



The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234091

OUR
VISION

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VISION

**“A truly thriving Catholic community,
confidently and humbly proclaiming the
Good News of Jesus Christ.”**

Is it permissible to pay taxes?

The question in the Gospel put by the Pharisees was to trap Jesus. He had told parables which showed them up in a very bad light, and they were trying to find a way of silencing him. The well-known story shows Jesus neatly side-stepping the trap but his answer leaves us with an unanswered question.

St Peter tells us “For the Lord’s sake, accept the authority of every human institution.” (*1 Peter 2:13*) We can see that this would include paying our proper due in taxation. To evade taxes is not just criminal, it is also immoral.

However, if a lawfully elected government chooses to break the law itself, surely that makes every tax-payer complicit in that law-breaking. Of course, by-and-large, honest governments do not set out wilfully to break the law, but governments do (all too frequently) infringe God’s law.

“Thou shalt not steal”

When Queen Elizabeth I financed Drake to plunder Spanish galleons in the Caribbean, she was inaugurating a time of what now we would call ‘State-sponsored terrorism’, and was stealing property to which she had no right.

“War must have a just cause”

In the year 1739 Britain went to war with Spain in retaliation for Spanish coast-guards having boarded a British vessel eight years before, and cut off the ear of Captain Robert Jenkins. In the ensuing war, 20,000 British were dead or wounded and 4,500 Spanish lives were lost. Behind the (overblown) outrage of the severed ear lay the economic interest of the protection of the slave trade.

There are many other examples of most nations having contravened the principles of ‘just war’; the invention of concentration camps (by the British in the Boer War), the carpet-bombing of Dresden and Coventry and the use of nuclear weapons, amongst others.

“Thou shalt not kill”

Until very recently the Church tolerated the use of capital punishment, but Pope Francis has now modified this. The original statement in the Catechism of the Catholic Church permitted the death penalty if there was no doubt about the guilt of the accused and “if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor”. When the aggressor is in prison, death can hardly be the only way to defend human lives unless the prison is so badly run that a murderer can continue to kill while detained. Therefore the newest edition of the Catechism says: “The death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person”. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* § 2267)

The 1967 Abortion Act puts this into a much sharper focus, and should ‘doctor-assisted suicide’ become legal, would add to this concern.

Over 90% of the abortions in the United Kingdom are funded by the taxpayer, and that means that a proportion of all the taxes that most of us are paying are funding a process we believe to be immoral.

If the use of nuclear weapons is immoral, it could well be argued that actually having them is immoral and they too are paid for by the taxpayer.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: (CCC §2239 – 2240)

It is the duty of citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. The love and service of one’s country follow from the duty of gratitude and belong to the order of charity. Submission to legitimate authorities and service of the common good require citizens to fulfil their roles in the life of the political community.

Submission to authority and co-responsibility for the common good make it morally obligatory to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one’s country:

“Pay to all of them their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due”. (*Romans 13:7*)

However the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et Spes*) addresses the issue of governments doing that which we would regard as sinful.

Where citizens are oppressed by a public authority overstepping its competence, they should not protest against those things which are objectively required for the common good; but it is legitimate for them to defend their own rights and the rights of their fellow citizens against the abuse of this authority, while keeping within those limits drawn by the natural law and the Gospels.

So we have an answer. Yes, we must pay our taxes, even when they are (in part) used for immoral purposes, but we must also exercise our right to vote with the aim of electing a government which would not engage in immoral acts. However, there are few (if any) political parties whose policies fulfil every moral principle. That is why our first priority must be one of evangelisation; bringing people to recognise divine commandments. Pope Francis’ most recent encyclical, ‘*Fratelli Tutti*’ is an important contribution to our understanding of the brotherhood/sisterhood of all people.

Notices of Interest

Confession: Confession will be available between 9.30 am and 12.00 noon daily, but please email first to arrange a time to ensure that Fr Andrew is free.

Repository - First communion and Confirmation: I have put a small display of cards & mementoes in the Foyer. People can help themselves whenever the Church is open & put payment in the wall box on the right of the Sacristy door. A member of staff will be present after Sunday Masses. **Please remember to observe the regulations on masks & spacing. Only touch items you intend to buy. Items will be cleaned & sanitised regularly. Stay Safe.**



We welcome into the family of the Church
Dominic Vantur
who received Christian Baptism last week.
Please pray for him and his family.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

From 9.00 am to 12 noon on Thursdays, and then following Mass in the evening, until 8.30 pm.

