



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

Dominic Barberi and the Second Spring

“History is bunk” is a saying attributed to Henry Ford, the founder of the Ford Motor Company. To be fair to him, that is not an accurate quotation. What he actually said is “History is more or less bunk. It’s tradition. We don’t want tradition. We want to live in the present.” However, he ought to have recognised that although his factory assembly lines were a new idea, he was making use of the classic example of an historical invention. He had not re-invented the wheel; it was a fundamental part of what his car was standing on.

Our history, as the Catholic Church in England, is important to us, and another quotation is significant: “The longer you can look back, the farther you can look forward.” (*attributed to Winston Churchill*)

Blessed Dominic Barberi played a significant part in the story of the Catholic Church in England; a part whose importance is continuing in our own times. It is a story that we need to understand as we build for the future. It is a story of the Mission to England.

Persecution of Catholics in England was begun by Henry VIII in the 1530s, but it was in the reign of Elizabeth I that it became systematic. Further anti-Catholic laws were passed in the 1660s, but in spite of these laws and a number of martyrdoms, there were a some who remained Catholic through what are known as the ‘Penal Years’. The laws gradually came to be relaxed towards the end of the 18th century, and in recognition of the many Irish Catholics who had fought against Napoleon in the early 19th century, the Duke of Wellington brought in the ‘Roman Catholic Relief Act’ in 1829, which removed many of the restrictions on Catholic life in England.

Napoleon, as well as indirectly helping Catholics in England had an impact on the young Dominic Barberi. He was just 4 years old when the French invaded Italy, and his parents died when he was eight, resulting in his being brought up by an uncle and aunt, who did not send him to school, but trained him as a shepherd. Meanwhile Napoleon had closed all the religious houses in the parts of Italy he had conquered as a result of which priests of the religious orders had taken refuge in the area. A Capuchin who met him while he was tending the sheep taught him to read and write. He was influenced by some Passionist priests and young Dominic recognised a vocation to join that order.

After the defeat of Napoleon, religious houses were able to open again, and he entered the Passionist monastery in nearby Vetralla, a little way north of Rome. Here he was found to be very intelligent, and quickly caught up on the learning that he had missed. He was ordained priest in 1818, and appointed as lecturer in philosophy and theology.

The Passionist order (Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ) had been founded by St Paul of the Cross in 1720 as a missionary order. In his old age he told members of the order: “It is now fifty years since I began to pray unceasingly for the conversion of England to the faith of its fathers.”

Dominic would not have heard this himself, and he maintained that he had always had a love for England. This was fostered by a third factor in this extraordinary story.

The religious and spiritual state of England in the 18th century was one of neglect and indifference. The novels of Jane Austen give a picture of the clergy of the established Church, but a revival was beginning to take place, first of evangelical Protestantism, but followed by a growing interest in Catholicism. This became known as the ‘Oxford Movement’. Even before the recognised beginning of this, a small number of Anglican clergymen had become Catholics, among them, a Cornish clergyman called Sir Harry Trelawney and George Spencer (son of the 2nd Earl Spencer and Vicar of Brington). Dominic was to be involved in their formation as Catholic priests, and his interest in missionary work in England grew.

J. Brodrick S.J. in his work on the ‘Second Spring’ of Catholicism in England, says of Father Dominic’s arrival in England;

“The second spring did not begin when Newman was converted nor when the hierarchy was restored. It began on a bleak October day of 1841, when a little Italian priest in comical attire shuffled down a ship’s gangway at Folkstone.”

It was (now St) John Henry Newman who coined the phrase ‘second spring’ to describe Catholic restoration in England in a sermon at Oscott College in Birmingham in 1852. Dominic Barbari had received him into the Church in 1845

In the evening of October 8, 1845, with rain pouring down from dark, heavy clouds and the roads were deep in mud, a short, stout, thickset man began to climb down awkwardly from an outside seat. He was soaked to the skin. The water poured over the brim of his hat and his clothes were sodden and shapeless. Thus he arrived at Newman’s house, where, having heard his confession, received him into the Catholic Church.

So three strands formed the Catholic Church in England; the families of the brave Catholics who held fast to the faith through the penal years, the immigrant Catholics who adopted England as their home in spite of frequent abuse and rejection, and converts to came to realise that the Catholic Faith is the Truth.

