



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

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

Evangelii Gaudium is the title of Pope Francis' first Apostolic Exhortation in 2013 when he became Pope, and he spoke then about the joy of the Gospel. So *Evangelii Gaudium* is Latin for the 'Joy of the Gospel'. And in that document, he was inviting the Catholic Church to be joyous in proclaiming the faith – seeking new ways of understanding the faith and reaching out to others.

There are three particular aspects to this:

Evangelisation and discipleship, which encompasses all the work that the bishops do in those areas – particularly supporting evangelisation and catechesis coordinators in the 22 dioceses of England and Wales. Central to that is the work to institute the ministries of catechist, lector and acolyte – supporting Pope Francis' desire that we formally institute catechists for the Church and admit more lay people into the ministry of reader and acolyte.

These three liturgical ministries have their counterparts in the work of evangelisation. The acolyte carries a candle in church at Mass. But Christ is not just the light of the Church — he is the light of the world. So the ministry of acolyte is also to bear the light of Christ beyond the church to light up the lives of all people.

Likewise the ministry of the lector is to proclaim the word of God in Holy Scripture, primarily at Mass. Again, the word of God needs to be heard beyond the church and in the secular world. The ministry of the lector can only be totally fulfilled by those who are themselves familiar with the Scriptures, which is why our regular courses on the Bible are so important.

The ministry of the catechist is one which is so very necessary. We have been used to understanding the ministry of the catechist in relation to preparation for first Holy Communion and Confirmation. This is clearly linked to the liturgy of the Church, but that cannot be the limit of this ministry. The general ignorance of the population in our country about the Christian Faith should be a matter of shame. Those who teach RE in schools are catechists; but more generally, all parents are catechists. The Church as a whole does not do sufficient to support and train the faithful in this vital ministry.

All three of these ministries are important, both in their sacramental and liturgical sense, but also as missionary ministries. Pope Francis has said that all disciples must be 'missionary disciples' and all parishes much be 'missionary parishes'.

This will not be accomplished in a moment; the challenge represents the call to a whole culture-shift for the Church. It has been said that we have become 'consumer-Catholics'; seeing the Church as that which supplies them with grace, Sacramental and pastoral care as well as providing social relief in our communities. We need to realise that we are all called to be providers as well as consumers.

Liturgy and patrimony.

What goes on in our church buildings is essential and very, very important – the heart of what we do as Catholics when we gather Sunday-by-Sunday for the Eucharist – but we also preserve the beauty of our buildings. The buildings that we have need to be cared for and looked after. It is important that Mass is celebrated with appropriate dignity and reverence, but also in a way that can be understood and fully shared in by the faithful. That is why the opportunities for liturgical formation in the Diocese and parish is important. We are grateful to all those who support the parish through keeping the church clean, and to those who help in the maintenance of the building. This enables it to be a truly beautiful place, so that when we enter, we're caught up in that mystery of the beauty of God.

Dialogue and unity.

In our mission, we are partners with all those who seek to bring those who have no faith in God to come to a relationship with him. Since Vatican II we have had a much closer relationship with other Christian bodies, and have entered into dialogue with other faiths. Jesus in the Gospel in John, Chapter 17, prayed that we would all be one.

In our outreach to those of no faith, going back to *Evangelii Gaudium* and even going back to St Paul VI in 1964 in a really important document *Ecclesiam Suam* on the nature of the church, he talked about the fact that we have a dialogue, obviously, with ourselves in the Catholic Church, with other Christians, with those of the other faiths, and then those who are seeking God – people of goodwill. In Eucharistic Prayer IV, there's that lovely phrase about "those who seek you with a sincere heart". We are trying to find ways to engage with people. And again, that leads us into that vision of patrimony and the beauty of our churches, if our doors are open and people walk into a church, perhaps the first thing that they do will be to marvel that there is something special and they might just want to enter into a dialogue.

There is a special collection today to support the work of the Bishops' Conference in supporting the mission of the Church in this country, and this is important. We have benefitted from this in the past in a vital way, and every diocese and parish benefits through the work of the Mission Directorate of the Bishops' Conference. However, in these times of rising prices, especially food and energy, it can be difficult for many to give money. The more important gift is the gift of commitment to God in the work of evangelisation.

What Pope Francis is reminding us is that this is not a chore or a dismal duty — it is a joy. Jesus invites his disciples to 'enter into the joy of your Master' (*Matthew 25:21 and 23*)

Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church
Ethan Darius Dumitru
And Denis Oisin O'Hagan-Cooper
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for them and their families.

Thursday Holy Hour and Adoration: A request has been made that there be more opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration. From this week, as a trial, Holy Hour will be a Holy Two Hours, from 9.00 am until 11.00 am. However, this can only continue if there are sufficient numbers to sustain it. No one is expected to remain for the entire two hours, come for as long as you can or want to.

Bible Alive for September & October 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 – Catholic Diaries for 2023 are now available!
We also 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*

The God who Speaks: The 'Year of the Word' continues and the Diocesan Bible Study sessions for the Sunday Mass readings are continuing. There will be a session on 'Preparing for Advent and Christmas' on 23rd November and in January there will be an introduction to the Year of Matthew (Year A in the lectionary).

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 26th September at 7.00 pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Important Date for First Communion Families: Sunday 9th October, after 11:00 Mass, there will be an introduction to this year's programme & the opportunity to register children. It is important that at least one parent accompany the children but we welcome whole families! If this day is inconvenient there will be a session at Sacred Heart on the following Sunday (16th) after 10:30 Mass which will be the same. We look forward to meeting you.

