



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

Christian Materialism

There has always been a tension in Christianity between life in the Spirit and our human existence. Like so many tensions in life, the answer has to be found in the ‘both-and’ rather than the ‘either-or’.

Our faith proclaims that God is the creator of all that is “visible and invisible”. God looked on all that he had created “and it was very good”. (*Genesis 1:31*) When sin entered the world, it was mankind who fell, not the rest of creation.

The phrase “the world, the flesh and the devil” has entered our understanding as being opponents to the spiritual life, and this is true, not because, in the case of the world and the flesh, they are intrinsically evil, but because if we raise them to a higher place than God in our desires, we have become evil.

St Thomas recognises them as sources of temptation, and in this he is following the Bible. When Jesus was in the wilderness he was tempted to demonstrate his power by throwing himself off the Temple and so to win admiration in the world; to make bread out of stones to relieve his own hunger - a temptation of the flesh, and to worship the devil himself. These do not make the world of the flesh evil, but indicates that both can be sources of temptation and can be abused.

The summit of Christian materialism is to be found in the Incarnation: “The Word became flesh”. (*John 1:14*) God did not just create the flesh; he actually inhabits the flesh. But he went further than that: “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them”. (*John 6:56*)

Some have sought to water down this teaching, as Jesus was asked to do at the time, but rather than do this, he let people go (*see John 6:66-69*). The Eucharist is not just spiritual; the Spirit gives life to the flesh. (*see Genesis 2:7*)

So the Eucharistic Prayers of the Church all contain what is called the ‘epiclesis’; the invocation of the Holy Spirit to consecrate the bread and wine so that they may become the Body and Blood of Christ.

This is a very important moment in the Mass, and is indicated by a particular gesture by the celebrant — hands are stretched over the gifts of bread and wine. This gesture is specific to the calling down of the Spirit— it is central to the rite of Confirmation when the Bishop calls down the Spirit on those who are being Confirmed; it is to be found in the blessing of Baptismal water at the Easter Vigil; in the laying on of hands in the Sacrament of the Sick and in the rites of ordination.

There have been heresies which have seen the world and the flesh as in themselves intrinsically evil. One of the most prolific was that known as Albigensianism which flourished in the 12th century in southern France, and was a re-appearance of the Manichaean heresy of earlier times and there have been tendencies in this direction in later centuries.

Today’s feast of the Body and Blood of Christ is a clear affirmation of God’s love for his creation, and as we honour Jesus in his material presence in the Blessed Sacrament, so too we honour God in the entirety of creation; in the value of the created environment and the infinite value of human life from conception to its natural death.

The Catholic convert, Eve Tushnet has expressed it thus:

“I definitely feel that [the Church] is the place where I need to be because of the Eucharist. That’s what initially made me sure I would need to become Catholic: Its vividness, its visceral quality, the fact that God would do this really emphasizes the importance of our bodies and the importance of the physical world. And also it’s very lurid and scandalous to people today, just as it first scandalized people when Jesus told them what he was going to do. And I think there’s something in that kind of shocking, fleshly, and even materially violent aspect of the Eucharist that responds to the world as we find it, which is shocking, and violent, and lurid. I feel like any religion that made it easier to understand or abstract away from that violence would be hard to believe.”

Refugee Week — Northampton University & Town of Sanctuary

Monday 20 June, 1pm

Event: Seeking Sanctuary Service
Location: Memorial Garden, Nunn Mills Road, Northampton, NN1 5PA (parking available at Midsummer Meadow car park)

Monday 20 June, 7.30pm

Event: Seeking Sanctuary Service
Location: Delapre Abbey, London Road, Northampton, NN
<https://delapre-abbey-preservation-trust.arttickets.org.uk/delapre-abbey/2022-06-20-in-conversation-with-amir-darwish>

Wednesday 22 June, 3pm

Event: Afternoon Seminar: “It’s like rubbing salt on the wound”: the impacts of Covid-19 and lockdown on asylum seekers and refugees. Location: Online via Microsoft Office Teams