The mission to England did not end with the reception of Newman into the Church; it has not ended yet. The brave work of Blessed Dominic Barberi must continue. He laboured on until his death, still at work, while travelling through Reading on a train, he suffered a heart attack and died.

We are encouraged to pray for his canonisation; we must also pray and work for the continuation of his work; the work begun by St Augustine of Canterbury, and which must continue in our age and until the end of the ages.

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for August 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.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass. 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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be advertised here shortly. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2023: We are looking forward to next year's programme!!! If you have a child wanting to make their First Communion next Summer and the child is in school year 3 or above an important date for your diary is **Sunday 9th October** when we will hold an introductory meeting and registration after 11:00 Mass.

Confirmation in 2023: Please watch this space for information.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We have had a great year and our last session will be on Tuesday 19th July and we re-start on Tuesday 6th September!!

Our Top Priority: "The Church exists to evangelise". This is the message from Pope St Paul VI, and has been reaffirmed by every Pope since. This applies to every parish, & our main parish evangelistic work is through Alpha. Our next Alpha will be needing help in various departments: you may be specifically asked! Please remember that both Pope Francis & Bishop David are telling us that we must be 'Missionary Disciples' & that we must be 'permanently in a state of Mission'. Your parish needs you; your Diocese needs you; your Church needs you.

Choir Matters: Pilgrimage Mass: this is a new & exciting Mass setting by Teresa Brown. It is already in use at 9am & I hope to introduce it at 11am starting this Sunday & during the rest of August. I hope you soon pick it up & are able to join in: remember what one of the Saints said – "the one who sings prays twice". *Alec*

Vocations to Priesthood: Vocations weekends are planned three times a year. These are weekends for men who are discerning priesthood. You may be in the very early stages of discernment & don't worry - you don't have to sign anything! You can take your time & meet priests who can share more about this incredible life. Priesthood is a gift to our diocese, & we would love to connect with you as you continue your journey with God. At any point you can contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Andy Richardson – (01582 502400) or vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org.

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

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

The European Christian Mission are recruiting for a Support Services Administrator to work in their office in Moulton Park. This is a part-time job, & applications close at 9am on Tues 30th August. For more information, please visit: <https://www.ecmbritain.org/we-are-hiring>

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)**

Money Matters: The diocese has asked every parish to set a budget for the year & to live within it so that the overall finances of the diocese can recover from the financial impact of the lockdown and the closing of churches. We have managed to keep within our budget for the first quarter of the financial year, but the increase in gas & electricity costs will be a challenge for us, and we must try to control our expenditure. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, & if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Young Catholic Adults (YCA) Weekend 7th - 9th October:

Theme: "The Communion of Saints' prayer & veneration of Holy Relics". During the weekend, Young Catholic Adults will run a retreat at Douai Abbey with Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge who will be holding Gregorian Chant workshops. There will also be a Marian Procession, Rosaries, Sung Masses, Confession, talks & socials. Prices: £12 (for the day) £55pp per night (residential). Book soon as places are limited! Please note, to guarantee your place Douai Abbey have requested that everyone books in 3 weeks before the start of the weekend (16th Sept). For info, go to <http://youngcatholicadults-latestnews.blogspot.co.uk/> or <http://www.youngcatholicadults.co.uk>. To book: <https://bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-douai2022>

Thomas Becket Catholic School is happy to invite prospective parents/students to their open evening on Thursday 22nd September 22 from 5pm. Talks will take place in the auditorium at 5.30pm and 6.30pm. Please see the invitation cards at the back of the Church to book your place.

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

Novena prayer for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi

(Novena began last Thursday and ends this Friday)

O God, who so lovingly raised Blessed Dominic to the heights of holiness, learning and apostolic zeal and made him a powerful minister of your mercy, listen to our humble request.

We pray that you will in your goodness, grant a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Dominic, so that the Church may further honour him on earth and that many more people will come to know and invoke the help of this faithful servant of the Church. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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

Scripture Readings 21st August 2022, 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C.

