



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

Noah and Climate Change

Soon after the year 2000 the name Noah entered the top 100 of boys' names, and has risen rapidly to nearly the most popular name in the United Kingdom. This is replicated in the United States of America. At the same time, while annual average rainfall has not significantly changed, there has been a dramatic increase in flood events. There has been a steady trend towards drier summers and wetter winters, and when it does rain, there is greater rainfall.

Has the change in popularity of Noah as a name any connection with the change in the weather? Do parents have some instinctive feeling that the world has a need for someone to deal with a flood?

When scientists first started warning us of climate change, it was generally spoken in terms of 'global warming', and for those in temperate zones such as ours, this was not altogether unwelcome!

While for those in most areas the change in rainfall was a matter of inconvenience, but in 1998 the flooding in Northampton was so severe that 2 people died, 150 had to go to hospital and 2,500 homes were flooded. More recently, there have been floods at Billing Aquadrome. Other areas of the United Kingdom have been far more adversely affected than this.

Agriculture in this country is under threat, as a recent report states:

- Changing rainfall patterns, increased evaporative demand and reduced availability of water for irrigation all threaten agricultural production, particularly in areas where water supplies are already under pressure. Drier soil conditions will reduce growth of crops, pasture and trees. Damaging periods of summer drought are likely to become more frequent, especially in the south. Extended or repeated periods of drought may cause tree deaths, especially of young trees.
- Increased flooding, including that caused by sea-level rise, may lead to substantial losses in crop production in low-lying agricultural areas and may contribute to compaction, waterlogging and erosion of soil. Wetter autumns and winters will threaten agricultural production by adversely affecting the timing of land-management operations.”

Research and Innovation for our Dynamic Environment (RIDE) Forum.

The 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference will take place in Glasgow from 1st to 12th November this year, and we pray for a strong initiative to control carbon emissions and other greenhouse gasses, and other ways of protecting our planet.

Dried river beds on the surface of Mars are of interest to space explorers, but Abdella, who features on the CAFOD posters doesn't have to go that far to experience the same.



Abdella walking in a dry river bed seeking water

Climate change is having a far more drastic effect in tropical and in Polar Regions than in our part of the globe. However, reversing the present changes in climate will take many years, and must take place, but more immediately, there is a need to conserve the water that falls and prevent flooding when too much falls.

Hydrology has evolved as a science to try and understand the complex water systems of the Earth, to study and predict how water will behave under different circumstances as it moves through the land phase of the water cycle.

Water is one of the most important natural resources and although plentiful, is not always in the right place at the right time or of the right quality. An overall aim of hydrologists is to apply scientific knowledge and mathematical principles to mitigate water-related problems in society and environmental protection. This may mean working out the best use of water supplies for cities or for irrigation, controlling river flooding or soil erosion, protecting or cleaning up pollution, planning long-term water storage reservoirs, flood risk assessment and flood/drought warning.

Maybe some of our young people are being called by God to become hydrologists — that is a true vocation, and a calling to help those who are victims of persistent droughts or regular flooding would be a blessing.

Training in hydrology takes many years; we can do something this year, indeed, this week. CAFOD have a challenge for us to do 10,000 steps every day through Lent and get sponsorship. However, for many of us in lockdown, that would be difficult, but we can make a weekly (or even daily) sacrifice to support the CAFOD Lent project to help villages that have no water supply. You can send money directly to CAFOD, or through the parish using a CAFOD envelope. Those who are shielding and would like an envelope delivered to them, please email the request to Fr Andrew. We can all be a Noah, bringing safety to victims of climate change.



21st February 2021 First Sunday of Lent Parish Mass Book - Year B Page 75

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

Priest:
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: priest@stgregory.org.uk
Deacons:
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Sunday	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
<i>1st Sunday Of Lent</i>	11.00 am	Mass	Fr. John Harris RIP
Monday Chair of St. Peter	9.00 am	Mass	Bridget & Patrick Philbin
Tuesday St. Polycarp	9.00 am	Mass	Molly
Wednesday Weekday of Lent	9.00 am	Mass	Philomena & Michael Fraher
Thursday Weekday of Lent	7.00 pm	Mass	Holy Souls
Friday Weekday of Lent	9.00 am	Mass	Joseph
Saturday Weekday of Lent	9.00 am	Mass	Desmond Byrne
Sunday	9.00 am	Mass	Oliver O'Neill RIP
<i>2nd Sunday Of Lent</i>	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Please pray for the sick:

Revised opening times: Due to the new restrictions, the Church will be open every day from 8.45 am until 10.00 am, except on Sundays when it remains open until 11.45 am

Your Offering To The Parish:

Standing Order gifts to the Parish:

Donations through the Diocese:

Gift Aid benefits to the parish:

Second Collection Next Week:

Cleaners This Week:

Counters This Week:

Last Sunday's collection was £258.94. Thank you!