**19th June 2022
Corpus Christi
Parish Mass Book - Year C
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Priest:
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org
Deacon:
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
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Parish Secretary:
Caryl Comley ☎ 713015
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Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 621807

Sunday <i>Corpus Christi</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Dominic Ryan RIP The Parish
Monday St. Alban	9.00 am	Mass	Fr. Christopher Roberts RIP
Tuesday St. Aloysius	9.00 am	Mass	Clare O'Rourke RIP
Wednesday Ss John Fisher & Thomas More	9.00 am	Mass	Nora Scott's Intentions
Thursday The Nativity of John the Baptist	9-10.00 am 10.30 am 7.00 pm	Holy Hour of Adoration Funeral Mass Mass	Rosario Anzeloni RIP Roy Sedgwick RIP
Friday The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	7.00 am 9.00 am	Mass of Exposition (40 Hours of Adoration) Mass	Our Alpha Course Richard Redmond RIP
Saturday The Immaculate Heart of Mary	9.00 am 9.45 am 10.00 pm	Mass Confessions Mass of Deposition	Maire O'Toole Our Alpha Course
Sunday <i>13th Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	The Parish Julia Ruocco RIP

Please Pray for the Sick:

Normal opening times: Due to the relaxation in restrictions, the Church will be open every day from 8.45 am until 5.00 pm, except on Thursdays when it remains open until 7.45 pm

- Your Offering to the Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £273.15. Thank you!
- Standing Order gifts to the Parish:** Each week £486 is given through standing orders.
- Donations through the Diocese:** An average of £77 is given each week.
- Gift Aid benefits to the parish:** The value of Gift Aid averages £88 per week
- Second Collection This Week:** Day for Life
- Second Collection Next Week:** Peter's Pence
- Cleaners This Week:** The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.
- Counters this Week:** CC & EP

Readings for this Sunday (Readers 9am: Cliff Snelling, 11am: Nithin Lukose) — see inside for details

- Genesis 14: 18-20:** *He brought bread and wine.*
- 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26:** *Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the Lord's death.*
- Luke 9: 11-17:** *They all ate as much as they wanted.*

Readings for next Sunday (Readers 9am: Kathleen Fisher, 11am: Ngozi Osude)
1 Kings 19: 16, 19-21; Galatians 5: 1, 13-18; Luke 9: 51-62. (Page 46)

- During this season** Human Life; Seafarers; The Environment;
- Of Ordinary Time, Summer,** Victims of Persecution or Oppression;
- We are asked to pray for:** Europe; Christian/Jewish Relations.

Anniversaries:
May they Rest in Peace

James O'Mullan	Bernard Bosworth
Lorenzo Oliva	Angela Dadono
David Jeffrey	Clare O'Rourke
William Pascoe	Peter Sarembecyki
Walter Denny	Bridget Cahill
Roy Sedgwick	John Corr
Joseph McLoughlin	Mary Manger
Josephine Moran	Sybil Mack
Michael McCaughey	Marion Moore

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JUNE:

We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.

The Pandemic and the return to Sunday Mass

We do hope that everyone will feel safe in returning to Sunday Mass. Gradually, we are easing the level of precautions, but still exercising care.

The ministry of welcome is an important part of our parish mission, and is particularly important to help those who are returning to Mass to have confidence that the church is safe. If you can help, please let Fr Andrew know.

We continue to urge responsibility & sensible caution. Please, everyone, think of the well-being of others.

Please remember that if you are ill or caring for an infant or someone who is ill, there is no obligation to do what is impossible! We will continue to make Mass from St Gregory's available on Facebook and the website.

If you feel unwell, DO NOT COME

Toiletries Collection — Urgent appeal

Please be generous in this collection – supplies are very low — all donations appreciated

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for June & July 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 and there is a display of Confirmation cards and mementoes. 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*



We welcome into the family of the Church
Noelle Black
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for her and her family.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 27th June, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: The preparation now turns to the receiving of Holy Communion for the first time, and we look forward to this in May. Thanks also to the parents in providing support and becoming catechists for their own children.