Confirmation in 2023: Please watch this space for information.

The Joy of the Gospel: This Sunday, which used to be called 'Home Mission Sunday' now is focussed more on communicating joy, and less on a collection so that someone else does something! Thank you to all who have offered to help with Alpha: this will be part of our regular programme, and the need for helpers will continue. Please remember that both Pope Francis & Bishop David are telling us that we must be 'Missionary Disciples' & that we must be 'permanently in a state of Mission'. Your parish needs you; your Diocese needs you; your Church needs you.

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

Tots @ St Gregory's: We have re-started: tots and their carers welcome, 9.30-11.30 on Tuesdays during term-time £1 per adult!!

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

Diocesan Employment Opportunity: The diocese is currently recruiting for a Cleaner to perform cleaning tasks to a high-quality standard, within the St Thomas Centre and The Marian Suite, which are situated on the Cathedral complex. The role will be for 10 hours per week working over 4 days on a flexible basis. Full information for the position & application form <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/>

Choir Matters: Pilgrimage Mass: this is a new & exciting Mass setting by Teresa Brown. It is already in use at 9am & I hope to introduce it at 11am starting this Sunday & during the rest of August. I hope you soon pick it up & are able to join in: remember what one of the Saints said – "the one who sings prays twice". *Alec*

A Course on the Psalms: It is sub-titled "The School of Prayer", with the invitation to 'learn to pray like Christ'. Running on most Wednesdays from 28th September; there will be a few breaks; on 23rd November, 2nd November (All Soul's Day) and 5th October (a meeting which Fr Andrew needs to be at). After Christmas there will be a new course starting: "What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith". This is from the Ascension Press. There is a course in preparation on the history of the Church seen through the lives of saints in the Church calendar, which will run after Christmas.

SPUC: Imagine you could save a child's life. Imagine you could save the lives of lots of children. In the centre of Northampton in a small unassuming office (British Pregnancy Advisory Service) every year approximately 2,000 unborn children are being killed by abortion. What can you do about this & how do you feel? You can do something about it by joining SPUC. We should feel outraged about this. Notwithstanding our Catholic faith, as human beings we should be appalled that innocent, vulnerable babies are being, starved, poisoned, & torn apart in the womb. If you would like more information, please contact William Currie 07393965643/wpcurrie@btinternet.com. If you are unable to be involved directly, please support SPUC & other groups financially or with your prayers. Thank you.

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)**

Money Matters: We still wait to hear what cap we may have on our energy prices. However, electricity is already 3 times more than it was a year ago. We have benefitted from a fixed contract for Gas which expires next month, & we will know more then. However, this cap will not take us back to last year's prices, so we cannot expect that we can continue as we have been. The church heating has to be on for two hours before it even begins to warm up, so not running it for weekday Mass is a way of making a considerable saving. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, & if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

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 18th September 2022, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Amos was a shepherd from Judah who around 760 BC prophesied doom to the northern kingdom Israel, largely because of its social injustice. Israel under Jeroboam was very prosperous, but when it was overrun by Assyria 40 years later the prophet's warnings were remembered. It was not just the ways the rich cheated the poor – inflating the currency and giving short measure. Worse was their belief that sacrifices and fasting would absolve them from God's blame: sacrifice without justice is meaningless.

The Psalm urges praise for God at all times and in all places for he who is supreme over all stoops down to raise up the poor.

In our modern liturgies we follow all of Paul's advice to Timothy: we lift up our hands in the traditional manner to offer prayers of petition, intercession and thanks, and we pray for secular

authorities – "so that we may live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet". We should reject false gods like riches or possessions. There is only one God, and Christ Jesus, our one High Priest, is the only mediator between us and God.

In the Gospel Jesus also warns us not to be seduced into worshipping money. Jesus says though the steward was "dishonest", his motive was right: to gain friends who would help him later.

Psalm Response: **Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.**

(Amos 8:4-7; Ps 112(113):1-8; 1 Tim 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13)

Chris Oliver

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?

Action for The Season of Creation

What can I do personally for Climate Change?

<i>We can buy 'Wonky Fruit and Veg'</i>	<i>so farmers do not plough them back in the ground.</i>
<i>We can buy Organic Fruit and Veg</i>	<i>to protect the soil and insects/birds.</i>
<i>We can make or buy thicker curtains</i>	<i>to prevent heat escaping and not waste energy..</i>
<i>We can eat a meat free meal several days a week</i>	<i>to encourage less animal feed growing.</i>
<i>We can sign a petition to government</i>	<i>on the CAFOD Creation website.</i>
<i>We can use public transport, walk, cycle, car share</i>	<i>or change our car to a hybrid or electric</i>
<i>We can lessen the gap between rich and poor</i>	<i>through CAFOD support for drought areas.</i>
<i>We can plant Lavender and BEE friendly flowers.</i>	<i>to support nature and honey production</i>
<i>We can only boil just what water we will drink.</i>	<i>to save energy and reduce our bills.</i>



Prayer for Queen Elizabeth II

Almighty God,
You are the author and sustainer of all human life;
grant that your servant, Elizabeth our Queen,
whom you granted a long and happy reign
as Monarch of these lands,
may be forgiven her sins and rewarded with that eternal life
promised to all those born again
in the water of baptism and power of your Spirit.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit God, forever and ever,
Amen.

Prayer for the King

O God, to whom every human power is subject,
Grant to your servant, His Majesty the King,
wisdom in the exercise of his high office,
so that, always revering to you and striving to please you,
he may constantly secure and preserve
for the people entrusted to his care
the freedom that comes from unity and peace.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
God, forever and ever,
Amen.