



# 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 worship of God in heaven

This is the season in the Church's year when the newly-Baptised are discovering the joys of Christian worship within their communities.

It was the custom of the early Church to allow those preparing for Baptism to attend the first part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word, but to send them out at the offertory. Thus, the experience of the Liturgy of the Eucharist would have been entirely new to them, and the 'mystagogical catechesis' was the process whereby what is done in this part of the Mass was explained. Fundamental to understanding this is the recognition that when we 'do this in memory of' Jesus, the 'memory' is not just remembering, but as is the meaning of the Greek word used by St Paul in the earliest description of the Last Supper, it is bringing the past into a present reality.

Thus, when we celebrate Mass we are re-living the entire life of Jesus. It is not by chance that the name of the place where Jesus was born means 'House of Bread', and at every Mass, Jesus is born for us in his new house of bread, such that in Communion, under the form of bread, we receive the real body of Jesus. And at every Mass, we re-live his birth at Bethlehem on our altar.

At every Mass we hear the Gospel read, and sometimes we hear the teaching of Jesus — we truly hear his voice. Sometimes we hear the description of events in his life; conversations or healings, for example. As we listen, we can imagine ourselves there and that it is truly happening as we listen.

At Mass on Sundays and Holy Days (and sometimes on other days) we hear a homily explaining the Scriptures to us, and we are on the road to Emmaus with Jesus, gaining a greater understanding of the Bible.

We tell Jesus the things that worry us, and where we need divine help. We are one with the many who sought Jesus for healing and comfort as he travelled in the Holy Land as we offer our prayers to God.

Finally, we join Jesus in the Upper Room, the place of the Last Supper. We hear him as he takes the bread and the wine, blesses them, breaks the bread and then shares it with us, his disciples.

After the words of consecration are spoken, the bread which has become his body is lifted up, drawing us to himself, and we are taken to that Friday when first he was lifted up on the cross. The lifting up at Mass is but for a few moments; for three long hours Jesus hung on that cross before his agony was ended.

But Jesus is now with us on the Altar. He has risen! He is with us! Alleluia!

So every celebration of Mass is a re-living of the entire life, teaching, work, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. In the Eucharistic

Prayer, we are reminded that as we celebrate Mass on earth, we are united with the entire company of heaven. Our worship is one with that of the angels and saints. Through Eastertide the second readings at Sunday Mass in this year of the three-year cycle are from the Book of the Apocalypse (Revelation) and show aspects of the worship in heaven.

We may sometimes think we are a small number of people worshipping here, but we read of 'an immense number of angels gathered round the throne' and ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands upon thousands'. They were shouting about the sacrifice of the Lamb; the Lamb who is Jesus, and is worthy to be given 'power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.'

If that seems big, wait for this: 'I heard *all living things in creation; everything that lives in the air and on the ground and under the ground and in the sea*'. They were crying out: "To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb be all praise, honour, glory and power for ever and ever."

What is so wonderful is that we are permitted to be part of this worship here on earth. The worship of heaven is directed to the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb. We must not forget the presence of the Holy Spirit; in the chapter before that from which we are reading today, we are told that 'in front of the throne were seven flaming lamps burning, the Seven Spirits of God'.

Our worship, which is modelled on the worship of God in heaven, similarly honours the One who we call 'Father' who sits on the throne, the Lamb of God who, by his sacrifice on the Cross brought us salvation, and the Holy Spirit who we know in his seven-fold gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and the fear of the Lord (*see Isaiah 11:1-2*).

In the literal sense of the word, our worship is 'ecstatic'; it takes us out (ex) from where we stand (stasis). We, while remaining here on earth, are taken up into the worship of heaven. This is truly mind-blowing; it is totally beyond human understanding. It defies all human explanation, but is the experience that God uses to give us the assurance of his presence with us.

The mystical poet, George Herbert wrote: "A man that looks on glass, on it may stay his eye; of, if he pleaseth, though it pass and then the heaven espy. (*From the hymn; 'Teach me, my God and King*')."

It would be possible to be at Mass and miss seeing the glory of heaven. Part of the mystagogical process is that we are helped to see what is beyond the glass. For all of us, however long we may have been coming to Mass and however frequently, there is always more to understand and more to experience.



# Notices of Interest

**Bible Alive** for Easter 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.



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Gigi Rae Precious Pulling  
And Melissa Diana Biscoc  
who received Christian Baptism recently.  
Please pray for them and their families.

