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

"Go and invite everyone to the banquet"

Today is not just any Sunday; it's a day that unites Catholics in every parish and every country. From the remote villages of Malawi to the rugged landscapes of Mongolia, faith communities like ours are gathering to celebrate, pray, and share whatever they can with our brothers and sisters in need. We stand united with them in prayer, solidarity, and action.

This World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis reminds us of Christ's call to each one of us to 'go and invite everyone to the banquet' (*see Matthew 22:1-14*). And when he says 'everyone', he means '**everyone**'. Our mission is to be instruments of God's love, to share the Gospel; and our mission is not just local – it's global.

Missio is the Pope's charity for world mission, and he has entrusted the global Missio network with coordinating the World Mission Sunday celebration. Missio ensures that today's offerings — and those collected in parishes worldwide — reach communities in the greatest need. These are places where poverty, conflict, or the challenges of being a young Church, create profound needs. Your generosity will help faith communities build their own chapels, fund hospitals and schools, and support vocations where the Church is just beginning to take root or is struggling to survive.

Here are a couple of examples of how your support really makes a difference. Missionaries working in areas of conflict are challenged each day to be, and to share, the love, compassion, and hope of Christ for all people. In Lebanon, where families live under the constant threat of rockets and gunfire, Sr Jovanna and her fellow Sisters are staying with the people they serve. She explains, 'Our aim is to share love and care with families in real need. As long as we have food, we will share it and do everything we can to support them, preserving their dignity and hope.'

Fr Rouphael, the Missio National Director in Lebanon, has asked for our prayers for peace, for the people of Lebanon, and the whole Middle East. He tells us, '*churches and schools are opening to welcome the displaced, and there are many individual initiatives of solidarity with Christians and Muslims.*'

In Mongolia, home to the youngest Catholic Church in the world, the harsh winters can decimate the crops and herds the nomadic people rely on for survival. Missionaries there offer shelter, food, and hope to those who have lost everything, whilst quietly sharing their faith. With your help, Missio has also played a key role in training lay catechists and the first Mongolian Priest, who, alongside missionaries from around the world, provide education, healthcare, and spiritual formation. They are inviting everyone to know God's love.

World Mission Sunday is a lifeline for thousands of missionaries, like those in Lebanon and Mongolia, who bring Christ's love to some of the most challenging places in our world. These missionaries are often the first to respond in times of crisis and the last to leave the communities they serve. This is true in Lebanon and, sadly, many other countries at this time. Let us do all that we can to support them as we share in God's mission to build a world of justice, peace, and solidarity.

The essence of **mission** is to go out and invite others to share in the joy and hope we receive through Christ's Resurrection. This hope isn't just for us; it is meant to be shared with the whole world. As Pope Francis reminds us, the heart of our mission is to spread the Good News of God's love, which has the power to transform lives and heal our world.

As we gather around the Eucharistic table today, let us remember that the poorest and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters are the special guests at God's banquet. Together, let's respond to Christ's call to 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet.' Let's be the light and hope our world desperately needs, bearing witness to the love of Christ in all that we do. Please pray for our sisters and brothers and for the work of missionaries throughout the world. And if you can, please donate today using the Missio envelopes or online at **missio.org.uk**

Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and your commitment to God's global family.

Gregory Care

New for some, a reminder for others!

Gregory Care is the social care charity that serves our parish and our local community. We provide material help, advice, and advocacy. As we move closer into the winter months we are aware that people are facing more challenges. If you or anyone you know could benefit from such help please get in touch. Our work is completely confidential! So don't be afraid to ask.

We are also part of the Cathedral Foodstore, where our parishioners have provided all the toiletries for many years. If we cannot help you we will do our best to signpost you to someone who can. Our phone number is 07434669011

Please take a look at our notice board at the back of Church for more information.

