



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

En Route — On the Way

Last Sunday we read the Gospel of the Transfiguration, and now the long journey to Jerusalem and Calvary begins. Just before the Transfiguration Jesus had for the first time warned his disciples that he was going to suffer and die (*Luke 9:22*), and he repeats this prediction again as they get down from the mountain. (*Luke 9:44*), and Jesus ‘resolutely turns his face towards Jerusalem’. (*Luke 9:51*)

There are a number of events which help us to understand what true discipleship means. First, Jesus meets a person who claims that he will follow wherever he goes. He is warned that although ‘foxes have holes, birds have their nests, but the Son of Man has no place to rest’. (*Aniceto Nazareth quoting Luke 9:58*) Jesus invites us to follow him, which implies movement; a journey and a destination. One of the way-points on that journey is Calvary, and he had warned world-be disciples that this involves each of us taking up our own cross (*see Luke 9:23*) and following him.

Jesus sends out the 72 disciples as missionaries. (*Luke 10:1-20*) This tells us of another part of our discipleship; as Pope Francis has repeatedly said, we are called to be ‘Missionary Disciples’. It can seem a daunting task, a real challenge to us, but the end of the story should give us some encouragement, as they come back rejoicing ‘Lord, even the devils submit to us when we use your name’. (*Luke 10:17*) This takes us back to one of the events on the way back down from the mountain. ‘Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us’ (*Luke 9:49*). Jesus replies that you must not stop him. The name of Jesus is powerful; we frequently end prayers ‘in the name of Jesus the Lord’. We keep the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus on 3rd of January, and in the Divine Praises we say: ‘Blessed be the Name of Jesus’. It is worth remembering that his name is, indeed holy, and that abuse of his name is a serious sin, as is the use of the phrase shortened to ‘OMG’. It is painful to hear even Christians using the name of Our Lord in this way.

The return of the 72 disciples brings great joy to Jesus, and he exclaims ‘Blessed are you, Father, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever, and revealing them to little children’. (*Luke 10:21*) This is not to suggest that learning and cleverness are in themselves wrong, but that in the end, it is the simple faith of the child who knows what it is to be loved and doesn’t try to analyse it that is our relationship with our heavenly Father. No amount of human knowledge or cleverness can fully comprehend the infinite love of God. It is that love which is the foundation of our faith and commitment; we know that God loves us, and seek to order our life as an appropriate response to that love by loving him and living as he wants us to. The next section of Jesus’ teaching on the journey helps us understand what this involves.

This is expressed in the story of the ‘Good Samaritan’. This is telling us that loving God is not the whole story, and because he loves all people, we must do the same, and in particular, this must be shown to those in greatest need. However, activity is not the whole story, because we immediately come to the occasion where Jesus is invited to the house of Mary and Martha, and while Martha is busy preparing a meal, Mary is simply listening to and conversing with Jesus. ‘Mary has chosen the better part’ says Jesus when Martha complains. (*Luke 10:42*) We need to realise that it is important to give time to prayer, and simply to be with Jesus.

So we move on to the disciple’s life of prayer, and Jesus teaches the ‘Our Father’ as the pattern of prayer. (*Luke 11:1-4*) His teaching on prayer continues, and leads on to a healing story which gives rise to a criticism that he is casting our devils through the prince of devils. (*Luke 11:22*)

The way in which the Gospel speaks of ‘devils’ is perhaps at odds with our present understanding of medicine, but at the same time, the coronavirus could easily be described as a ‘devil’! But the devil is not only manifested in material, if invisible form. Jesus has a very significant story about the person who is healed from an ‘unclean spirit’. The place is then left empty, and the unclean spirit returns, bringing with him seven others, more *wicked* than the first. (Notice the word ‘wicked’ – we are talking of evilness more than of illness.) Nature abhors a vacuum (*from Aristotle*), and St Paul has good advice: ‘Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. . . and the God of peace will be with you’. (*Philippians 4:8-9*)

There is further teaching about discipleship; we are warned about the danger of hypocrisy, and told that we must be fearless in our proclamation of our faith, (*Luke 12:4-12*) and Jesus refuses to get involved in a family dispute over inheritance, but warns against being dominated by the love of money or material wealth.

