



# 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

## 2023 WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

**“Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor” (Tobit 4:7)**

This, the seventh annual World Day of the Poor, is a fruitful sign of the Father’s mercy and a support for the lives of our communities. As its celebration becomes more and more rooted in the pastoral life of the Church, it enables us to discover ever anew the heart of the Gospel. Our daily efforts to welcome the poor are still not enough. A great river of poverty is traversing our cities and swelling to the point of overflowing; it seems to overwhelm us, so great are the needs of our brothers and sisters who plead for our help, support and solidarity. For this reason, on the Sunday before the Solemnity of Jesus Christ King of the Universe, we gather around his Table to receive from him once more the gift and strength to live lives of poverty and to serve the poor.

“Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor” (Tobit 4:7). These words help us to understand the essence of our witness. By reflecting on the Book of Tobit, a little-known text of the Old Testament, yet one that is charming and full of wisdom, we can better appreciate the message the sacred writer wished to communicate. We find ourselves before a scene of family life: a father, Tobit, embraces his son, Tobias, who is about to set out on a lengthy journey. The elderly Tobit fears that he will never again see his son, and so leaves him his “spiritual testament”. Tobit had been deported to Nineveh and is now blind, and thus doubly poor. At the same time, he remains always certain of one thing, expressed by his very name: “The Lord has been my good”. As a God-fearing man and a good father, he wants to leave his son not simply material riches, but the witness of the right path to follow in life. So he tells him: “Revere the Lord all your days, my son, and refuse to sin or to transgress his commandments. Live uprightly all the days of your life, and do not walk in the ways of wrongdoing” (4:5).

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. In a page of her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, she tells us: “I have come to realize that perfect charity means putting up with other people’s faults, not being at all taken aback by their faults, being edified by the smallest acts of virtue that we see practised. But above all, I have come to realize that charity must not remain locked in the depths of one’s heart: ‘No one’, Jesus says, ‘lights a candle to put it under a bushel basket, but puts it on a candle-stand, so that it can give light to *everyone* in the house’. For me, that candle represents the charity that must give light and bring joy not only to those dearest to me, but to *everyone* in the house, with the exception of none”.

In this house of ours, which is the world, everyone has a right to experience the light of charity; no one must be deprived of that light. May the steadfast love of Saint Therese stir our hearts on this World Day of the Poor, and help us not to “turn our face away from anyone

who is poor”, but to keep it always focused on the human and divine face of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Pope Francis, *message for the World Day of the Poor*, 2023, §1,10)

In our parish Gregory Care is our main agency for the care of the poor in our neighbourhood. We work closely with our neighbouring parishes, and particularly with the Cathedral, where the Foodstore has now changed from a Foodbank to a Food Larder.

This offers clients an opportunity to choose their own food and toiletries and cuts down the number of bags we used to pack every week (not knowing the client’s needs and preferences).

We are offering a larger selection of food and a more ‘shopping like’ experience.

Each client is required to demonstrate their need for help then points will be allocated to the household dependent on number of people in the household and ages of children.

A small payment will be required, this will be discussed at the time of registration.

If you know of anyone who may be eligible for this service please contact Philly 01604 714556 or drop into the St Thomas Centre, 1 Semilong Road, NN2 6AG (Behind Northampton Cathedral) Thursdays 10:15 to 12noon.

Many thanks to those who have responded to the “Angel” appeal; for those who have not already brought their gift, please can it be brought by Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. There are kind people making wreaths; please can these be back by 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

As a parish we have been consistently generous in our support for the Hope Centre, now approaching its fiftieth year, and throughout that time, part of the parish’s response to poverty in Northampton. We have been collecting toiletries and working with the Cathedral for several years now, and this is helping people in our parish within the town as well as further afield. The parish is also always generous in supporting international relief agencies in the face of disasters. This is an important part of our Christian witness, but we must not be self-congratulatory about this. “We have done no more than our duty” (Luke 17:10)

**Any act of war aimed indiscriminately at the destruction of entire cities or extensive areas along with their population is a crime against God and man himself. It merits unequivocal and unhesitating condemnation. (Gaudium et Spes §80)**



# Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Margaux Rose Murphy  
who received Christian Baptism recently.  
Please pray for her and her family.