After lamenting the disasters God has sent on the Israelites because of their sins, third Isaiah sees hope in God's renewal of his covenant promise and in the "new heavens and the new earth" which God is creating. Jerusalem will prosper and all nations will be invited to God's holy mountain in Jerusalem. God's glory will be seen by all, and all nations will worship him.

This shortest of all the Psalms calls on all mankind to praise the Lord for his kindness to us and for his faithfulness to his promises.

Hebrews quotes from the Book of Proverbs that a son should expect to be disciplined by his Father. So we should not be discouraged when God disciplines us: rather we should rejoice that God shows in this way that we are his beloved sons. We must

persevere, enduring our sufferings, turning away from sin and accepting the works God calls us to do.

Chapter 13 of Luke's gospel emphasises the need to repent, to change our mind-set about God. After Jesus healed a crippled woman on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler was outraged to be told his understanding of the Sabbath was hypocrisy. But we also have great difficulty in accepting God's ways. Today's reading insists that entering the kingdom is difficult.

Psalm Response: **Go out to the whole world; proclaim the good news.**

(Is 66:18-21; Ps 116(117); Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30)

Chris Oliver

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 116(117)

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples!

***We have a mission to call all nations to know and praise God
We need to pray for insight so that we can help all people come
to know God for themselves***

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever.

***Our mission is based on the belief we need to share that God's
love for us is stronger than any other love
We also need to find ways to communicate that God's
faithfulness is beyond compare.***

Repainting the Church — More than the Job Done!

Two weeks ago the North aisle was repainted, and so keen were the painters that last week the South aisle has also been repainted! Particular thanks to the members of Jesus Youth who worked so hard.

We also need more people to join the rota for refreshments after the Sunday Masses, especially after 11am. More people are needed for this important ministry!

Alpha in the Autumn

Each time we run the Alpha Course there are more people who speak of how much they have enjoyed it, and how it has deepened their faith and understanding of what life in Christ actually means. Please think about coming on the next one!

To the right are the dates of the next 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. 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

Many people have found this valuable for themselves, but this is also an easy way for anyone to fulfil the wish of Pope Francis that we all become Missionary Disciples. Just come and bring a friend!

First session:	September 20th 2022:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	September 27th 2022:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	October 4th 2022:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	October 11th 2022:	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session:	October 18th 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	October 25th 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session:	November 8th 2022:	How does God guide us?
Away-Day:	November 11th - 12th:	Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
Eighth Session:	November 15th 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	November 22nd 2022:	Why and how should I tell others?
Tenth Session:	November 29th 2022:	Does God heal today?
Eleventh Session:	December 6th 2022:	What about the Church?

The Feast of St Gregory, our Patron

We will celebrate our Patron on Friday 2nd September with Mass at 7.00 pm followed by a social gathering in the hall.

There are lists to sign up on to offer foods (sweet or savoury), and/or to help prepare the hall (from 4.00 pm), to serve drinks or food, and to help clear up afterwards. It was St Gregory, our patron who began the Mission to the south of England; Blessed Dominic Barberi who was instrumental in the 'second spring'. It is now our turn to continue the mission in the 21st century.

Our Lady's Birthday (Thursday 8th September). There will be the usual 9.30am Mass at the Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on Wednesday 7th. There will be an additional Mass at 10.30am at Our Lady's Shrine, Great Billing on that Wednesday. This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will continue until the 9.30am Mass at Great Billing on the Thursday. Sign-up sheets for the Exposition will be available at the back of both churches.

The problems that face us

Opinions will vary as to which of the many problems that face us is the most pressing, and this will to a great extent depend on our particular circumstances. The immediate problem of rampant inflation and sky-high energy bills must concern us all, but most significantly impacts the poorest most. The problem of the war in Ukraine, and care of refugees and other knock-on effects impact many people, problems with the NHS and social care provision will be the biggest concern for many, the present heat-wave, drought and long-term climate change are to the fore right now. On top of that we seem to have a leaderless and rudderless government. The phrase 'perfect storm' seems to sum up the situation.

Today we may party, but the problems still need to be faced. Some of them are completely out of our hands, and these we place in God's hands in prayer. Some problems may be in our

hands, collectively and individually. The first place to which we go is to God in prayer, asking him to reveal to us what it is that he wants each of us to do as individuals to help solve the problem. We may well feel powerless to effect any significant change, but the truth is that when we work together, great things can be done.

