



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

He had a great love for England

2023 NOVENA TO PRAY FOR THE CANONISATION OF BLESSED DOMINIC BARBERI — 18th to 27th August

Why should we pray for the canonisation of anyone?

We should be clear that the process of canonisation does not make the person a saint. Whether they are in heaven or not lies in the hands of God. What canonisation does is declare publicly that the Church recognises that the person is in heaven. There will be many people whose names are completely forgotten on earth, but whom God has given a place with him. These we remember collectively on the feast day of All Saints. Canonisation is so that the virtues of the saint may be recognised and held up as an example and lesson for the Church in this and for future generations.

What are the virtues of Blessed Dominic Barberi?

Pope St Paul VI gave a homily at the beatification of Dominic Barberi in which he quoted St John Henry Newman: “Fr Dominic was a marvellous missionary and a preacher filled with zeal. . . . His very look has something about it that was holy. When his form came within sight, I was moved to the depths in the strangest way. The gaiety and affability of his manner in the midst of all his sanctity was in itself a holy sermon. No wonder I became his convert and his penitent”

Earlier in the year Pope Francis began delivering a series of talks on Apostolic Zeal — the enthusiasm for the proclamation of the Gospel. Although he has not yet specifically spoken of Blessed Dominic, he has referred to several other saints who have equally been marvellous missionaries and preachers filled with zeal.

Many saints are chiefly remembered for just one act in their life. For example, St Maximillian Kolbe is remembered for his heroic death in Auschwitz, and Blessed Dominic is chiefly remembered for the fact that he received St John Henry Newman into the Catholic Church. There was, however, much more to his life than just that.

He was born at the eleventh child into a poor family in Viterbo, somewhat north of Rome, and both his parents died in his childhood. He was sent to live with a maternal uncle and to work on their farm; he never had the chance to attend school.

Napoleon had invaded Italy and closed down all the religious houses, but Dominic had the good fortune to be taught to read and write by a priest, and was befriended by some Passionist priests living in exile nearby. He was largely self-taught from books lent by the priests.

He wrote later: “One of these days (I think it was one of the last of the year 1813) as I was saying my prayers, I heard a voice which said to me, ‘I have chosen you to announce the truths of the faith to many nations’”

St Paul of the Cross founded the Passionists as a missionary order, and in 1814 Dominic applied to join, but because of his lack of schooling, was only accepted as a lay-brother.

However, his intelligence was quickly seen, and he was ordained in 1818. By 1820 he was teaching, and in the early 1830s was in Rome where he met George Spencer, uncle of the great-grandfather of the present Prince of Wales. George, a native of Northamptonshire and former vicar of Brington, was a convert to Catholicism, and studying at the English College. Maybe this increased Dominic’s desire to go to England. In 1833 he made a formal request, but this was not fulfilled until 1841. For the next 8 years he had a fruitful time preaching and conducting missions until his death in 1849.

Meanwhile the now Fr George Spencer was trying to establish a ‘Crusade of Prayer for the Conversion of England’; he eventually joined the Passionist order and took the name of Ignatius. He was beatified by Pope Francis in 2021.

A great love for England

Many will be cheering on the Lionesses today — by the time you are reading this they may be world champions. Many who will have been cheering them on will also claim a ‘great love for England’. However, the two blessed, Dominic and Ignatius, will not have been cheering on that England will beat Spain, but that England will share with Spain in our faith.

St Thomas Aquinas gave us a definition of Christian love as ‘the choice to will the good of the other’. (*Summa Theologica Q 20*) The greatest good of all is to be conformed to God, which is not a competitive action. The value of sporting championships lies in bringing people together; if they engender hatred their value is diminished.

When Jerusalem was defeated and the people sent into exile in Babylon, Jeremiah wrote: “Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (*Jeremiah 29:7*) Much of the book of Daniel shows this being put into practice. Similarly Peter tells his readers to ‘honour the emperor’ (*1 Peter 2:17*) and be subject to the human institution of the Roman law. (*1 Peter 2:13*)

Whatever national team we may support in sporting events, we should be ‘willing the good of’ the country in which we live, for in its welfare you will find your welfare’. The greatest good is that the people be conformed to God. That is why our mission, the successor to Blessed Ignatius Spencer’s Crusade of Prayer for the Conversion of England, the work of Mission Northampton within our Diocese, the work of our Alpha programme, is a manifestation of our love for England. We love Spain too, and all the different nations from which we have come. We do not seek victory over them, but that we all may be one with each of them in the love for God.