**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:** There is a small display of cards & mementoes for Confirmation. Christmas cards, books & items are be on sale. Catholic diaries with the order of the Mass are already available. **PLEASE** can anyone help with sales to help my loyal, small group of helpers. Anyone with a calculator can do it - all items priced! Please note that we can only accept cash!  
Contact Kath.healey.789@gmail.com.

**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.

**Office Diary:** The diary for 2024 is available. If you know that you will want a Mass Intention on a specific date for next year, please see me in the office as soon as possible. *Caryll*

**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. During cold weather, Adoration will be in the Sacristy.

**Tots @ St Gregory's:** St Greg's Tiny Tots runs each Tuesday in term time from 9:30-11:30 in the church hall. We charge £1 per group which includes snacks & coffee! If you have care of a pre-school child, please join us!!

**An Advent Journey with John the Baptist:** 4 Monday evenings, 7.30-8.30pm, from 27<sup>th</sup> Nov, with Fr John Udris & Avril Baigent. Available on YouTube so does not require zoom & can be played via smart TVs. Here is last year's series to give a flavour of what to expect: [https://pastoralministryoffice.org/walking\\_by\\_starlight-2/](https://pastoralministryoffice.org/walking_by_starlight-2/)

**SPUC:** Since 2020, abortion providers have been sending women abortion pills through the post. Evidence from ambulance data had already demonstrated the risks to women of these DIY home abortions, but the horrific consequences of this policy are just emerging: Carla Foster was put on trial after taking abortion pills at 32 weeks, killing baby Lily & leaving her wracked by guilt. Dangerous late abortions are killing viable, near term babies, & exposing mothers to prosecution. Please protect women & babies by signing the petition to the Health Secretary asking for this practice to end now. At the end of Mass this weekend you will be able to sign a petition card which will be sent to the Health Secretary on your behalf.

**Alpha in the Autumn:** Alpha is now running weekly on-line, Tuesday evenings. For more info visit [www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha](http://www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha)

**Missio:** Members will soon be receiving a calendar for 2024 as a "thank you" from Missio. I received the following request from Missio: "During Nov, the month of remembrance, please let us know if any members of your parish Red Box community have gone to their heavenly reward". I have been in touch with Missio & given them a list of names. *Alec*

**Choir Notes:** As we prepare for Christmas, our next practices are on Saturdays Nov 25 and Dec 9 & 16 from 11am till 12:30pm. *Alec*

**Church Cleaning:** Helpers are needed to clean the Church on the last Saturday of every month (next - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November), after the morning Mass. All welcome, especially younger, more energetic ones!

**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.

**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.

**Parish Requiem Mass:** This will be on Monday evening of this week at 7.00 pm for the souls of all whose funerals have taken place from St Gregory's over the past year and any others whose names are given in at the beginning of the Mass. Anyone who wishes to include someone for this Mass is asked to arrive in good time, and everyone is welcome to bring a flower (just one bloom!) which can be presented as the name are read out in the prayers.

**Safeguarding:** In many Christian communities, this Sunday is designated as "Safeguarding Sunday". In the Catholic Church there is already the designation that it is the "World Day of the Poor". However, both the need for safeguarding and the needs of the poor are with us every day of every week, and can never be forgotten. It would be a sad indictment if we needed a 'once a year reminder' to spur us to action on either concern. However, there is more on safeguarding elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Rotas for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** New rotas will be sent out during the week. Should you be away when rostered, please contact Deacon Michael by phone/text on 07999808997 – he will arrange cover. Thank you for your contribution to our Parish Liturgy

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

**Parish Requiem:** There will be a Mass This will be on Monday evening, 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00 pm

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next session will be on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

**First Holy Communion 2023:** All sessions will be on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates, times have been given to all those who are registered. Because of the large number of children, there will be separate sessions for the oldest. All the families concerned have been notified

**Confirmation in 2023:** Bishop David will give the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Gregory's on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December this year.