Holy Communion and face masks: Please note that wearing face masks is compulsory in churches, & you should wear one if you are not exempt. Stewards are not responsible for policing this, but may remind you that this is now the law. However, you clearly cannot have your mouth covered while receiving Holy Communion! The Church's rule is that you consume the Host before you move away from the minister. Please remove your mask before being given the Host. Priest and Deacon wear face-coverings for your protection.

Prayer Course: Are you interested in finding out more about prayer? Whether you're new to it or whether you've been praying for years, there's always more to experience. Join us for the prayer course on zoom beginning on Thurs. 22 October, 8-9.30pm, then every 1st & 3rd Thurs. of the month at the same time. To register & receive zoom details please email Maria: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), of which CAFOD is an active member has launched a nationwide appeal for funds. CAFOD is working in the most deprived areas of the world, helping local communities stricken by coronavirus to survive by:

- Delivering food to where it is needed most.
- Improving hygiene, handwashing and sanitation at the community and household level.
- Producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention.
- Training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns.

Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal> or use a CAFOD envelope and give through the parish. There will be an opportunity to give to the appeal this Sunday.

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

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.

Exploring the Post-Lockdown Church – Monday webinars, Pastoral Ministry Office. Week 5: *The God who Speaks in all seasons* – Fleur Dorrell, Director of the God Who Speaks Campaign, Bishops' Conference

Please go to <http://postlockdownchurch.eventbrite.co.uk> for more information and to register.

Bible Alive for October & November 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. Please help yourself to a copy of The Crusader.

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.

Thomas Becket Catholic Secondary School. If you have child due to start secondary school in September 2021, contact the school office on 01604 493211 to arrange a tour. The closing date for place applications is 31st October 2020.

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. For the time being we are asked to continue to fill in a paper form, but this may change when the electronic system has bedded in.

Electric Organ For Sale: A friend of mine wants to dispose of an electronic organ which has two manuals over 2 octaves each, at least 30 buttons including rhythm and/or chord options and has 8 foot pedals. The make is Kawai. I had a play and found it to be in good working order. My friend would like just a donation (£50 ?). I have seen a used version of the same model using Google at £95. If interested contact Alec, organist for 11:00 Mass or phone (622153). I have photos and a video.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be on Monday 19th October, at 7pm in the Sacristy. **Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend to book your place.**

First Holy Communion 2020: We are happy to announce that enrolment for next year's programme for any child wishing to make their First Holy Communion who is in school year 3, 4, 5 or 6 will take place soon. The enrolment will be on line in December, so watch this space! At the moment we can't give any more details of how or when the preparation will take place but rest assured, it will!

Confirmation - 3rd Preparation Session: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established. There is a provisional date for Confirmation of 21st November at 7.00 pm (Apologies for yet another change — this has been difficult!).

Parish Finances: As we increase our activities, & as colder weather approaches & we need to turn 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)

Supporting CAFOD and the Hope Centre: Please see the respective websites to make donations for CAFOD and / or the Hope Centre:

<https://cafod.org.uk/>

<https://northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

Scripture Readings 18th October 2020, 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Isaiah insists that every event, good or bad, is part of God's plan, including the conquest and exile of Israel by Babylon. And so does the freedom given them about 530 BC by Cyrus, King of Persia, whom God calls his 'anointed' or 'messiah', because he did God's work. Thus all men, including Gentiles, though they do not know him, will know that there is only one God, the Lord.

The Psalm therefore calls on all men – and all creation – to worship and praise the one and just God.

Psalm Response:

For the last 5 Sundays of Ordinary Time we read from Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonica, which he founded about AD 50. Paul later sent Silvanus and Timothy back to support the new community. Written from Corinth, this letter is the earliest Christian

writing we have. Centuries before the idea of the Trinity was formally defined, Paul distinguishes clearly between "God our Father", "our Lord Jesus Christ", and "the Holy Spirit".

Over the next three weeks we hear the final three discussions in Matthew's Gospel between Jesus and the Jewish leaders. They ironically address Jesus as "Teacher", but he silences them: he does have full authority to interpret the Jewish Scriptures.

Psalm Response:

Give the Lord glory and power.

Isa 45:1, 4-6; Ps 95(96):1. 3-5. 7-10 r.7; 1 Thess 1:1-5; Matt 22:15-21

Chris Oliver

SPUC Pro-Life Chain- Saturday 24th October 2020

On Saturday 24th October, SPUC Northampton, is organising a Pro-Life Chain as part of a nationwide act of witness to the lives of 9 million unborn babies killed by abortion since the implementation of the Abortion Act on 27th April 1968.