Confirmation in 2022: Sessions will run on Sunday mornings from 10.15 - 11.30. Please join us for 9am Mass as part of this course. Confirmation Mass is Saturday 2nd July at midday.

Vocations to Priesthood: Vocations weekends are planned three times a year. These are weekends for men who are discerning priesthood. You may be in the very early stages of discernment & don't worry - you don't have to sign anything! You can take your time & meet priests who can share more about this incredible life. Priesthood is a gift to our diocese, & we would love to connect with you as you continue your journey with God. At any point you can contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Andy Richardson – (01582 502400) or vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org.

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

40 Hours Adoration — Please sign up!

There will be our annual 40 hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for 2022, from 7.00 am on June 24th until 11.00 pm on Saturday June 25th. There is a list for signing in the narthex.

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

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)**

Pro-life Sunday, 10th July, Parish Hall:

Yesterday approximately 500 of our brothers and sisters were killed by abortion in England and Wales. What is abortion? Who is being aborted? What is partial birth abortion? What affect does abortion have on women and their families? Do women suffer from post abortion grief and trauma? What can all of us do to help expectant mothers in difficult circumstances? As a Catholic do I need to care about abortion if it does not affect me? These and many more questions can be answered on **Sunday 10th July in the parish hall after 9.00am and 11am Mass**. Please join us for a coffee and a chat about this important subject. For further information please contact William at wpcurrie@btinternet.com

Unholy Mathematics: We now have the full figures for the last financial year. Leaving aside the one-off expenditure on the kitchen, we have made a small surplus over the year. However, with inflation, forecast for the coming year is a deficit which amounts to £15 per week. The present level of inflation also makes it hard to ask people to give more. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, and if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Planned Giving Envelopes: If you use envelopes, please take your new box from beside the confessionals. Standing orders are managed by the Diocesan Finance Office, and the parish does not always have full details.

Wednesday evening Bible Study by Zoom: 8 week course on Romans led by Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, subtitled "The Gospel of Salvation".

Session 4, 8th June	Chapters 5-6:
Session 5, 15th June	Chapters 7-8:
Session 6, 22nd June	Chapters 9-11:
No session on June 29th	Feast of SS Peter and Paul, Mass at 7.00 pm
No session on 6th July	Diocesan 'Year of the Word' Webinar on the Sunday readings through the summer
Session 7, 13 th July	Chapters 12-13:
Session 8, 20 th July	Chapters 14-16: The End of the Story.

Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

Choir Matters: Practices start after evening Mass, 1st Thursday each month: 7:45-9pm. Dates are July 7, Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6. Old age & infirmity are catching up with some familiar voices - including myself - & new members are needed... the view from the Gallery is great. *Alec.*

The Rose Garden and CAFOD: When the re-planting of the rose garden was being planned, it was hoped that this would be a help in raising funds for CAFOD. Our Lent giving from the Family Fast Day onwards has been accumulating, with the money given as donations for refreshments. After Pentecost the total will be sent to CAFOD. If you are inspired by the improved garden (and new fence in memory of Amelia Woolmore), please add your donation!

Tots @ St Gregory's: TINY TOTS look forward to seeing you: if you have charge of a pre-school child, from 9:30- 11:30 on a Tuesday morning, you are most welcome!

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 19th June 2022, Corpus Christi, Year C

In Eucharistic Prayer I – the Roman canon – we hear these words just after the Consecration: "the bread and wine offered by your priest Melchizedek". Melchizedek, the Canaanite priest-king of Jerusalem, offered food and drink to Abram and his 318 retainers as they returned from victory, blessing Abram in the name of the one God they both believed in. Abram accepted Melchizedek's blessing and gave him a tithe. Their shared meal confirmed them both as God's people.

When David captured Jerusalem he took over this priest-kingship. Hence today's Psalm praising David, appointed by God as a "priest for ever of the order of Melchizedek", while also asserting the dignity of the Messiah as both king and royal priest.

