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

Care for Creation

The COP 29 (29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) is taking place in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, and will continue through the coming week, ending on 22nd November.

Baku is an ancient city with origins going back into the stone age, and the area was under Roman rule when St Bartholomew evangelised there in the 1st Christian century.

Throughout the middle ages and into early modern times Baku was on important trade routes and a variety of nations and empires fought over it, but in 1837 oil was discovered and by the end of the 19th century it was producing half the oil sold on international markets and 20% of global oil production. So important was this oil that the German invasion of Russia was primarily aimed at securing this supply of fuel.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan achieved independence and its economy is hugely dependent on oil and gas production. This makes it an interesting and challenging venue for the current Climate Change conference.

The Holy See (The Vatican) is one of the 'parties' who have signed the United Nations Convention of Climate Change, and Cardinal Parolin is representing Pope Francis. Below is a report from Vatican News:

Addressing COP29 on behalf of Pope Francis and the Holy See, Cardinal Pietro Parolin urges urgent climate action, linking environmental protection to peace, justice, and global solidarity, and warning that indifference enables injustice.

The selfishness of individuals and groups

Speaking on behalf of Pope Francis at the United Nations' 29th Climate Conference (COP29), the Cardinal Secretary of State emphasised that COP29 takes in a context conditioned by "growing disillusionment with multilateral institutions and dangerous tendencies to build walls". He described the selfishness, both individual and that of power groups, as feeding a climate of mistrust and division.

Cardinal Parolin warned that the globalisation that brings us closer to one another has not managed to make us feel like brothers and sisters. "Economic development has not reduced inequality", he stressed. "On the contrary, it has favoured the prioritisation of profit and special interests at the expense of the protection of the weakest, and has contributed to the progressive worsening of environmental problems".

This trend, he continued, must be reversed, and in order to do so - so as to create a culture of respect for life and the dignity of the human person - "it is necessary to understand that the harmful consequences of lifestyles affect everyone".

The danger of ecological and foreign debt

Cardinal Parolin went on to stress that efforts should be made to find solutions that do not further undermine the development and adaptive capacity of many countries that are already burdened with crippling economic debt. "When discussing climate finance, it is important to remember that ecological debt and foreign debt are two sides of the same coin, mortgaging the future".

In light of this, the Cardinal reiterated Pope Francis' appeal, in which he asked more affluent nations to "*forgive the debts* of countries that will never be able to repay them". He recalled the Pope's words when he said that "more than a question of generosity, this is a matter of justice".

Cardinal Parolin then appealed for a new, human-focused global financial system that supports equitable, sustainable development, especially for vulnerable nations and called on COP29 to drive political will toward inclusive growth.

We cannot pass by and look the other way

In this endeavour, Cardinal Parolin reiterated the dedication of the Holy See, "especially in the field of integral ecology, education and in raising awareness of the environmental as a human and social problem on any number of levels." We cannot "pass by and look the other way", he said, before warning that "indifference is an accomplice to injustice".

Bringing his address to a close, the Cardinal Secretary of State appealed to all those present to ask themselves: what can I do? How can I contribute?

"There is no time for indifference today", he said, "we cannot wash our hands of it, with distance, with carelessness or with disinterest." And this, he concluded, "is the real challenge of our century."

Report by Francesca Merlo 'Vatican News' (vaticannews.va)

Please show **your** interest and come to the afternoon celebration of Care for Creation at St Peter's Church in Weston Favell village which will include a session of Wild Church, to encourage and help you to find connections with nature. There will also be a service to celebrate God's Creation at which Ruth Valerio will make the keynote address. People from St Gregory's will take part in the service as readers. (Event begins at 4.00, service at 5.00)

22 Park Avenue North
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Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

17th November 2024
Thirty Third Sunday Of the Year
Parish Mass Book - Year B
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Priest:
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E-mail: frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org
Deacon:
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com
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Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

Sunday *33rd Sunday Of the Year*	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.45 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	Jude E. Arthur RIP The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am 7.00 pm	Mass Parish Requiem Mass	Caitlin, Thanksgiving The Deceased of the Parish and their Families
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Cliff & Ester Snelling's Intentions
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Agnes McLoughlin RIP
Thursday Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00-11am 11.30 am 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Funeral Mass Mass	 Elizabeth Gorman RIP Marshall Black RIP
Friday St. Cecilia	9.00 am	Mass	Peter & Alice Curran
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Uche Odita RIP
Sunday *Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.45 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Albert Francis Rowe RIP The Parish

Your Offering to the Parish: Last Week's collection was £374.99. Thank you!