It will be silent act of public witness from 11am to 1pm on St Peters Way Northampton (at the side of Carlsberg Brewery)

Please will you come and join us? You can come for the whole event or whatever time you can spare. In an increasingly hostile world for the unborn you could be with us showing your support for unborn children. An act of public witness can be an uncomfortable experience but your efforts may help save a life.

If you are able to attend then please contact William Currie on wpcurrie@btinternet.com or send a text to 07393 965 643

The Season of Creation for this year has technically come to an end. However, creation itself will continue until finally God gathers all things to himself, and in the meanwhile, our responsibility as stewards of creation continues.

Today's Special Collection: Missio

In underprivileged parts of Chennai, despair and poverty cause widespread antisocial behaviour – drug and alcohol abuse, and a high dropout rate from education. Many people are unable to find work. Violence against women and children, child trafficking, child abuse and child labour are rife.

Bringing hope where there is despair

A group of Salesian Sisters are making it their mission to bring help and hope to those suffering. With education, support and protection, the Sisters seek to 'liberate people from poverty born out of generations of discrimination and lack of opportunities.'

Through education and youth programmes, women's training and financial empowerment, clinics, drug prevention schemes, family counselling and more, the Sisters are both channelling and becoming the life-blood of struggling communities.

Sr Nirmala shares:

'Motivated by the vision of Pope Francis, "that my life on this earth itself is a mission", we joyously share the life of our poor marginalised children, youth and women, and constantly strive to be part of their life'.

Thamayanthi

Orphaned from a young age, Thamayanthi was 13 when she was injured by a bomb blast during the civil war in Sri Lanka in 2009. Her



Thamayanthi with Sr Nirmala

right knee was badly infected by a piece of bombshell lodged there: an infection which festered for ten years.

Thamayanthi was in constant pain and unable to walk. The Sisters brought Thamayanthi to one of their orphanages in India to care for her. She has had two operations and treatment to heal the infection. She can walk again – with crutches but without pain.

Thanks to you

Donations from our Missio family in England and Wales are enabling the Sisters to provide the care and spiritual support vulnerable children need.

Thamayanthi is not out of the woods yet; she has tuberculosis and needs further surgery. But with your prayers and donations and the love and care of the Sisters, she and others like her, will continue to heal and recover.

Sr Nirmala sends this message to you:

Thank you Missio England and Wales for your love for the vulnerable children. Through your ongoing financial assistance we help and heal the children in need. God bless.'

World Mission Sunday 2020

In 2019 you helped raise £485,096 for World Mission Sunday! Every penny, pound and prayer you give to Missio counts with poor communities around the world.

Your prayers and generosity inspire us every day. And in 2020, your help is more needed and more appreciated than ever. Will you join us again this year to celebrate and support mission?

We have a break before the next time there is a special collection: that will be for World Communications on 15th November.



During this time of restricted public worship, please keep reading the Bible. The October "Bible Alive" is now available — see the note elsewhere in this newsletter.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

13 th September	Holy Places
4 th October	CAFOD
11 th October	Peter's Pence
18 th October	World Mission
15 th November	World Communications
29 th November	Day for Life
13 th December	Home Mission
20 th December	Sea Sunday

Tip No. 106 Living sustainably with creation: When we meet a stranger to this country let our first words be "Can I Help You in anyway?"

Paraphrased from Pope Francis. (N.B. It takes courage).

Tip No.107 Living sustainably with creation: participate in this life with an attitude of compassion to receive its full promise. St Benedict.



New Instructions for places of worship.

"From Monday 14 September, you must not meet with people from other households socially in groups of more than 6. This will apply indoors and outdoors, including in private homes. This change will simplify and clarify the rules on social gatherings, so they are easier to understand and easier for the police to enforce. There will be a limited number of exemptions. COVID-19 Secure venues, such as places of worship, restaurants & hospitality venues, can still host larger numbers in total but groups of up to 6 must not mix or form larger groups. This rule will not apply to individual households or support bubbles of more than 6 who will still be able to gather together. Education & work settings are unaffected, & organised team sports will still be able to proceed, as will weddings & funerals up to 30. From Monday, this limit will be enforceable in law." (From the Cabinet Office, HM Government, 9th September 2020).

We are pleased to be able to attend Mass; this is central to our practice of the Faith. Pope Francis is often pointing this out: we live in an inter-connected world, in which we all have a responsibility towards our neighbor, to protect other people from the virus; not just to protect ourselves. Please note the part of the regulations about gatherings 'indoors or outdoors', & be careful after leaving the church & in the car-park