The author of Hebrews saw Melchizedek's priesthood as superior to the Levitical priesthood and saw Jesus, descendent of David, with his gift of bread and wine to his disciples, as succeeding to this ancient priesthood.

Paul had told the Corinthians to stop misbehaving during the Eucharist. He then gave this earliest description we have of its institution during the last meal Christ shared with his disciples before Calvary.

Melchizedek's offering of food to Abram is echoed in the feeding of the 5,000 in the Gospel, anticipating Christ giving himself to us as heavenly food in the Eucharist.

Psalm Response: **You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.**

(Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 109(110):1-4; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Luke 9:11-17)

Chris Oliver

Forty Hours Prayer

From the earliest time the Blessed Sacrament has been kept in a safe place so that the sick can receive Holy Communion, and this 'safe place' became a special place of prayer. When it became legal in the Roman Empire to be a Christian and permanent places of worship could be built, prayer before the Blessed Sacrament became an established part of Christian devotion.

The idea of forty hours continuous prayer was first popularised in Milan in the sixteenth century. This was part of the great revival in the Church at the end of the mediaeval period, when within the Church there were many reforming initiatives to put right the abuses that had crept into the Church. By 1550 both St Philip Neri and St Ignatius Loyola had adopted this devotion for the Oratorians and the Jesuits, and Pope Clement VIII instituted a system so that there would be 40 Hours in every church in Rome so that "at every hour of the day and night, the whole year round the incense of prayer shall ascend without intermission before the face of the Lord." (*Graves et diuturnae; November 25, 1592*) In recent times there has been a re-awakening of this devotion, and for some years now, this parish has made use of this time of prayer; primarily with the intention of supporting our efforts in evangelisation.

The period of 40 hours is linked to the time when the friends of Jesus were separated from his body — this time when his body

was laid in the tomb on Good Friday afternoon to the time when Mary Magdalene saw his risen body on Easter morning. Those first 40 hours was a time of uncertainty, but for some, a time of trust, for others a time of doubt. It was a time of waiting for God, and at the end of those 40 hours he surprised them with his great miracle of power in the resurrection.

For us it is a time in which we pray for a great miracle in the conversion of souls; first that we ourselves may be fully converted to a complete obedience to his will; that our parish may become fully oriented towards mission and evangelisation. Some may be uncertain about this, others may doubt. Yet Jesus, who promised us the Holy Spirit to lead us to all truth, has commanded us to 'proclaim the Good News', and the Spirit is speaking through successive Popes and through our Bishop, encouraging us all to become 'missionary disciples'.

It is important that there are at least two people present throughout the 40 hours, and there is a list to sign up to commit to a time. However, even if you have not signed up to a particular time slot, the church will be open — please come. If you are able to commit to a particular time, please sign on the list. May this be a time of blessing for our parish.

Volunteers needed — please help

Recently the Diocesan Surveyor inspected the church for any major repairs that may be needed. Fortunately there was nothing really serious, but he has asked that two bits of maintenance be carried out this year. Neither are difficult, and both can be undertaken by volunteer labour. Both are painting jobs; one of them is already spoken for, but the other will require a team of helpers.

The task is repainting the North aisle, where the wall has become discoloured due to water penetration when the roof gutter had become blocked. This was last done in 2011, and only took a week with a team of about a dozen people. Much fun was had in the process!

We cannot schedule when this is to be done until we know that there will be people to help. We will need painters, including people willing to work up the scaffold tower, but also labourers at ground level, and, of course, tea and coffee-makers. Please email to If you can help, please can you contact Cliff Snelling at cliff.snelling@btinternet.com, indicating which weeks you would be available to help.

We also need more people to join the rota for refreshments after the Sunday Masses, especially after 11.00. The hope is to have sufficient people so that it will come round not more frequently than one week in five. Please see one of the people with badges on to find out more!

DID YOU KNOW?

Everyone is surely aware that the country; indeed most of the world is facing a financial crisis. At the domestic level, this is acutely felt by every household. Of course, it is also felt by the Church.