There is a significant passage about interpreting the signs of the times. This is of great importance in every generation, and it was interesting that last week in the ‘Pivotal Players’ film on Archbishop Fulton Sheen it spoke of his study at Louvain on evangelisation in relation to the mind-set of his times. If we are to be missionary disciples in our generation, we must have an understanding of the way those with whom we are conversing are thinking in our times.

This leads us to the passage on repentance in chapter 13 we read in today’s Gospel.

Notices of Interest

The Crucifix facing the road: We hope it will be repaired and replaced before Holy Week.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Kobe Christopher McGill-Maher
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for him and his family.

Bible Alive for Lent 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.

Leo's 90th: I was surprised and touched by the piece in the newsletter about my birthday. Maureen and I joined the Parish in 1968 and have always been grateful for the loving care and friendship we have received from Priests, Deacons and Parishioners. Many thanks for your prayers & good wishes & a Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 7th August at 9am for all Clergy and Parishioners, past and present. God bless you, *Maureen* & an ancient *Leo Bell!*

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass and there is a small supply of St. Patrick's Day & Easter cards. 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*

Easter Flowers: Envelopes are available for donations for Easter flowers on the table in the narthex. If you wish your flowers to be in memory of a particular person, please write their name on the envelope. This will appear in the Easter newsletter.

Hold the Date! There will be a Seder (Passover) meal in the hall on Tuesday April 5th starting at 7.00 pm. This is a wonderful way of growing in understanding of the Mass. More details soon.

Annunciation of the Lord: 24 hours of Adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. In honour of the Annunciation of the Lord, there will be 24 hours of Exposition of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. Adoration will start after the 10.30am Mass on Friday 25th March. The 24 hours will conclude with Saturday 9.30am Mass. There will not be any further Exposition that day. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet available at the Shrine and the Sacred Heart Church or contact either the office or Gillian on 07724337202.

Choir Practice in Lent: Fridays 1:45 - 3 pm: Mar 25, Apr 1 & 8. We are now blessed with a strong contingent of men singers but we need more ladies to keep the men in check & to replace others who have become unwell or simply had enough of me. *Alec*

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)**

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!

Parish and Diocesan Finances: We have drawn up a budget for the coming year and submitted it to the Diocese. We are hoping for an increase in giving as more people come back to Mass week by week. If this materialises, we forecast a very small surplus. 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.

Gregory Care Update on Toiletry Donations: Continued thanks to all who have donated toiletries & hygiene products to the Cathedral Food Store. There is a need for shampoo & washing up liquid. If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from this please get in contact with Gregory Care through Fr Andrew.

Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is hosting a webinar about modernisation in the shipping industry. It will look at the history of the container ship, the rise of the ultra-large container vessels, & explore what impact modernisation of the shipping industry has had on seafarers around the world. Please register now at <http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/modernisation> to join online on **23 March at 7.30pm** to hear how shipping has changed in the last century, the impact this is having on seafarers today, and the important role Stella Maris has in supporting them.

Woolly Hats for seafarers: Calling all Knitters! Seafarers are often ill equipped to deal with the cold conditions they find on board ship. Our volunteer knitters provide invaluable support for seafarers by helping them to keep warm. If you are interested in knitting a woolly hat for a seafarer, please speak to or get in touch with Bob Maine at robertcmaine@gmail.com. Knitting patterns are available. Gifts of wool are also appreciated.

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 4th April, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: Congratulations to those who have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time during the past week. 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: Application forms now available from the Sacristy after Mass. Today is the last chance to join for this year: There will not be an option to join after this time. Please submit form with fee and hand it to a helper after 9.00 am or 11.00 am Mass. 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 2nd July at midday.

Courses for Readers: The Bible Timeline course continues on Wednesdays, starting at 7.30 pm. on Zoom. This week we look at the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. As we follow Jesus in his journey to Jerusalem, this is a good part of the Gospel to be reading at this time. Please email to Fr Andrew for further details. New people are welcome to join!

Pivotal Players: We will see a film of the mission of St Augustine of Canterbury, who was sent to England by our patron, Pope St Gregory the Great as evangelist to the Anglo-Saxons in the south of England. Christianity had already arrived in Britain in the Roman occupation, but the Romano-British Christians had fled to Wales and Ireland as the Anglo-Saxons arrived. Please email Fr Andrew for the Zoom links for future sessions.