One of the lessons of the Old Testament prophets is that when we are faced with what we may call 'natural disaster', frequently behind it lies a lack of fidelity to God or a failure to keep his commands. In a society where a very large proportion of the population deny the very existence of God, it is no surprise that his commands are ignored. If people do not believe in God, it is no surprise that they do not see life as a gift of God, and therefore treat the life of the unborn with no respect. If people do not believe in God, it is no wonder that they do not treat his creation with respect. That is why evangelisation is one answer.

Adult Faith Formation - Autumn

There has been some interest already shown in resuming face-to-face courses in the autumn; anyone with particular requests is asked to email to Fr Andrew to indicate what they would like to study.

There are a number of courses that are available on video for us, but we can also devise courses to meet local needs. One of the requests that came from the Synod conversations was that there should be more opportunity for people to grow in their faith.

If the autumn allows us to resume face-to-face sessions, it would be good to offer opportunity for study in any area of the Faith that people want. Anyone who has a particular request, please send an email to Fr Andrew as soon as possible.

One which has been suggested is a Timeline of Church History, with particular reference to the saints whose days we celebrate through

the year, and connecting them to the era in which they lived and the historical circumstances of their life.

We also have an excellent course on the Mass, as well as several from Bishop Robert Barron.

Among the blessings that flow from these courses is the building up of confidence in the faith. Many who would like to be able to speak of their faith to others are reluctant, thinking that they don't know enough and might say something wrong. But in addition to this, most people enjoy the experience, and make new friends, building up the social life of the Church.

Details of what will be planned will appear soon, but NOW is your chance to influence what will be on offer.



Novena to pray for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi

Thursday 18th August 2022 marks the beginning of the annual Novena to pray for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi.

The Novena of Prayer lasts for nine days and concludes on his feast day on Friday 26th August.

Dominic Barberi (22nd June 1792 – 27th August 1849) was an Italian theologian and a member of the Passionist Congregation prominent in spreading Catholicism in England. He contributed to the conversion of John Henry Newman. In 1963, he was beatified by Pope Paul VI.

Blessed Dominic arrived in Britain in February 1842. He spent the next seven years based at Aston Hall in Staffordshire, from where he celebrated Mass, preached Missions, heard confessions, and received many people into the Catholic Church, the most famous being St John Henry Newman in October 1845.

Newman relates in his *Apologia* how Barberi arrived soaked from the rain and was drying himself by the fire when Newman knelt and asked to be received into the Catholic Church. This event is marked by a sculpture in the Catholic Church of Blessed Dominic Barberi at Littlemore. Two of Newman's companions at Littlemore were also received, and Barberi celebrated Mass for them the following morning.

On 27th August 1849, Barberi was travelling from Paddington, London to Woodchester, when at Pangbourne he suffered a heart attack. Because in London "the cholera was then prevalent", there were no hotels that would take him in, and so it was decided to bring him back to Reading (in the *Railway Tavern*, later the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel, now demolished). The up-train arrived more than hour later, while "he remained in great agony but in peace and with 'Thy will be done' ever on his lips".

Barberi is buried in St. Anne and Blessed Dominic Church, Sutton, Merseyside, which is also the shrine of Elizabeth Prout and Ignatius Spencer.

"Blessed Dominic had a well-known reputation for sanctity and holiness of life. He is also remembered for his love for the poor, and those in need of prayer and help,"

"In Birmingham his memory is held in special regard and each year there is a Novena of Prayer asking God to grant a miracle of healing through the intercession of Blessed Dominic, which could further his cause for Canonisation.

"Please pray the Novena during the nine days from August 18 until August 26. It can be prayed in the parish or at home."

Novena Prayer for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi

O God, who so lovingly raised Blessed Dominic
to the heights of holiness, learning and apostolic zeal
and made him a powerful minister of your mercy,
listen to our humble request.

We pray that you will in your goodness,
grant a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Dominic,
so that the Church may further honour him on earth
and that many more people will come to know
and invoke the help of this faithful servant of the Church.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of Holy Hope, Pray for Us.
Saint John Henry Newman, Pray for Us.
Blessed Dominic Barberi, Pray for Us.