



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

The Joy of the Gospel

Pope Francis has written about our mission:

“I have chosen a theme inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus, in the Gospel of Luke (cf. 24:13-35): **“Hearts on fire, feet on the move”**. Those two disciples were confused and dismayed, but their encounter with Christ in the word and in the breaking of the bread sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen. In the Gospel account, we perceive this change in the disciples through a few revealing images: *their hearts burned within them* as they heard the Scriptures explained by Jesus, *their eyes were opened* as they recognised him and, ultimately, *their feet set out* on the way. By meditating on these three images, which reflect the journey of all missionary disciples, we can renew our zeal for evangelisation in today’s world.

1. Our hearts burned within us “when he explained the Scriptures to us”. In missionary activity, the word of God illumines and transforms hearts.

On the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, the hearts of the two disciples were downcast, as shown by their dejected faces, because of the death of Jesus, in whom they had believed (cf. v. 17). Faced with the failure of the crucified Master, their hopes that he was the Messiah collapsed (cf. v. 21).

Then, “as they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them” (v. 15). As when he first called the disciples, so now, amid their bewilderment, the Lord takes the initiative; he approaches them and walks alongside them. So too, in his great mercy, he never tires of being with us, despite all our failings, doubts, weaknesses, and the dismay and pessimism that make us become “foolish and slow of heart” (v. 25), men and women of little faith.

Today, as then, the Risen Lord remains close to his missionary disciples and walks beside them, particularly when they feel disoriented, discouraged, and fearful of the mystery of iniquity that surrounds them and seeks to overwhelm them. So, “let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of hope!” (*Evangeli Gaudium*, 86). The Lord is greater than all our problems, above all, if we encounter them in our mission of proclaiming the Gospel to the world. For in the end, this mission is his and we are nothing more than his humble co-workers, “useless servants” (cf. *Lk 17:10*).

After listening to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, the risen Jesus, “beginning with Moses and all the prophets, explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself” (Lk 24:27). The hearts of the disciples thrilled, as they later confided to each other: “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?” (v. 32). Jesus is himself the

living Word, who alone can make our hearts burn within us, as he enlightens and transforms them.

Knowledge of Scripture is important for the Christian life, and even more so for the preaching of Christ and his Gospel. Otherwise, what are you passing on to others if not your own ideas and projects? A cold heart can never make other hearts burn!

So let us always be willing to let ourselves be accompanied by the Risen Lord as he explains to us the meaning of the Scriptures. May he make our hearts burn within us; may he enlighten and transform us, so that we can proclaim his mystery of salvation to the world with the power and wisdom that come from his Spirit.

2. Our eyes were “opened and recognised him” in the breaking of the bread. Jesus in the Eucharist is the source and summit of the mission.

The fact that their hearts burned for the word of God prompted the disciples of Emmaus to ask the mysterious Wayfarer to stay with them as evening drew near. When they gathered around the table, their eyes were opened and they recognised him when he broke the bread. The decisive element that opened the eyes of the disciples was the sequence of actions performed by Jesus: he took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them. Yet at the very moment when they recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread, “he vanished from their sight” (*Lk 24:31*). Here we can recognise an essential reality of our faith: Christ, who breaks the bread, now becomes the bread broken, shared with the disciples and consumed by them. He is seen no longer, for now he has entered the hearts of the disciples, to make them burn all the more, and this prompts them to set out immediately to share with everyone their unique experience of meeting the Risen Lord.

Here it should be remembered that breaking our material bread with the hungry in the name of Christ is already a work of Christian mission. How much more so is the breaking of the Eucharistic bread, which is Christ himself, a work of mission *par excellence*, since the Eucharist is the source and summit of the life and mission of the Church

3. Our feet set out on the way, with the joy of telling others about the Risen Christ. The eternal youth of a Church that is always going forth.

After their eyes were opened and they recognised Jesus “in the breaking of the bread”, the disciples “set out without delay and returned to Jerusalem” (cf. *Lk 24:33*). This setting out in haste, to share with others the joy of meeting the Lord, demonstrates that “the joy of the Gospel fills the heart and the whole life of those who meet Jesus. Those who allow themselves to be saved by him are freed from sin, from sadness, from inner emptiness, from isolation. With Jesus Christ, joy is always born and reborn” (*Evangeli Gaudium*, 1).

Notices of Interest

Car Park Safety: Neither the Parish nor the Diocese are responsible for the safety of persons (adults or children), cars or their contents while in the car-park.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass wherever possible! 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.

