics". During the weekend, Young Catholic Adults will be running a retreat at Douai Abbey with the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge who will be holding Gregorian Chant workshops. There will also be a Marian Procession, Rosaries, Sung Masses, Confession, talks (and socials). Prices start from £12 (for the day) & £55 per person per night (residential). Book soon as places are limited! Please note, to guarantee your place Douai Abbey have requested that everyone books in 3 weeks before the start of the weekend (16th September 2022). For info, go to <http://youngcatholicadults-latestnews.blogspot.co.uk/> or <http://www.youngcatholicadults.co.uk>. To book go to: <https://bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-douai2022>

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

Tots @ St Gregory's: We have had a great year and our last session will be on Tuesday 19th July and we re-start on Tuesday 6th September!!

Missio Red Box collection: There are envelopes in the Narthex (main entrance); if you are a regular supporter of Missio,. Please collect your envelope. Filled envelopes should be brought to the Sacristy. Many thanks for your support for this important work of the Church in the proclamation of the Gospel.

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

Employment Opportunities at the Diocese: For details of opportunities visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/> or via email hadmin@northamptondiocese.com

Choir Matters: Practices start after evening Mass, 1st Thursday each month: 7:45-9pm. Dates Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6. Old age & infirmity are catching up with some familiar voices - including myself - & new members are needed... the view from the Gallery is great. *Alec.*

Planned Giving Envelopes: If you use envelopes, please take your new box from beside the confessionals. Standing orders are managed by the Diocesan Finance Office, and the parish does not always have full details.

Pilgrimage of Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life: Walsingham National Catholic Shrine, Saturday 6th August, 12pm. Please see poster for details or contact Christopher & Margaret on (01858) 571242.

Unholy Mathematics: We now have the full figures for the last financial year. Leaving aside the one-off expenditure on the kitchen, we have made a small surplus over the year. However, the energy bills for the coming year will be a problem. There is more information on our financial situation opposite. 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.

Wednesday evening Bible Study by Zoom: 8 week course on Romans led by Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, subtitled "The Gospel of Salvation".

Session 8, 20th July Chapters 14-16: The End of the Story.
Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

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

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

Scripture Readings 17th July 2022, 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Abraham, settled by the oaks of Mamre, near Hebron, south of Jerusalem, gives proper hospitality to his three special visitors. He addresses only one of them as Lord, who promises a son to the couple in their old age. God's covenant promise to Abraham of countless descendants can now begin to come true.

The Psalm lists the social virtues necessary to be at one with the Lord, especially justice and charity.

Paul had explained to the Colossians that with Christ's death God's covenant plan is now back on track. Paul sees his afflictions as helping spread the knowledge of redemption and sees that God gives us the dignity of joining our sufferings to Christ's.

The Jews believed that God would reveal his secret plans for creation: Paul says these have now been revealed – the mystery is

Jesus the Christ, the man who is the revelation of God, now raised to the new life also promised to us.

In Luke's description of Jesus' visit to Martha and Mary, their brother Lazarus is not mentioned. Like Sarah, Martha is busy preparing the meal. With so much to do she is naturally – but not obsessively – distracted, and asks for Mary's help. But Jesus reminds her that listening to the words of their prophetic guest is more important than domestic perfection.

Psalm Response: **The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

(Gen 18:1-10; Ps 14(15):2-5; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10:38-42)

Chris Oliver

Repainting the Church

Due to COVID and so many people being unavailable, the painting has been delayed, but must at some point be done. Please, all who have already volunteered keep in touch with Cliff cliff.snelling@btinternet.com.

We also need more people to join the rota for refreshments after the Sunday Masses, especially after 11.00. The hope is to have sufficient people so that it will come round not more frequently than one week in five. Please see one of the people with badges on to find out more!

Alpha in the Autumn

Each time we run the Alpha Course there are more people who speak of how much they have enjoyed it, and how it has deepened their faith and understanding of what life in Christ actually means. Please think about coming on the next one!

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which is 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. Many people have found this valuable for themselves, but this is also an easy way for anyone to fulfil the wish of Pope Francis that we all become Missionary Disciples. Just come and bring a friend!

First session:	September 20th 2022:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	September 27th 2022:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	October 4th 2022:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	October 11th 2022:	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session:	October 18th 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	October 25th 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session:	November 8th 2022:	How does God guide us?
Away-Day:	November 11th - 12th:	Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
Eighth Session:	November 15th 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	November 22nd 2022:	Why and how should I tell others?
Tenth Session:	November 29th 2022:	Does God heal today?
Eleventh Session:	December 6th 2022:	What about the Church?

Democracy in Action!

The media are caught up in what is a very important election campaign to choose our next Prime Minister. In the current stage of the contest, 358 people will be deciding which 2 candidates will be put forward to the next stage; the final choice made by paid-up members of the Conservative Party, of whom there are believed to be 200,000. Thus 0.4% of the electorate will decide who leads our nation, and they have a choice between candidates decided upon by about 0.00075% of the electorate.

The new leader and Prime Minister will rely on the mandate of the last General Election in 2019 when the country and the world was in a very different situation. COVID had not been heard of, Russia had not invaded Ukraine, inflation was at 1.8% and falling. Although the usage of Food Banks had reached 1.6 million, according to the Trussell Trust, that figure has risen to 2.1 million in 2022. The new Prime Minister will have a very different set of problems to face.

A large part of the present electioneering seems to be related to cutting taxes, which will indeed help those who are tax-payers. 4.8 million households are claiming Universal Credit, and most of them will have an income well below the threshold for paying any income tax at all, so cuts in income tax will not be any help to them.

Over many years now, the Catholic Church in England and Wales had produced leaflets on "The Common Good" before General Elections. The risk in a democracy is that most people will vote for their self-interest. The tax-payer will be likely to vote for the candidate promising to cut taxes; the pensioner will be more likely to vote for the candidate who promises to raise pensions.

Our faith calls us to move beyond self-interest, and seek what is for the 'common good' – the good of all people. Our country needs more and better hospitals, schools, housing and many other social benefits. Pray that we may have good government.

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’.