Each week £512 is given through standing orders.

An average of £219 is given each week.

The value of Gift Aid averages £220 per week.

CAFOD (Lenten Fast Day 26th Feb)

There is no Church cleaning at the moment.

CC & CP.

Readings for this Sunday

God's covenant with Noah.

That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

Readings for next Sunday

Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Romans 8: 31-34; Mark 9: 2-10. (Page 78)

During this season

Of Lent, we are

Asked to pray for:

Candidates for the Sacraments; Penitents & Wanderers;

Women's World Day of Prayer;

The Needy & Hungry of the World; Survivors of Sexual Abuse.

Are you new to the Parish? You are welcome! Please introduce yourself to the Clergy
In hospital? Let the Chaplaincy know on 01604 714556

Gregory Care

Gregory Care is helping the Cathedral by supplying toiletries and hygiene products to be added to the food parcels. Therefore we continue to appeal for donations of the following items:-
 Soap, shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, nappies, baby food, sanitary products, washing up liquid, and washing powder etc.
 If you can help please place items in the box at the back of church which will be delivered to the Cathedral weekly on Thursdays. Once again thank you for your support.
 If you know of anyone in this parish who would benefit from this help please let Fr Andrew know. Meanwhile let's keep up the good work!

Free to good homes

There are a number of books of devotion, pictures and other articles which had belonged to Irene Howell, and are now in the hall. If there is anything you would like and can use, please take it. Remember to maintain social distancing as you look!

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

William Glibbery	Philip Meenaghan
Jane Noble	Arvenelle Ventour
Maria Diaz	Ann Sinnott
Arthur Sanders	Bernadette Gaye
Patricia Howard	William Currie
James Minahan	John Page
Ann O'Connell	Mary Bernie
Thomas O'Shea	Gertrude O'Neill
Frank Hasdell	Mary Doherty
John Dillon	Patrick Moran
Francis White	Margaret Gayton
Michael Kenny	Catherine Behan
Richard Power	James Davies
Kazimierz Skorzewski	Peter Douglas
Catherine Jones-Shaw	David Neville
Lewis Higgins	Mary Connor
Tom McAllister	Rachel Rushton

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

FOR FEBRUARY

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society & have their sufferings considered & heeded.

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]

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for Lent is now available. The cost is £3.00. If you want to purchase a copy, they are near the hand-sanitiser in the narthex as you come into church.

Masses and Covid security in Lockdown: It is of the greatest importance that the church is a place of safety from the COVID virus, & while clergy & stewards do all they can to have systems in place, there is a responsibility on everyone to adhere to government regulations & maintain the safety of **everyone** as well as themselves in church. While 'bubbles' & households may sit together, there should be at least 1 metre distance separating those not in the same 'bubble' or household & must wear masks. We are still allowed to come to Mass; this is in part because churches are safe places. It is up to us to keep the church safe.

Repository: If you wish to buy anything, please come to the Church between 9 and 10.00am and speak to a Steward who will show you what to do and where to go. St. Patrick's Day and Easter cards are now available.

Being a Dynamic Catholic: It is planned that through Lent there will be regular talks on the parish website and Facebook page based on a book entitled "Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" by Matthew Kelly. This could form part of a Lockdown Lent discipline.

Contact CAFOD: CAFOD has a head office in South London, as well as offices based in each Catholic diocese around England and Wales, and also overseas.
Email: cafod@cafod.org.uk
Website: <https://cafod.org.uk/>
CAFOD Head Office
Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB

COVID-19 Precautions: We are in lockdown, & as responsible members of our community, we obey the Government Regulations in solidarity with so many others on whom are being imposed restrictions which impact severely on their lives & livelihoods. Now that we can return to Mass, we must continue to try to suppress the spread of the virus & support those who remain vulnerable.

Face masks: Wearing face masks is compulsory in churches & you should wear one if you can. Stewards are not responsible for policing this, but may remind you that this is the law.

Track and Trace: The government have now released their app to support track & trace & we have a QR code which can be scanned to record your presence at church. This is not obligatory, but should help in the important task of controlling the spread of the virus. As responsible members of society, we should comply with this request.