Notices of Interest

Car Park Safety: Please remember that Parents/Carers are responsible for children in their charge whilst using the car park. 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: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass wherever possible! 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.

Bible Alive for September is now available - only £3.00! If you wish to purchase a copy, they are in the narthex as you come into church.

Office: The office is un-womaned until Monday 4th September. If you need something urgently, please speak to Fr. Andrew. *Caryll*

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.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be reported here shortly. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Enrolment for 2024 will be Sunday 8th Oct. after the 11am Mass. There will be a welcome to the children who are registered & their parents at the 11am Mass on Sunday 5th Nov. All sessions will be on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates and times will be available at the registration. Please see the separate article on the way the programme works.

Confirmation in 2023: Confirmation sessions will resume in September, and those enrolled will be receiving an email with details.

Food Parcels: Please contact Gregory Care (07434 669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

Choir Notes: our next practice is after evening Mass on the Holy Day of the Assumption of Our Lady 15th Aug.

Fire Safety — Important notice. We have had trays made to go under the racks where the candles burn to prevent the possibility of a naked flame falling on unlit candles below. Unlit candles **must not** be placed on these trays in any circumstances & must not be stacked one on top of another. This has happened recently, and must not continue.

Alpha in the Autumn: The sessions will start in September, and will be an 'on-line' course through Zoom. However, so that those on the course can meet face-to-face, there will be a welcome session the week before the official start, on Tuesday 12th September in the Hall at 7.15 pm. Please register at www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha and the zoom link will be sent out in the week before each session. For any who live far away, we are sorry if you are unable to get to the 'face-to-face' session on 12th September, please do not let this put you off joining the course.

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.

Tots @ St Gregory's: Our last session this term was on Tuesday 18th July. We start again on Tuesday 12th September at 9:30.

Parish Finances: At the end of the first quarter of the financial year (April to June) our finances have been fairly stable – we have had a small surplus of £317.35. 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)**

The Feast of St Gregory and the Anniversary of our Consecration

The 3rd of September is our Parish Feast, and Sunday 3rd is celebrated as the Feast of the Anniversary of the Consecration. The feast of St Gregory will be celebrated on Friday 1st with Mass in the evening at 7.00 pm, followed by refreshments in the hall. Contributions of food for the party will be welcomed! Please note the date, and come!

Dog lovers wanted! Hearing Dogs for Deaf People urgently need volunteers to care for and help train their gorgeous puppies. For more information, ring 01844 348122 or email volunteer@hearingdogs.org.uk

Electrical Hazards: We have recently had our statutory fixed wiring test, which was overdue thanks to the pandemic. The good news is that there were no serious deficiencies, but a number of repairs are needed to be done and in a few areas where the regulations have changed some up-dating is required to achieve compliance with the latest standards. While doing this it seems sensible to update the lighting to the latest LED lamps which will significantly reduce our electricity consumption and therefore our carbon footprint, particularly in the winter. The lights in the side aisles and at Our Lady's shrine have already been changed. The plan is to change the lights in the nave before the clocks change in October. The circuit breakers for the hall lights are now obsolete, and must be changed; this is work in hand. Part of safeguarding is to ensure that in every respect the church is as safe as possible for all who come here.

Refreshment Donations: Below is the schedule for refreshment donations through the year:

From the first Sunday in Advent	The Hope Centre
to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:	
From the Second Sunday in ordinary time	Gregory Care
to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:	
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

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

20th August 2023, 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Third Isaiah was writing after 515 BC, when the Jews had returned from exile in Babylon and had rebuilt the Temple. But there is idolatry and injustice. Isaiah looks forward to a time when all peoples will be able to worship in the Temple, both foreigners and individuals with imperfect bodies. All that matters is justice and keeping the covenant.