## 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:	<b>The Hope Centre</b>
From the Second Sunday in ordinary time to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:	<b>Gregory Care</b>
Through Lent and Eastertide:	<b>CAFOD</b>
Ordinary Time until the end of August:	<b>Refreshment Fund</b>
September until the Harvest collection:	<b>CAFOD</b>
<b>After harvest until the beginning of Advent:</b>	<b>The Bible Society</b>

## 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

# 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

The Book of Proverbs united ancient values and ideals with Israel's understanding of God. Written at the time of the exile, about 500 BC, it was intended for serious study in the effort to gain wisdom. Today's reading is more than a song praising both the housekeeping and commercial activities of a good wife – it is Wisdom in action. And it recognises that a wife should share in the benefits of her work.

And the Psalm celebrates the blessings of family life, wishing such a family prosperity and long life.

The reading from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians continues from last week's reading, reminding his hearers that the "Day of the Lord" will come when we least expect it. So we should learn wisdom and live every day in justice and integrity, as if it will be our last.

Matthew's parable of the talents, like the gospel last week, also urges us to live wisely and justly while waiting for the day of judgement, which will certainly come. But we must do more than just use the resources we have been given for God's purposes: just as it needs effort to learn wisdom, so we must work at developing our faith, otherwise we may lose it.

Psalm Response: **O blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

*(Prov 31:10-13,19-20,30-31; Ps 127(128):1-5 r.1; 1 Thess 5:1-6; Matt 25:14-30)*

*Chris Oliver*

## Safeguarding Sunday — Safeguarding Standards "Speak out for those who cannot speak"

*(Proverbs 31:8)*

The Catholic Church in England and Wales has set up a national safeguarding standards agency whose task is to ensure that all dioceses and religious communities of the Catholic Church in England and Wales work to the same consistent standards. These are laid out in eight specifics.

- 1 **Embed Safeguarding in the Church Body's leadership, Governance, Ministry and Culture**
- 2 **Communicate the Church's Safeguarding message**
- 3 **Engage with and care for those who report having been harmed**
- 4 **Effectively manage allegations and concerns**
- 5 **Manage and support subjects of allegations and concerns**
- 6 **Implement robust human resource management**
- 7 **Provide and access training and support for safeguarding**
- 8 **Quality assure compliance the continually improve practice**

The Diocese was audited last week as part of Standard 8, and there will probably be recommendations for us when the report is published. It is important to remember that safeguarding is not just about children, but about keeping everyone safe, and safe in every way; from criminal acts, certainly, but also from accident or other foreseeable harm. It also reaches beyond the Church building and beyond the community of faith.

Safeguarding in our community is the responsibility of us all. If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger. It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England & Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased. If you are in any role within our Church, you must refer allegations directly to our diocesan safeguarding office, or directly to the Police.

## Diocesan Bible Studies

*A Series of online Zoom Sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year.*

*A valuable opportunity to develop our engagement with the Scriptures that we hear proclaimed at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass.*

Led by the Liturgical Formation Team with presentations by:

Liz Clark,  
Fr Andrew Behrens,  
Mgr Kevin McGinnell,  
Deacon Peter Collins  
Fr Allan Jones CRIC,

**Wednesday 22 November 2023**  
***Celebrating Advent and Christmas, Year B***

**Sessions in 2024**

**Wednesday 31 January 2024,**  
***Preparing for Lent***

**Wednesday 10 April 2024,**  
***Celebrating Eastertide***

**Wednesday 5 June,**  
***2 Corinthians in Ordinary Time Year B***

**Wednesday 11 September 2024,**  
***The Letter of St James in Ordinary Time Year B***

**Wednesday 27 November, 2024,**  
***Celebrating Advent and Christmas, Year C***

*Each session runs from 7:30-8:30pm and will include input, prayer and the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.*

**Cost:**

**No charge but there will be the opportunity to make a donation**

Please register in advance to secure a place by e mailing:  
[deaconpeter.collins@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:deaconpeter.collins@northamptondiocese.org)

Once your booking is received you will be sent details of how to join the online Zoom sessions.