



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

For the Glory is Yours

How do you end a prayer? In the liturgy we have a number of set phrases, such as ‘Through Christ our Lord’, which not only round off the text and signify to the listener that it is concluding but also remind us that the prayer we offer is done so through Jesus who unites us with him in his prayer to his Father.

How would Jesus have ended a prayer? What we know from scripture is that he would probably said some words of praise of God, a ‘doxology’, such as these words of King David ‘Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all’ (*1 Chronicles 29:11*), and still found in the New Testament letters, for example, ‘To him belong glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.’ (*1 Peter 4:11*).

One of the tasks of those who prepare biblical translations is to decide from various manuscripts what the original text was – or at least that for which we have the earliest evidence. The doxology text ‘For the kingdom...’ had always been included in the Orthodox liturgy. In the 16th century there was a new interest in looking at the sources and the Catholic scholar Erasmus who compiled a Greek text of the New Testament included the doxology and this became the basis of translations such as the King James Bible of 1611. Subsequent scholarship has agreed that it is not found in the earliest extant manuscripts and so in modern translations it is given in a footnote with a phrase like ‘some manuscripts add ‘For yours...’ but also recognise it



probably represents an ancient liturgical tradition of praying the text. Following the Second Vatican Council, the doxology is added to the Order of Mass as an ecumenical gesture reflecting the use in both the Orthodox and Protestant liturgies.

It is appropriate we pray these words in every celebration of Mass as they express in words of adoration and thanksgiving a truly Eucharistic attitude; to recognise the gift that we are about to receive and to give thanks to God.

There is an interesting echo of the Gospel we hear on the First Sunday of Lent when Jesus is tempted by the devil to worship him so that he will be given authority over the kingdoms of the world (Luke 4:1-13). In the doxology we acknowledge that the kingdom, the power and the glory truly belong to God. Further, it is worth reflecting on how, in the Gospels, Jesus presents the kingdom which is present now. We reflect on a kingdom characterised by small acts of love and justice, where power is turned upside-down in Jesus’ association with the weak and the powerless, and his glory, which culminates in his being lifted up on the Cross.

The Orthodox theologian, Alexander Schmemmann, ends his reflections on the Lord’s Prayer:

‘While we remember this prayer, while we keep repeating it, our life is opened towards the kingdom, is filled with power, shines with glory, in the face of which darkness, hatred, and evil lie powerless.’

Blessed Cyprian Tansi — September 1903 – January 1964

Cyprian Iwene Tansi was among only the second group of Nigerian priests to be ordained (in 1937), and was known for his energetic apostolic life combined with a life of profound prayer and demanding personal asceticism. His care and zeal for the people committed to him in the diocese of Onitsha remains legendary to this day.

His belief in the value for the local and the worldwide Church of the hidden life of prayer in a contemplative order led Fr Tansi to leave behind his country and highly successful missionary work in Nigeria and go to England to join the Cistercian Order at Mount Saint Bernard Abbey in 1950. His dream was to establish the contemplative way of life in Nigeria and although he died before seeing his dream fulfilled, several houses have since been founded.

Blessed Cyprian died in England on 20 January 1964. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Nigeria on 22nd March 1998.

Leading up to the anniversary of his beatification, there is a novena of prayer: You are invited to join by saying this prayer daily:

God who granted many graces to your Blessed Servant priest and monk, Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi, choosing him as your faithful instrument for evangelisation and sanctification of your people, grant also that I may spend my life, loving you and my neighbour and serving the Church.

Deign to glorify your servant Cyprian and through his intercession grant me the favour I ask of you (*silently make your petition*). We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices of Interest

Penitential Liturgies: there will be a Penitential Liturgy at the Cathedral on Monday evening, and at St Gregory's on Tuesday evening; both starting at 7pm. This makes a good preparation for the experience of the Triduum (the Three Holy Days) of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) leading to the great celebration of the Resurrection.

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. A new supply of Easter cards has finally arrived and is on display in the foyer. Cards and items for First Communion and Confirmation will be available after Easter. Red Communion ties are here and will cost £6. Any queries or volunteers to 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

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

Easter Flowers: Envelopes are available for donations for flowers on the table in the narthex. If you wish your flowers to be in memory of a particular person, please write their name on the envelope. This will appear in the Easter newsletter.