22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS
Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

20th October 2024
Twenty Ninth Sunday Of the Year
Parish Mass Book - Year B
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Priest:
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org
Deacon:
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com
Parish Secretary:
Caryll Comley ☎ 713015
Email: parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org
Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

Sunday ***29th Sunday Of the Year***	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	The Parish The Families of Doreen Williams & her sister
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Baby Daryl Forrester
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Lawrence Dukes RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Pat McDonald
Thursday Feria	9.00-11am 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Mass	 Paul O'Connell's Intentions
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Eiblin Thorpe Smith O'Donnell RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Maggie Ndekwe's Intentions
Sunday ***30th Sunday of the Year***	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	George Lord RIP The Parish

MASSES TO BE OFFERED BY FR. ANDREW IN ROME THIS WEEK: Nora Scott's Int, Marcelle Brown's Int, Patrick Mullen RIP, Kathleen Eyre & Family's Int, Catherine & Peter Stratten's Int, Julie-Ann Murray's Int.

Your Offering to the Parish: Last Week's collection was £565.96. Thank you!
Standing Order gifts to the Parish: Each week £580 is given through standing orders.
Donations through the Diocese: An average of £90 is given each week.
Gift Aid benefits to the parish: The value of Gift Aid averages £136 per week.
Second Collection This Week: World Mission
Cleaners This Week: The Church is cleaned and sanitised on a regular basis.
Counters this Week: CC & MS

Readings for this Sunday

~~— see inside for details~~

Isaiah 53: 10-11: *If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life.*
Hebrews 4: 14-16: *Let us be confident in approaching the throne of grace.*
Mark 10: 35-45: *The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many.*

Readings for next Sunday

Jeremiah 31: 7-9; Hebrews 5: 1-6; Mark 10: 46-52. (Page 85)

During This Season of Ordinary Time, We are Asked to Pray For: Human Life; Seafarers; Europe; Victims of Persecution or Oppression; Christian/Jewish Relations; The Environment.

Northampton's Active Quarter

Being outdoors is great! It's the perfect way to spend time with people we love and feel our best.

Northampton has lots of great outdoor spaces already, and the Active Quarter partnership aims to make them even better. Local people and organisations are sharing their views, making improvements, and thinking about how we can all enjoy being outside more.

Hope you can help to get the ball rolling with a civic pride project for Northampton's Parks. We're creating an online gallery of photos that residents have taken of Northampton's parks with the chance to add a few words about what that photo and space means to them.

Do you have some photos in your phones that you'd be willing to share to get some examples on the website.

If you have a photo to share, then visit the webpage and click on the 'Share your story' item: https://activequarter-nn.co.uk/community/

During the Covid lockdown many discovered parks for our daily exercise, and have enjoyed the changing seasons, the different forms of wild-life and the fresh air when you get away from the roads. Here is a way to celebrate something beautiful about our town.

Please Pray for the Sick:

Notices of Interest

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. 2025 diaries now available. Any queries or volunteers to 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

The New Three Year Missals are on order but not available until the end of the month. I have ordered more than the original 20 so there should be enough for everyone so no need to panic! The price will be £19.95. ***Please be aware that although you can buy Missals cheaper online, they are NOT the new translation!*** By December they will be freely available to order more if needed. CTS assured me they have printed lots!

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

Choir Notes: Next Practices are 11-12 on Saturdays: Nov 9th 16th 23rd 30th, Dec 7th and 14th *Alec*

Choir Notes Extra! - I will normally select the 2nd Saturday of each month, 11am-12pm. Preparation for Easter, Feast of St Gregory, Preparation for Christmas disrupt that plan. Individual dates I would like, therefore, are: Feb 8; Mar 8, 15, 22, 29; Apr 5, 12; Jun 14; Jul 12; Aug 9, 30; Oct 11; Nov 8, 15, 22, 29; Dec 6, 13. *Alec*

A Diocesan Mission Conference: Mission Northampton invites all those from across the diocese who have a heart for sharing the Gospel with others to come along to this day with Bishop David. 2nd November 2024 10.30am - 4pm: Mary Adams Hall, Aspley Hill, Woburn Sands. MK17 8NN. Please bring a packed lunch. https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/mission-conference-2024-woburn-sands/ (Please find out more and book in at this web-site.)