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

Thursday Holy Hour & Adoration: 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.

Tots @ St Gregory's: St Greg's Tiny Tots are starting again this Tuesday September 12th. We meet each Tuesday in term time from 9:30-11:30 in the church hall. We charge £1 per group which includes snacks and coffee! If you have care of a pre-school child, join us!!

Choir Notes: Next practice will be Saturday October 7th, 11am till 12:30pm. New faces with their voices welcome. *Alec*

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group continues to pray together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Church, from 10am-12pm.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday evening, 25th Sept. at 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Enrolment for 2024 Sunday 8th Oct. after the 11am Mass. There will be a welcome to the children who are registered & their parents at the 11am Mass on Sunday 5th Nov. All sessions will be on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates and times will be available at the registration. Please see the separate article on the way the programme works.

Confirmation in 2023: Confirmation sessions have resumed, and those enrolled should have received an email with details.

Food Parcels: Please contact Gregory Care (07434 669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

Alpha in the Autumn: There will be a welcome session this week, on Tuesday 12th September in the Hall at 7.00 pm. Please register at www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha and the zoom link will be sent out in the week before each session. It is not too late to join.

Missio: The autumn edition of "Mission Today" is available at back of church as you come in through main doors. I have arranged these in alphabetical order. Extras will be available for others who want to support this work through prayer & financial support. On page 3 is the statement: "Missio is proud to be the Pope's charity for world mission." Please rally round to help those not as fortunate as us. *Alec*

School Governor Opportunity: Would you like to help your local school by becoming a school governor? Bishop David is looking for volunteers in this parish to join local schools. No experience necessary, but if you are a retired teacher or currently teaching in a non-Catholic school & have time to spare we'd love to hear from you. Contact Debbie 01604 953369 or see the poster in church for details.

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)**

URGENT NOTE ON FINANCES If you have transferred to standing orders and pay income tax please contact Fr Andrew (preferably by email) so that the Gift Aid can be linked to your donation. Claims can only be made for up to three years, so there is some urgency about this.

Mission Northampton are running an on-line course on the letter of James entitled "Discerning God's Will". It will help you to understand this letter, and help in discerning every day and learn how, in the daily choices that we have to make, how to discern the will of God. Behind this is how we hear the voice of God in our daily life. The course will run on Wednesday evenings on Zoom beginning on September 13th, 7.30 to 9.00 pm— to sign up:
<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/james-discerning-gods-will-autumn-2023/>

Evangelii Gaudium

Preparing for the Jubilee Year in Faith and Prayer

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. "Evangelii Gaudium" is Latin for "Joy of the Gospel". The day supports the work carried out by the Mission Directorate on behalf of the Bishops' Conference.

A key focus of work for the next few years is responding to Pope Francis' calling of a Jubilee Year in 2025 with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The Holy Father has invited the whole Church to prepare for the Jubilee in the two years prior through:

- ✦ Reflecting on the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council in 2023.
- ✦ Deepening our prayer life, with a special focus on the Lord's Prayer, in 2024.

To support the Church in England and Wales in this important initiative the Mission Directorate has produced a series of videos on the four Constitutions which reflect on the Liturgy, the Word of God, the Church and on its role in the modern world.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday>

A range of resources are being prepared for the Year of Prayer in 2024 which include a course on the Lord's Prayer from small groups for Lent, encouragement to try different ways of praying from the tradition of the Church. The Mission Directorate will be supporting the Jubilee co-ordinator appointed by each diocese.

Please support the Mission Directorate through prayer and giving to the second collection. However much you give, big or small, it will go directly to support this important work to bring the joy of the Gospel to all.

Fire Safety — Important notice. We have had trays made to go under the racks where the candles burn to prevent the possibility of a naked flame falling on unlit candles below. Unlit candles **must not** be placed on these trays in any circumstances & must not be stacked one on top of another.

Mission Prayer

Heavenly Father
it is your will that we should make disciples of all nations.
We ask you to bless the mission of our Diocese of Northampton and guide our hearts and minds
so that your will might be done
and your kingdom be build up here on earth.
We pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit,
without which our work is in vain,
and we entrust ourselves to your beloved Son,
for we know that he is with us for all time, now and for ever.
Amen

Prayer 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**

17th September 2023, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

The Wisdom book, Ecclesiasticus, was written in Hebrew about 200 BC by Ben Sira, a Jewish sage. There are many allusions in the new Testament to the later Greek version. At a time of increasing pagan Greek influence, Ben Sira showed that Israel's religion was still a firm basis for moral living. He gives many practical examples, helping Christians of every age to apply moral truths to their own times. His strict condemnation of nursing anger and resentment is all too relevant for us today.