Coming Events (for your diary):

Saturday 13th April. Table top sale for Gregory Care

Tuesday 16th April: Next Alpha course starts

Saturday 27th April: Pro-Life Life Chain on St Peters Way, 11.00 – 1.00

Sunday 23rd June: Parish Picnic in the Park *More details nearer the time*

Friday 19th to Saturday 20th July: 40 Hours Adoration at St Gregory's

Diocesan Pilgrimages: There will be a coach for the Walsingham pilgrimage from St. Gregory's on 8th June (leaving 8am sharp), and the Diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage will be from Friday 23rd Aug to Friday 30th Aug. Booking details for both will follow shortly.

Thomas Becket Reunion: Thomas Becket class who took O levels in 1980 and were born between September 1963 and August 1964 are holding a reunion on 20th July at the Vocal club on Bailiff St to mark turning 60! Tickets are now available through Eventbrite at a cost of £10.

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)**

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 8th April at 7pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2023/4: All sessions are on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates, times have been given to all those who are registered.

Confirmation in 2024: There will be practical sessions through February & March, & then teaching sessions from April. Email to childrens.liturgy@stgregory.org.uk for further information.

Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (**next – Wed. 27th Mar in time for Easter!**), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially younger, more energetic ones!

Choir Notes: Practices for Holy Week are Saturday mornings in Lent from 11-12:30 on Mar 16, 23. The next will be 4 May. . Alec

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Hall: 10am-12 pm.

Fire Safety: Please be careful with the votive candle stands, and especially please ensure that children are safe. Unlit candles **must not** be placed on the trays under the places for candles and candles must not be stacked one on top of another.

Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour: This will take place at Our Lady's Shrine, Great Billing on Sunday 7th April at 3pm.

The Annunciation of the Lord: 24 Hour Adoration Monday-

Tuesday 8th-9th April: There will be Mass at on Monday 8th April at 10.30am at Our Lady's Shrine, Great Billing. This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will continue until the 9.30am Mass at Great Billing on Tuesday 9th April. Sign-up sheets for the Exposition are available at the back of both churches.

Missio: Thanks to those who picked up their Spring magazines. Others will soon have theirs delivered if not received already. Anyone who wants to join this work to support the Foreign Missions will find information on how the Red Box system works in a brown envelope marked "new" or speak to Dorothy (9am) or Alec (11am)

Tots @ St Gregory's: St Greg's Tiny Tots runs each Tuesday in term time from 9:30-11:30 in the church hall. We charge £1 per group which includes snacks & coffee! If you have care of a pre-school child, please join us!!

Care for our environment: Since 2015 we have been celebrating the 'Season of Creation' from September 1st to October 4th, and this has now become a celebration shared by other Christians as well. Within our own local area, it would be good if Christians could work together to try to bring about a greater understanding and respect for God's creation. Issues like clean air, fly-tipping and care of the green spaces (Abington Park, Eastfield Park, Bradlaugh Fields, Abington Vale Park, Wilson's Orchard, Billing Road Cemetery). If anyone is interested in these, or other environmental issues, it would be good to get together. Please let Fr Andrew know if this would be of interest.

Wool for Stella Maris Woolly Hats If you have any spare knitting wool for hats, please drop it off at the church for our knitters. Aran will make the cosiest hat! Seafarers & mariners love bright colours as well as the more traditional dark colour palette. Please avoid pastels as they get dirty quickly. If you would like more information or care to get involved, scan the QR code. Thank you, *Bob*



Next Alpha will be after Easter:

First session:	April 16th:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	April 23rd:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	April 30th:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	May 7th:	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session:	May 14th:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	May 21st:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session:	June 4th:	How does God guide us?
Away-Day:	June 8th:	Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session:	June 11th:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	June 18th:	Why and how should I tell others?
Tenth Session:	June 25th:	Does God heal today?
Eleventh Session:	July 2nd:	What about the Church?

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

Prayer for Peace for Ukraine and the Holy Land:

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

Sunday 17th March: The 5th Sunday of Lent, Year B

Jeremiah warned Israel against their idolatry and failure to respond to God's love, breaking God's covenant. At the time of the exile to Babylon Jeremiah proclaimed this great oracle of the "New Covenant", promising that God's Law will be written on men's hearts, giving them for ever the power – or "grace" – to respond with love to God's love.