NYMO invite you to a Brunch event at the NYMO Offices in Luton on Saturday, 9th April, for a morning of food, faith formation, prayer and worship. The event starts at 11.30 and will finish at 13.30. For ages 18-35. See nymo.org/brunch for more details

Scripture Readings 20th March 2022, 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C

The book of Exodus describes how a group of Hebrew slaves becomes a nation unified by faith in the one God, who made a covenant with them. After killing an Egyptian, Moses fled across the Red Sea. He was given refuge by Jethro, marrying his daughter, Zipporah. In today's reading Moses is called by God to his life's task of leading the Hebrews to the promised land. God reveals his name as "being": he exists and involves himself with us.

All creation is invited to join in this Psalm – a tender hymn of thanksgiving for the Lord's mercy, which is so great because he knows man's frailty.

Paul warns the Corinthians not to be over confident in their faith. Even with God's continual support and unifying nourishment, the Israelites many times fell away from the covenant and into

idolatry. Paul goes on to urge respect for the Eucharist. The sacraments help us to live our lives of faith, but salvation is not automatic.

In Luke's Gospel Jesus continues teaching his disciples on the journey to Jerusalem. He uses examples of sudden death that his hearers would be aware of, to urge repentance and keeping one's life oriented towards God at all times. With the parable of the fig tree Jesus says God is patient, but judgement will come.

Psalm Response: **The Lord is compassion and love.**

(Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15; Psalm 102 (103); 1 Cor 10: 1-6,10-12; Luke 13: 1-9)

Chris Oliver

Prayers for Ukraine: As well as the daily prayer for Ukraine, the Pope will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday at 5.00 pm (Rome time). He requests that all the faithful join with him at the same time (4.00 pm UK time). The Rosary will be said in Church; come if you can, or pray at home. Please use this prayer, which is said in Church at every Mass.

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 24th to Thursday 28th 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 24th until 11.00 pm on Saturday June 25th. Please keep this date in your diary.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, Pray for Russia and Ukraine

James: Discerning God's Will

The course will take place over seven Wednesday evenings on Zoom, from 7.30 to 9.30 pm on: 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March, 6th, 20th, 27th April 2022. (£5)

To book please go to:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/james-discerning-gods-will/>

Health and Safety

There is a concern regarding the mix of cars and people in the church car park on Sundays before and after Mass. In particular, small children cannot always be seen by drivers of they are close. Parents and Carers, please make sure children do not run round unsupervised in the car park.

From the Synod

Next Steps

We are in the diocesan phase of the Synod process. On 31st March-1st April the team have an overnight with Bishop David to draw out the main themes for the diocesan report which will be submitted to the Bishops' Conference by 10th April. Please pray for us!

As Bishop David has said, the Synod does not stop on 10th April, so watch this space for the next steps for our diocese.

St Gregory's next Alpha:

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which will be 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

Called & Equipped

A very strong theme through the Synod responses, both on the day and through the wider submissions, is the need for adult formation. Called & Equipped, starting in May, is a response to this – a year long programme of Catholic teaching and personal faith development. It has been wonderful to see new people coming forward to make the Synod happen across the diocese, and it may be that some of you would like to take the opportunity to go deeper in your faith – or you may have seen someone in the listening groups who might take part with a bit of encouragement. You can find out more information here: <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/called/>, and register for an introductory webinar here: https://calledequipped_webinar.eventbrite.co.uk

First session:	April 26 th 2022:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	May 3 rd 2022:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	May 10 th 2022:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	May 17 th 2022:	How can I be sure of my faith?
Fifth Session:	May 24 th 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	June 7 th 2022:	How does God guide us?
Seventh Session:	June 14 th 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Away-Day:	June 16 th – 17 th 2022:	Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session:	June 21 st 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	June 28 th 2022:	Why and how should we tell others?
Tenth Session:	July 5 th 2022:	What about the Church?
Eleventh Session:	July 12 th 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’.

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 23 February 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)

Preparing for Lent

Wednesday 6 April 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)

Preparing for the Triduum

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 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)

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]*

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

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