Standing Order gifts to the Parish: Each week £580 is given through standing orders.

Donations through the Diocese: An average of £90 is given each week.

Gift Aid benefits to the parish: The value of Gift Aid averages £136 per week.

Cleaners This Week: The Church is cleaned and sanitised on a regular basis.

Counters this Week: CC & LA

Readings for this Sunday
— see inside for details

Daniel 12: 1-3: *When that time comes, your own people will be spared.*

Hebrews 10: 11-14, 18: *By virtue of one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying*

Mark 13: 24-32: *He will gather his chosen from the four winds.*

Readings for next Sunday

Daniel 7: 13-14; Apocalypse 1: 5-8; John 18: 33-37. (Page 93)

During This Season of Ordinary Time, We are Asked to Pray For: Human Life; Seafarers; Europe; Victims of Persecution or Oppression; Christian/Jewish Relations; The Environment.

CASPAR and why it is important

One of the important principles of the management of data is keeping it up to date. When we went into lockdown during COVID the parish tried to keep in touch by telephone, but we found that more than half our database was useless with many having moved house or stopped using their landline telephone.

This was the experience of many parishes, and as a result the CASPAR system was developed, in which every user is in charge of their own data. This also reduces the responsibility of data protection for parishes and the diocese, although we are still bound by the rules of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations). The CASPAR system should be more secure than the basic systems that we were previously using.

CASPAR is still under development, and will have many additional features. One which is already in use is the reporting to the diocese of bits of data which used to require form-filling. Now CASPAR does it automatically.

However, it can only be as good as the data it contains, and we will have to stop using our old database in January, so please, if you use a computer or a smartphone, sign up as soon as you can.

www.caspar.church/me?ID=56067

Please Pray for the Sick:

Notices of Interest

Sick List: I will be clearing the Sick List in two weeks. I have had a couple of names given to me to stay on, but please, everybody, have a look through it and tell me which names should be left and which should be removed! ***Caryll***

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards & religious goods. 2025 diaries now available. Any queries or volunteers to 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com
Christmas cards & other items now available in the Foyer. We still need some assistance for this busy season, so volunteers would be welcome!
P.S. A polite request – please do supervise your children around the Repository area. Thank you!

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be announced here shortly. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2024/5: First Holy Communion 2025 Registration is now complete, and there is no more space this year.

Confirmation in 2025: January 5th after the 9am Mass is the enrolment date for the next Confirmation. The Confirmation will be on Sunday afternoon, September 7th 2025, exact time to be decided.

Choir Notes: Next Practices are 11-12 on Saturdays: Nov 23rd 30th, Dec 7th and 14th *Alec*

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School is seeking a class teacher, 3 days per week, starting 1 January 2025. This is a permanent role. For more information, please contact the school on 01604 403511or look on the MyNewTerm portal.

ACNUK will be delivering a national livestream for schools on the theme of RW On Wed 20th Nov, children & young people who are living through war & persecution. This will be hosted by Mark 10 Mission, & in collaboration with the Kenelm Youth Trust. Primary School livestream will be 9.30-10.30am & the Secondary one will be 11am-12pm.

Gregory Care: A date at last! The Cathedral Sale of New/Nearly new items will be held in the St Thomas Centre (behind the Cathedral) on Sunday 24th Nov. at 12 noon, come along and grab yourself a bargain!

After the success of our Giving Tree last year Gregory Care is once again appealing for Christmas Gifts for Children and adults, please look out in Church for the way you can do this.

Between now & Christmas there is an opportunity to donate seasonal food which will be given to the families we support. (Please note these should have a use before date that will last until Christmas) items can be placed in the Gregory Care box at the back of Church.