**Repository:** The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass and there is a display of First Communion and 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*

**RE:NEW Catholic Mission:** You are warmly invited to the monthly RE:NEW Catholic Mission event on Saturday 7th May at the St Thomas Cathedral Centre, 10.00 am-12.00 noon. There will be refreshments, music, speakers and Eucharistic Adoration. This event is a perfect opportunity to bring a friend or family member to an informal faith setting. For more info contact Fr David [info@renewcatholicmission.co.uk](mailto:info@renewcatholicmission.co.uk)



## **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham: 4<sup>th</sup>**

**June:** A coach will leave from St. Gregory's at 8am on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, leaving Walsingham at about 5.00pm. **Cost £16 per person (payable in advance).** Please see poster for full details. **To book, please speak to Caryll in the Office, or add your details to the list in the Lobby area and see one of the Clergy to pay.**

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

**Baptism Preparation:** Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 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:** Registration for confirmation preparation and for confirmation this year is now closed, no further applications can be accepted. The sessions will run on a Sunday morning from 10.15 am - 11.30 am. Please join us for 9.00 am Mass as part of this course. Confirmation Mass is on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at midday.

**Help for refugees from Ukraine:** If you want to find out more about how you could help or be involved, please visit: <https://northamptondiocese.org/ukraine/>

**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)

**Planned Giving Envelopes:** For those who still use envelopes, new ones are available in the hall this week. Apologies to any who have transferred to standing orders but have still been issued with envelopes. Standing orders are managed by the Diocesan Finance Office, and the parish does not always have full details.

**Parish and Diocesan Finances:** A new financial year has begun, and as soon as we have the complete accounts from the Diocese, they will be published. 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.

**Thank you to emergency helpers:** Many thanks to those who helped last Tuesday with the first Alpha session in the kitchen. Relief has arrived in the shape of an industrial dishwasher, thanks to two generous donations, which should now be fully functioning, and will be a great help, not only to Alpha, but also on Sunday mornings with refreshments after both Masses.

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

Session 1, 18th May	Introduction,
Session 2, 25th May	Chapters 1-2:
Session 3, 1st June	Chapters 3-4:
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 <sup>th</sup> July	Chapters 12-13
Session 8, 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Chapters 14-16; The End of the Story.

Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

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

**Choir Matters:** Practices will be Thursdays May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6 then – just to cheer you up – we start intensive preparations for Christmas.

**Gregory Care Update on Toiletry Donations:** As predicted the people needing Food and Toiletries has been increasing over the last few weeks. We are working hard to secure funding to continue so please keep us in your prayers. St Gregory's are doing an amazing job of supplying toiletries so thank you again and please try and continue to donate basic toiletries. We understand everyone is under more financial pressure at this time but even the smallest donation is valued.

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

**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!

**Monday evening Zoom session:** Through Lent there have been sessions on Monday evenings looking at 'pivotal players' in the life of the Church. This Monday there will be a film of the life of St Paul; please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

**Inspire Younger Generations With CAFOD:** Do you enjoy working with children & young people? If so, you are invited to be part of CAFOD's education programme which inspires students to act on their sense of justice. A background in education is not necessary. We are looking for people with good interpersonal skills, an interest in CAFOD's work & who can connect well with young people. You will be asked to go into Catholic schools in the locality to deliver prepared assemblies and/or workshops about once a term. All necessary training, travel expenses & resources will be provided & you will have the ongoing friendship & support of a local team. Please get in touch with Deborah to know more about this amazing role: [northampton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:northampton@cafod.org.uk). We look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful team.

# Scripture Readings 1st May 2022, 3rd Sunday of Easter, Year C

After the healings we heard in last week's reading from the Book of Acts, the Apostles were again arrested, but miraculously freed. They immediately continued teaching in the Temple, and were again brought before the Sanhedrin, where they defended themselves strongly. Omitted from today's reading is Gamaliel's urging that they be released because if their activity "comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them".

The Psalm thanks God for rescue from a sudden illness.

In the Book of Revelation John sees God seated on a throne, with praises rippling out through widening circles of heavenly creatures. The one on the throne holds a scroll written on both sides and sealed with seven seals. An angel proclaims "Who is worthy to open the scroll?" But everyone is in despair because there seems to be no one worthy to break the seals and open the

scroll. But then someone says "The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David has triumphed". Instead of a lion, a slain lamb steps forward to receive the scroll.

After the reading last week of the first ending to John's Gospel, we hear today most of the second ending. With his three repeated questions, Jesus forgives Peter's three denials, and insists that the essential pre-condition for authority is love.