The psalm is a hymn of thanksgiving and tender piety for God's generous mercy – because of our frailty. How blessed we are that God "does not treat us according to our sins".

The last of our Sunday readings from Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome emphasises that we belong to the community of all believers, both those alive now – and in the future – and

those who have died. Our lives have influence on others. Linking both to Sirach and Matthew in the next verse Paul says "Why do you pass judgement on your brother?"

In today's Gospel Sirach's advice to forgive is graphically illustrated: Jesus tells Peter we must always forgive. We are saved by forgiveness – ours as well as Christ's.

Psalm Response: **The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 27:30-28:7; Ps 102(103): 1-4. 9-12 r.8; Rom 14: 7-9; Matt 18:21-35

Chris Oliver



A Postcard from America

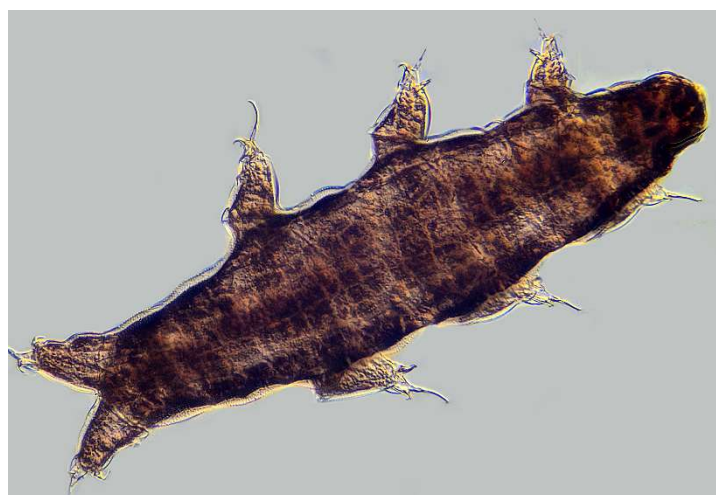
Hey!! Greetings from America! I'm currently at a camp in Wisconsin preparing for the mission with the 120 other missionaries. I'm having an incredible time, learning so much from the daily formation, growing closer to the Lord in daily prayer, bonding with the other missionaries, having fun on the lake and growing as a woman and as a Catholic. Sending love and prayers to you all!! *Hannah Heath*

Hannah is working in America with 'Net Ministries' as an evangelist in the Chicago area. Please keep her work in your prayers.

The Season of Creation

The 'Season of Creation' began on 1st September, and continues until the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4th October.

Each week through the 'Season of Creation' there will be a microscope photograph in the newsletter taken by Mike Gibson, together with a description of the subject. We are blessed with wonderful nature programmes on television and Mike's pictures are offered to show a different view of God's wonderful work of creation. There is a beauty in these tiny pieces of creation; there is also a reason for their existence; they form part of our ecosystem, with a vital function in some way supporting the world we can see with the naked eye.



Do you have bears in your garden?

The answer is probably yes, but not the sort of bears you might at first think of. Tardigrades, otherwise known as "water bears", are microscopic animals around 0.5 mm in length that can be found in clumps of moss. A while back I found a number located in some guttering at the back of the church car park.

What makes these tiny animals so special? Well, of all the many groups of invertebrates that inhabit our "biosphere" on earth,

tardigrades are among the most resilient known to mankind, being able to survive extremes of temperature, dehydration, radiation and even exposure to outer space! "How is this possible?" I hear you ask.

One reason highlighted in recent research, has shown that these tiny creatures produce a special type of sugar molecule that preserves and protects the outer membranes of their cells which might otherwise be damaged by extreme environmental conditions. Anyway, whatever their secret of survival might be, as an amateur microscopist I am continually surprised and often in awe of God's wonderful evolving creation of which we as co-creators and collaborators are an integral part. To quote the French priest, philosopher and scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin "*By means of all created things without exception, the divine assails us, penetrates and moulds us!*"

Mike Gibson FRMS

Refreshment Donations: From now until the Harvest collection on Sunday October 8th refreshment donations after Sunday Mass and on Wednesday mornings is given to CAFOD. 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