This harvest psalm calls on all peoples to praise the Lord who he governs wisely and makes the earth give us food.

Paul kept hoping his people would accept Jesus as the Christ. In his letter to the Jewish Christians in Rome he insists that God has not rejected his people: the Gentiles are a branch grafted onto the tree of Israel. In today's reading he sees the Gentile mission as trying to make Jews envious and so also come to accept God's mercy, as he has. But the Gentile branch can be broken off if they

lose their faith.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus has criticised the Jewish leaders for insisting on external purity while disobeying God's commandments. Nothing entering one's mouth defiles, only what comes out. In Phoenicia, the only scene outside Israel in this gospel, Jesus heals the Canaanite child. But first he utters the memorable insult that "it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs".

Psalm Response: **Let the Peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

(Isa 56: 1, 6-7; Ps 66(67); Rom 11: 13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28)

Chris Oliver

Thank you for your generosity

We aim not to run at a deficit, and thanks to your generosity, we have shown a small surplus for the three months from April to June. This is important for us as a parish, but it is also important for the diocese, to help recover the finances of the collective parishes.

Even before lockdown, Diocesan reserves were very low, and coming out of the pandemic the situation is even more extreme, and parishes have needed to increase their contributions.

Fynnus Fogg on 2nd September Tickets available Today

Tickets will be available after Mass today at £12:50 for the fund-raising evening at the Cathedral Hall on 2nd September. This is to raise money for the Foodstore – Supper is included!

Calling all Christian Artists

ENCOUNTERING GOD THROUGH ART

Pope Francis has said, "we need the genius of new language, powerful stories and images, writers, poets and artists capable of proclaiming to the world the message of the Gospel, allowing us to see Jesus".

As part of **RE:NEW Mission** in the Raunds, Thrapston and Oundle area cluster of Churches, we have planned a very special exhibition of arts called '**Creative Spirit**' and we want your work! The exhibition will take place during the October half term in the Saxon Hall in Raunds and we want to fill it with artworks that offer, proclaim and share the love of Jesus and His ongoing invitation into His mercy.

We are looking for works that have been inspired by your Christian faith. We want work that has a sacred meaning to you and that has been formed by your own relationship with Christ and the Holy Spirit. Any age, any ability and any style are invited to submit, and you don't have to be a professional artist.

We want to show Jesus here. Through your work.

We are also hosting a series of Creative Spirit workshops on the Saturdays leading up to the main exhibition led by some of our talented diocesan artists. Please do get involved!

Look out for details in your newsletters or on the parish website. (www.eastnorthantscatholic.org/about-5)

Our exhibition space is limited, so we will have to select the works to be shown. The artworks can be painting, printmaking, photography, film or sculpture. Also any kind of fabric work e.g. embroidery or quilting, with artists' written reflections on the pieces encouraged. Poetry, prose and musical compositions are invited as well as sound and video art.

Please email photos of your work to creativespirit2023@gmail.com or WhatsApp Pauline on 07597707388 with details of the media, year created and dimensions in cm and if the work is framed or not. *Please send all the photos and information to us by 29th September 2023.* If you are selected, we will invite you to bring the work to a collection

point in either Raunds or Northampton. All enquiries can be made to the above contact details.

Contemporary Christian art exhibitions like this are a rare treasure and we really hope that you will submit your work to this opportunity for showing it and revealing Christ.

The Three Bees — The sign of the welcoming Church



Belong

Believe

Behave

Remember that belonging comes first!

Jesus first called his disciples to join him in a community of his friends. He then taught them through them being with him and experiencing his love and his life. After they had come to belong to his community, they came to believe in who he was. Only then did their behaviour change, and even then, only slowly!

We welcome people to be part of our community of faith and friendship, in the hope that they will come to share our faith in the Risen Christ and all that the Church teaches. We are not the judges of the behaviour of others. Just as the first followers of Jesus only slowly came to realise the implications of their faith, so most of us, even after many years, still fail in our Christian life. By God's wonderful grace, we can be forgiven!