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 28th October 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 2024/5: First Holy Communion 2025 Registration is now complete, and there is no more space this year.

Confirmation in 2025: January 5th after the 9am Mass is the enrolment date for the next Confirmation. The Confirmation will be on Sunday afternoon, September 7th 2025, exact time to be decided.

Today is World Mission Sunday. Parishes worldwide celebrate this day. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, we stand united as God's global family in prayer, solidarity and action. We are called to *"go and invite everyone to the banquet"*, for the joy of Christ's Resurrection is a gift meant to be shared with the entire world. Please pray for missionaries and give what you can to this vital collection to bring God's compassion and peace and justice to those in need. To donate, use the Missio envelopes or call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit mission.org.uk to make a gift or set up a Direct Debit; Gift Aid your donation if possible. Many of you already donate via the Red Box system (etc). This Sunday collection is a separate way to help.

Congratulations to St. Mary's Catholic Primary School who are delighted to announce they join many of our local Catholic schools who have been awarded 'Good' by OFSTED! Well done to all the staff, without their tireless efforts, none of these achievements are possible.

The Next Phase of the Synod started on 2nd October in Rome. Avril Baigent, Director of Pastoral Development from our Diocese, has been asked to be a facilitator for the Synod Assembly & is now in Rome! We ask you all to include the Synod & all those taking part in your prayers. During the Synod, the Diocesan Women in Ministry Group are hosting prayer meetings over Zoom from 6.30 to 6.50pm on Wednesdays 9th, 16th & 23rd October. All are welcome! If you are available, we would love to have you join us. The Zoom link below will be used for all 3 evenings. Topic: Synod Prayer Meeting: Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82128037471 Meeting ID: 821 2803 7471

Ceili Dancing is ongoing in the Church Hall every Wednesday evening, 7.30-8.45pm. Everyone welcome to join our friendly group. To find out more phone Pat on 07710624921, or just turn up!

You Can Help Your Marriage – Are you frustrated or angry with your spouse? Do you argue, or have you stopped talking all together? Retrouvaille helps married couples through difficult times. Register now for next programme starting 8th - 10th Nov. Call 07887296983 or Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

Parking: this is important. There is not enough space in our car park, and many people have to park on the roads around the church. It is important that all people coming to the church by car park considerately and legally. There is often space for parking on Wellingborough Road beside the park which is only a few minutes' walk from the church. It is illegal to park over a dropped kerb or to block a driveway, with a penalty charge of up to £90. Traffic wardens do sometimes patrol on Sundays and residents are entitled to notify the council or the police.

Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (**next – 26th October**), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially younger, more energetic ones!

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)**

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Hall: 10.00 am-12.00 pm.

Tots @ St Gregory's: If you have the care of a baby or pre-school child on Tuesday mornings join us in the church hall. From 9.30-11.30 - charge just £1 for you & any number of children. This includes snacks for the children & yourself - excellent value for money! We run throughout term time. Looking forward to seeing you!

Abortion- Section 9 Public Order Act 2023-Buffer zones:
On 31st Oct Section 9 of the Public Order Act 2023 will become law, making vigils outside abortion centres a criminal offence. This will probably include silent prayer. It effectively takes away that last line of defence for women & their unborn babies. Please write to your local MP letting them know that you disapprove of this law & want it repealed. You can find a handy tool on the SPUC website in order to do this. Why not join SPUC & help us make abortion unthinkable. Please contact William Currie on wpcurrie@btinternet.com or send a text to 07393965643.

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***

Gregory Care

Please contact Gregory Care (07434669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel, or is in material need.

Delayed new/nearly new clothes sale plus toys and household goods. Keep looking; new date to be confirmed. In aid of The Cathedral Foodstore.