Psalm Response:

**I will praise you, Lord,  
you have rescued me.**

(Acts 5:27-32, 40-41; Psalm 29(30); Rev 5:11-14; John 21:1-19)

*Chris Oliver*

**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

## LIFETEEN SUMMER CAMP 2022

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
Alton Castle: For more information and to go to the bookings page visit <https://nymo.org/summercamp/>

## 40 Hours Adoration

There will be our annual 40 hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for 2022, from 7.00 am on June 24<sup>th</sup> until 11.00 pm on Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup>. Please keep this date in your diary.



# The Three Keys

The need for the Church to become more missionary at a local level has been recognised for many years, but like so many 'top-down' initiatives, took quite a long time to become embedded in parishes — indeed, it has not yet taken root in many places. In particular, the need for mission in Western Europe is taking a very long time to be acted upon. There have been a number of initiatives developed in America, but in the main, they have been specific to the American culture and circumstances, but about ten years ago a book was published in Canada which has had an enormous influence throughout the world. The author was then priest of a parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Fr James Mallon, and the book was entitled 'Divine Renovation'. This book has inspired a whole ministry of evangelisation worldwide.

Divine Renovation Ministry inspires, connects, and equips Catholic parishes around the world to become missional. The

vision is that every Catholic parish in the world is missional and equipped to reach the unchurched and de-churched. Through the lived experience of parish renewal, they found the three keys of this Divine Renovation; the power of the Holy Spirit, the best of leadership principles, and the primacy of evangelization.

The first key is the power of the Holy Spirit — this is the one which is in the form of a cross and points upwards. The second key is that of best leadership. A parish is saddled with the priest it has, but leadership must be more than just the priest, and the people of the parish are vital in the missionary work. The third key is the recognition of the primacy of evangelisation. Christ's command to the Church is to make disciples, and without disciples, who is there to worship who is there to be Christ to the world? That is why we are running Alpha, and why it matters.

## Are you curious about Christianity?

To the right are the dates of the 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. Although the present course has started, it may not be too late to join; 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](http://www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha) There will be another opportunity in the autumn; if you cannot join this one, please consider coming to the next, and bringing a friend.

<b>First session:</b>	<b>April 26<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	Is there more to life than this?
<b>Second Session:</b>	<b>May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022:</b>	Who is Jesus?
<b>Third Session:</b>	<b>May 10<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	Why did Jesus die?
<b>Fourth Session:</b>	<b>May 17<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	How can I be sure of my faith?
<b>Fifth Session:</b>	<b>May 24<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	Why and how do I pray?
<b>Sixth Session:</b>	<b>June 7<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	How does God guide us?
<b>Seventh Session:</b>	<b>June 14<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	Why and how should I read the Bible?
<b>Away-Day:</b>	<b>June 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	Who is the Holy Spirit?
<b>Eighth Session:</b>	<b>June 21<sup>st</sup> 2022:</b>	How can I resist evil?
<b>Ninth Session:</b>	<b>June 28<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	Why and how should we tell others?
<b>Tenth Session:</b>	<b>July 5<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	What about the Church?
<b>Eleventh Session:</b>	<b>July 12<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	What about the rest of my life?



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’.

DIocese of Northampton Liturgy Commission- Liturgical Formation

## The God Who Speaks - Our Liturgy of the Word



*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 Allan Jones CRIC, Mgr Kevin McGinnell & Fr Andrew Behrens

**Wednesday 20 April 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)**  
*Celebrating Eastertide*

*Each session 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 mail or phone: email [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone: 01582 723312 (ext 1)

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

*(Photo from [www.pexels.com](http://www.pexels.com))*

## Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.  
All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen

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.

### An act of Spiritual Communion

I prostrate myself at your feet, O my Jesus,  
and I offer you the repentance of my heart,  
which abases itself in its nothingness  
and in your Holy Presence.

I adore You in the Sacrament of your Love;  
I desire to receive You in the poor abode  
that my heart offers You.

While awaiting the happiness of Sacramental Communion, I wish to possess you in spirit.  
Come to me, O my Jesus, that I may come to You. May your Love inflame my whole being  
in life and in death.

Jesus, I believe in You, I hope in You,  
I love You. Amen. *Pope Francis [20 March 2020]*

**Repainting in the church:** If you can help, please can you contact Cliff Snelling at [cliff.snelling@btinternet.com](mailto:cliff.snelling@btinternet.com), indicating which weeks (when weather is warmer) you would be available to help.