Divine Will Prayer Group: The Divine Will prayer group will take place via zoom on the first Thursday of every month at 7pm. The remaining Thursdays of the month it will be at Our Lady's in Great Billing at 7pm. All welcome. First meeting at 7pm on Thurs 21st Nov. Those wanting to join the zoom meeting please message Mark on 07724 337196.

Urgent appeal: Unborn babies are being starved, poisoned & torn apart by abortion. With the threat of assisted suicide vulnerable people could be killed by lethal injection in our local hospital & care homes. Will you help to stop this by joining the SPUC? SPUC seeks to reverse the 1967 Abortion Act & stop the Assisted Suicide Bill becoming law. SPUC Northampton has just four members! 3 Catholics & a Russian Orthodox. With these moral issues, we should be worrying about finding a venue large enough to hold meetings! Help us change this by joining SPUC & contact William on wpcurrie@btinternet.com or text to 07393 965 643

Parish Requiem Mass: This Monday, 18th November at 7.00 pm, when we will remember by name all whose funerals have taken place at St Gregory's in the past year as well as any others from whom prayer is asked by any who are at the Mass. (Names must be submitted before the Mass starts.)

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: 10.00 am-12.00 pm.

Advent On-Line Retreat: On 4 Monday nights 7:30-8:30pm, starting 25th Nov, Fr John Udris & Avril Baigent will be leading an on-line retreat called 'Doorways to Grace'. We explore the 4 Holy Doors of Rome & the saints behind them. How we, like them, are being called into a grace filled encounter with Jesus in the coming Jubilee Year. To watch the trailer & register for the retreat go to https://northamptondiocese.org/doorways/

Missio Matters: Free calendars are available for those who support Missio's worldwide efforts to spread the Good News of the Gospel by prayer & donations. These have been left in envelopes, in alphabetical order, in a red box on a table on the left as you come into church. Please collect to save us having to travel to deliver them, though we will happily do so where necessary. God bless. *Alec & Dot*

24-hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in honour of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Sat 7th - Sun 8th Dec). There will be Mass at 9.30am at **Our Lady's Shrine, Great Billing**. This will be followed by Exposition which will continue until the usual 9.15am Sunday Mass. Sign-up sheets for the Exposition will be available at the back of both churches.

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

Used Stamps: Thank you to all our loyal collectors; we continue to do well. I realise that with price rises stamps are getting rarer, but if you could continue to save them for the Missions, it would be wonderful! Thank you.

Ceili Dancing is ongoing in the Church Hall every Wednesday evening, 7.30-8.45pm. Everyone welcome to join our friendly group. To find out more phone Pat on 07710624921, or just turn up!

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)**

Tots @ St Gregory's: If you have the care of a baby or pre-school child on Tuesday mornings join us in the church hall from 9.30-11.30 - charge just £1 for you & any number of children & includes snacks for the children & yourself - excellent value for money! We run throughout term time. Looking forward to seeing you!

The Bible Society: The Catholic Church has always valued the Bible, and for over 100 years successive Popes have encouraged all Catholics to read and study the Bible. The Second Vatican Council has underlined this emphasis, and since the Council we have shared with Christians of other traditions in biblical scholarship. The Bible Society supports all Christians in mission and making the Scriptures available in many languages and for all people.

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

Scripture Readings 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B, 17th November 2024

The Book of Daniel belongs to "apocalyptic" literature, which secretly looks forward to the day of the Lord at the end of history, when all will be made right. It was written about 165 BC to strengthen the Jews who were suffering bitter persecution. The hero, Daniel, is saved by adhering to his faith in face of many trials. Daniel is promised that the just will live for ever, an early expectation of resurrection.

The Psalm rejects idolatry and expresses confidence in the Lord, who will bring us to everlasting life.

Our final reading from the Letter to the Hebrews also looks forward to the end time. The daily animal sacrifices in the Temple could not take sins away. They have now been replaced by the one sacrifice of Christ, who now sits enthroned until he comes again. His perfect sacrifice has made forgiveness available to all. No further sacrifices will ever be needed.