Prayer for Peace for Ukraine and the Holy Land

Please continue to pray for an end to wars, and for all victims of war:

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 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B, 20th October 2024

The reading is from Isaiah's last "suffering servant" song, which we hear more fully on Good Friday. Israel is identified as God's innocent servant suffering to bring to completion God's plan for the salvation of all mankind. For Isaiah suffering need not be a punishment for sin. Suffering by the righteous could "redeem" the sins of others – but only if the sinners saw it as symbolising separation from their sins, like the scapegoat sent into the desert. Christians saw Jesus as the suffering servant who redeems mankind.

The psalm praises the Lord's power and kindness, confident that he will rescue us from our urgent waiting.

Continuing from last week, our reading from the Letter to the Hebrews calls Jesus "the Son of God" and "the supreme high priest". Since he was tempted just like us, he is merciful and we must have confidence that he can bring us to God's "throne of grace".

After Jesus' third prediction of his passion in Mark's Gospel, two Apostles ask if they can share in the kingdom's rewards? They do not understand the sort of kingdom Jesus is bringing in. The Apostles will share in Jesus' suffering, and in doing so they will show themselves to be servants to all.

Psalm Response: **May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.**

Or **May your merciful love be upon us as we hope in you, O Lord.**

(Isaiah 53: 10-11; Ps 32(33):4-5.18-20.22; Hebrews 4: 14-16; Mark 10: 35-45)

Chris Oliver

Alpha continues this week — Dates and Subjects

Sixth Session:	October 22nd	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session	November 5th	How does God guide us?
Eighth Session	November 12th	Does God heal today?
Alpha Away-Day	November 16th (Saturday)	Who is The Holy Spirit?
Ninth Session	November 19th	How can I resist evil?
Tenth Session	November 26th	Why and how should I tell others?
Eleventh Session	December 3rd	What about the Church?

Alpha is a basic introduction to faith in God, in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is not a complete teaching scheme for the entire Christian faith. Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism' course is for those who have completed Alpha.

We need to recruit more helpers; if you are able to help in any way, please contact Daniel Davighi or speak to Fr Andrew. For more information and to book please see: https://stgregory.org.uk/alpha

HOLYWEEN CELEBRATION

A hearty welcome for all parishioners for Holyween celebrations at St Gregory's Church on Thursday 31st October 5pm. There will be Holy Mass at 7:00pm and adoration to follow. Come dressed up as saints for an evening filled with fun, faith and fellowship. For more information please see the notice board or contact Anto: 07412542068 or Rose: 07768708619

Preparing for the New Lectionary

Speaker Mgr Kevin McGinnell
on Wednesday 6th November at 7.30pm.

This talk will be held online via Zoom. Please use the link below to register your interest, and you will be sent a join-up message for the session beforehand.

https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/the-new-lectionary/

There is no charge for attending these talks, but there will be an opportunity to make a donation for the work of the Diocesan Liturgical Formation Team, if you would like to.

Parish Requiem 2024

The annual Requiem Mass for all those whose funerals have taken place since last November, and including others for whom prayers have been asked will be on Monday 18th November at 7.00 pm. Please note the date.

The Venerable Ignatius Spencer CP

Loving Father, your servant,
Ignatius Spencer
spent his entire life preaching the love shown for us
in the Passion of Your Son,
and working tirelessly
to bring the people of this country
to know that love. Help us to follow his example,
and show us that you are well pleased with his life,
by granting the favour we now ask through his intercession,
In particular, at this time we pray for your blessing on the mission of the Church in Northampton.

Mary, Mother of Holy Hope,
Pray for us. Amen.

Parents with children who will start school next year

St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School Open Days:

There will be one more open day for you to look around the school for the new intake in September 2025. This is 6th November between 10am and12pm.

No appointment necessary, just come and have a chat and see this wonderful school! Alternatively, you can contact the office to arrange a personal tour with the Head of School. Evening appointments available. 01604 403511. We look forward to meeting you!

STOP PRESS

There will be an emergency appeal for the Holy Land Disaster Fund sometime in November.