This most famous penitential Psalm echoes David's humble admission of his sin with Bathsheba: every sin is an offence against God.

The Letter to the Hebrews emphasises that Jesus is truly human: He shared our humanity and our weaknesses and afflictions. So he sympathises patiently with us in our sinfulness and is well able, as a high priest, to intercede with God for us, and to offer sacrifice on

our behalf. He prayed with such love and respect that God heard his prayer.

In the gospel of John some pagan Greeks ask their fellow Greek, Philip, to help them meet Jesus. The gospel message is now reaching out to Gentiles and this is taken by Jesus as the signal that his work is nearing its inevitable climax. Jesus' life has shown the way to salvation, but the human Jesus is very troubled by anticipation of his coming suffering, also described by the other Gospels in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Psalm Response: **A pure heart create for me, O God**

(Jer 31: 31-34; Psalm 50(51); Hebrews 5: 7-9; John 12: 20-33)

Chris Oliver



Bishop David writes:

This is one of my favourite moments in the fourth Gospel. Some Greek-speaking Jews want to meet with Jesus. They need an introduction and approach the apostle Philip who came from Bethsaida, a busy commercial place where Greek was spoken freely. Philip recruits Andrew to the task and the two disciples go to Jesus with the request.

Mention of Andrew reminds me of an earlier Gospel moment when this apostle first met Jesus. At the time, he was a disciple of the Baptist. John had just pointed to Jesus and declared, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God'. Now Andrew and a companion decided to follow Jesus along the road. He turns and asks them, 'What are you looking for?' Some translations say, 'What are you seeking?' As the Passion unfolds, Jesus will ask the same question of those who come to arrest him. But at the beginning of the Gospel, there is a different response. Andrew and his friend want to know where Jesus is staying. What Jesus is really asking them is this, what do you desire? As the Gospel unfolds, the disciples come to see who Jesus is. They learn how to desire life in communion with him. They are living in the school of apostolic mission.

Today Jesus teaches Andrew and Philip a master-class. If these Greek-speaking Jews want to meet with Jesus, they must discover who he really is. He is the grain of wheat that must fall on the ground and die in order to yield a rich harvest. And the only way to learn this, is to enter into the same journey of dying and rising ourselves. If fascination attracts us to our Lord, it will not be enough to keep us within a deepening relationship with him. The master-class continues. 'Wherever I am, my servant will be there too.' Later in chapter 17 of John's Gospel, we are privileged to hear the high-priestly prayer of Jesus to his Father. Jesus prays, 'Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me'.

Do we desire that this prayer of Jesus is fulfilled for us during these days of Lent? Within Christian discipleship, wisdom is gained through the suffering of the crosses in our lives. We understandably shy away from the Cross. We are inclined to seek an easier form of discipleship. We join our Lord in our souls being troubled by the thought of such an hour in our lives. But we may also find encouragement that this is the path to our witnessing Jesus' glory.

Today we enter into Passiontide. Our focus is on Jesus. Let us accompany him as he resolutely sets his face towards Jerusalem. And during these days, may we renew our conviction to serve the Lord and give ourselves generously to what has been asked of us. I wonder whether those Greek-speaking Jews still wanted to meet with Jesus when the apostles returned to tell them what would be involved in this encounter? *Bishop David*

PILGRIMS OF HOPE
AN EVENING WITH BISHOP DAVID OAKLEY

Bishop David will be coming to our parish on Monday September 9th to reflect on what it means to be a pilgrim of hope. It will begin at 7.00 pm

You are invited to attend and invite those who wish to discover more of the beauty of our Catholic faith.

Born For This
BY JO BOYCE

Weston Favell Academy students will be taking to the stage to share a moving and powerful depiction of the Stations of the Cross. The performance will be at St Gregory's Church at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 27th March (Wednesday in Holy Week) (lasting approx. an hour) It is FREE to all. Donations welcome.

Thursday Holy Hour & Adoration: There will be 40 hours of continuous adoration from 7.00 am on Friday 19th July until 11.00 pm on Saturday 20th July. This is part of the Year of Prayer leading up to the Jubilee year in 2025. Holy Hour remains as Holy Two Hours, from 9am until 11am. It is important that at least two people are present throughout the time of adoration. During cold weather, Adoration will be in the Hall.