An earlier chapter in the Book of Daniel, which we will hear next week, describes a vision of "One like a Son of Man" coming to rule God's kingdom on earth. In today's gospel Jesus graphically describes the heavenly signs that will accompany his return as the "Son of Man".

Psalm Response: **Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.**

(Daniel 12: 1-13; Psalm 15(16): 5.8-11; Hebrews 10: 11-14.18; Mark 13: 24-32)

Chris Oliver

(Congratulations to Chris on his 90th birthday last Friday)

Alpha continues this week — Dates and Subjects

Ninth Session	November 19th	How can I resist evil?
Tenth Session	November 26th	Why and how should I tell others?
Eleventh Session	December 3rd	What about the Church?

Alpha is a basic introduction to faith in God, in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism' course also running.

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

A Note on the Assisted Suicide bill before Parliament

Please do not be complacent about the debate in Parliament on assisted suicide. Many new Members of Parliament are still seeking to know the minds of their constituents, and the supporters of the bill are not being slow in telling their stories, many of which are really about the failures of bad palliative care. We are blessed with excellent hospice care and 'Hospice at Home' by McMillan and Marie Curie Nurses, and the many stories of peaceful death and good end of life care need to be told as well. Please write to your MP if you have a good personal story to tell.

It is not too late to write!

GREGORY CARE

The speed at which the Giving Tree was picked clean last week was overwhelming! Thank you to all who took tags. Some people were disappointed that they couldn't contribute so we have added a few more items from our Gregory Care Christmas shopping list. Please follow the Instructions by the tree, there is no need to wrap the gifts. There is also an opportunity to donate Christmas food, (non perishable) the collection box for this is by the Giving Tree and will be distributed to families before Christmas. Thank you.

Cllr Koulla Jolley will be joining us for coffee after Mass on Wednesday 20th November. She will be meeting people from this Parish and talking to us about the Big Community Conversation. The aim is to increase community resilience by inspiring and supporting groups to work together.
Please come along if you are available.

FOODSTORE

Our numbers are increasing and we constantly need to raise funds to make it sustainable and meet the need, We are holding a New/Nearly New sale at the St Thomas Centre, 1 Semilong Road on Sunday 24th November 12 noon to 2pm so please come along if you can, there are lots of bargains to be had.

The Four Last Things

There is an old tradition that on the four Sundays of Advent the homilies would be on the 'four last things', death, judgement, heaven and hell. This relates to the proper emphasis on preparation for both the celebration of the first coming of Christ **and** on his second coming at the end of time. The revised lectionary does not make this an obvious set of themes, and in any case, this sits more naturally into the overall theme of November with its emphasis on death and the holy souls.

Death is an inescapable reality for all of us, and at the right time and properly prepared, can be welcomed as by St Francis as 'Sister Death'. Being properly prepared is important, and none of us knows for certain when it will come, and the Gospel warns us 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you". (*Luke 12:20*) This teaches us always to be prepared.

It used to be common for churches to have a wall painting known as a 'doom'; a picture of the last judgement, with the righteous on the right side and the damned on the left, (*see Matthew 25:31-46*) the best known nowadays is that in the Sistine Chapel painted by Michelangelo. At the very moment of our individual deaths there comes what the Catechism calls "the eternal retribution" received by the soul of each of us in accordance with our faith and works (or lack thereof); either entrance into the blessedness of heaven — immediately or through purification (purgatory) — or immediate and everlasting damnation in hell.

Heaven means eternal life with God, a communion of life and love with the Most Holy Trinity and with all the saints. It is the great banquet spoken of in the New Testament Book of Revelation and anticipated at every Mass when the priest says: "Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb!" Pope Benedict once compared heaven to being plunged into an infinite ocean of eternal joy. And we remember the words of St. Paul: "Eye has not seen, or ear heard, what God has prepared for those who love Him."

Hell is the state of permanent self-exclusion from the presence of God; we may find it hard to imagine that anyone would choose to self-exclude from eternal joy, but human spiritual blindness can so distort the will that it is possible to prefer the bad rather than the good. The story of Bartimaeus which we read three weeks ago shows his blindness being healed for him to follow Jesus.

(*With thanks to Archbishop Leonard P Blair, Archbishop of Hartford, USA*)