One of the characteristics of the Church is that we are committed to giving to other needy causes, and every year it is our aim that we will give away at least 10% of the total money that we are given.

St Gregory's parish is recognised as a significant giver to both CAFOD and to Missio. CAFOD is the Catholic Church's chief initiative for providing aid and development for overseas countries. We have been supporting the international and multi-agency project which is seeking to ensure that every person has access to clean and safe drinking water, as well as the particular aid projects that are the focus of the Lent and Harvest collections. CAFOD is part of the international agency called 'Caritas', which is one of the biggest aid agencies in the world.

Missio is the Catholic Church's international missionary organisation. While it is primarily concerned with the proclamation of the Gospel, it is also inevitably concerned for the material wellbeing of the communities in which it works, and partners with Caritas wherever there is need.

We are not only concerned with overseas aid; we support local aid organisations. It was a parishioner of St Gregory's, Val Hanson who was instrumental in starting what is now the Hope Centre, and from the beginning, St Gregory's has been a weekly and generous supporter of their work in feeding the homeless in Northampton.

Our regular gifts of food are much appreciated, together with the financial help that is given.

More recently the Cathedral Foodstore has been established. This began as a means of supporting needy families during the pandemic; initially for families with children in the Catholic schools of our town, but now extended. St Gregory's made a commitment to provide toiletries, a frequently forgotten domestic necessity.

This is undertaken by Gregory Care, who also support those who live in the parish and are in material need, not simply by giving money, but by helping individuals and families to manage financially.

When we started to provide refreshments after the 9.00 Sunday Mass and on Wednesdays, it was decided that **ALL** the takings should be allocated to charitable concerns, with the exception of through the summer when we would use the money to buy the tea and coffee and other necessities and stock up.

This is how it works:

Now that we are offering refreshments after the 11.00 Mass every Sunday, we hope that this form of giving will grow. Following popular request, we are only serving ground coffee, and are committed to fair trade. When you come in for refreshments, please remember the good causes that we are supporting.

Alpha in the Autumn (Provisional Dates)

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

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 be sure of my faith?
Fifth Session:	October 18th 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	October 25th 2022:	How does God guide us?
Seventh Session:	June 14th 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Away-Day:	June 17th – 18th 2022:	Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session:	June 21st 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	June 28th 2022:	Why and how should we tell others?
Tenth Session:	July 5th 2022:	What about the Church?
Eleventh Session:	July 12th 2022:	What about the rest of my life?

How Alpha Works — and Why

Alpha works because it uses the same methods that Jesus himself used. It uses personal contacts. Jesus said to Andrew: "Come and see" (*John 1:39*), and it is the same invitation that we make. Like Jesus, who so often in the Gospels is seen at a meal with others, Alpha is set in the context of a meal. It is not Mass, but could be seen as looking forward to when everyone at Alpha can share in the Eucharistic meal — what theologians call an 'allegory' of the Mass. St Paul speaks of 'children in the faith' not being ready for solid food (*1 Corinthians 3:1-2*), and Alpha is like coming to see Jesus in the person of some of his disciples. Having 'come and seen', people are free to make their own decision. Thankfully, many decide to get to know Jesus better. Alpha is also ideal for the Church community as it uses so many different talents and skills, and does not force people out of their 'comfort zones'. It needs the talents of the cooking team; the team who prepare the room, the table hosts and table leaders. It needs the skill of the technicians, and of musicians. Above all, it needs the support of prayer, and it needs people to invite others to 'come and see'.

Recently, Revolution Zero have opened a community food larder (social supermarket) in the former UCR Church, The Headlands. Their aim is to make food accessible to everyone & reduce the amount of food going to landfill. 15 items of choice for £5. Please take a look at the link-<http://www.revolutionzero.org/> They have a Facebook

page & are open Tues 1-3pm, Wed 1-4pm, Thurs 1-3pm & Sat 11-12 noon.

Thank you again for amazing contributions and please keep this initiative in your prayers.