Pro-Life issues: The Government is being pressured to make temporary approval of DIY abortions (both pills taken at home) permanent. They have launched consultations for England and Wales to see whether people are in favour of this. For the sake of the unborn and their mothers, please therefore respond to the Government consultations. The LIFE charity have put together a briefing on points to consider when answering the questions in the consultations. Click [here](#) to read the briefing.

SPUC: You could save a life! There are two simple ways in which you could be a life saver; firstly, please consider joining the Northampton Branch of SPUC, you would be helping to end the shame of abortion in this country and protecting women; secondly, if you are unable to become a member of SPUC, you could offer your support by joining the prayer team. All you would have to do is pray for Pro Life causes, either as a group, or on your own at home. If either of these things appeal to you and you want to join the fight to protect unborn children and their mothers, then please contact William Currie; wpcurrie@btinternet.com or 07393965643

To Catholic Universe and Catholic Times readers in the parish: Papers can be delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you.
SPECIAL OFFER - 3 MONTHS: £25.00 — 12 Months: £99.00
DIGITAL COPY: 12 Months: £55.00

Right to Life: A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion. Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP, and ask them to sign this motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool. This tool can be accessed by visiting the link below: www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion

Exploring the Post-Lockdown Church: The webinar series has been wonderful. There were over 3,000 views! This is definitely something we will be looking to do again in the future. If you want to catch up with any you missed, all the videos are here: <http://formationpathways.co.uk/exploring-the-post-lockdown-church-webinar-series/>

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

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Tots @St Gregory's: As with other meetings, Tots has been cancelled until further notice.

Financial Support for Self-Isolation: Please see the following article regarding financial help available for those who are self-isolating;
<https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/health/coronavirus/how-apply-self-isolation-financial-support-now-available-across-northamptonshire-3004756>

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2021: If you have a child who wishes to make their 1st Holy Communion next year & are in school years 3-6, please email Stella at swatts49@outlook.com, who will note your name & the name & age of your child. This is still very much a first step as we are still unsure of how we can prepare the children at the moment; please be patient and, as soon as we possibly can, we'll give you more info about our programme & timings at which stage you can decide whether or not you wish to proceed.

Confirmation: Yet again we are thrown into confusion! We await more information. This continues to be difficult!

Parish Finances: Thank you to everyone who has been so very generous during this lockdown. Our parish finances are reasonably stable. Your generosity is much appreciated!

Standing Order via Donor's Own Bank. You can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using either your on line bank account or in branch. The information required to make the donation 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)**

Scripture Readings 21st February 2021, 1st Sunday of Lent, Year B

Genesis describes how, after the Great Flood, God established the first covenant with humanity, promising not to destroy all living creatures again. Every rainbow reminds us of God's care for all creation.

The Psalm asks for God's guidance and pardon, before meditating on God's goodness towards the just.

Peter applies the Genesis story to Jesus. We should not "repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse" but repay hurt with a blessing. If God wills that we suffer, then it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. God's promise to Noah is fulfilled in Christ, who "in the body was put to death, in the spirit was raised to life". Just as Noah was saved by water, so we are washed in the water of baptism and

make "a promise to God from a good conscience" rising into a new life in Christ.

In Mark's gospel Jesus' baptism is followed immediately by this very brief description of his temptation in the desert. Angels guided the Israelites during the Exodus. Now angels look after Jesus as he rejects Satan and remains obedient to God, announcing the Good News to begin his human ministry.

Psalm Response: **Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.**

(Gen 9: 8-15; Psalm 24(25):4-9; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 12-15)

Chris Olive



Why Alpha

Pope Francis has asked that every parish and every Catholic have a missionary heart. In 2019, over 5,600 Catholic parishes and organisations around the world ran Alpha with an estimated 310,000 participants.

"For many years now and in various parts of the world, Alpha has shown itself powerful in bringing faith alive in all kinds of people. Its focus is on Jesus, its method is simple and its appeal is wide-ranging. It is also well adapted for use in Catholic communities looking to provide the kind of ignition we need if we are to become a more missionary Church." (*Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane*)

Healing the World

"What a scandal it would be if all the economic assistance we are observing - most of it with public money - were to focus on rescuing those industries that do not contribute to the inclusion of the excluded, the promotion of the least, the common good or the care of creation. There are criteria for choosing which industries should be helped: those which contribute to the inclusion of the excluded, to the promotion of the least, to the common good and the care of creation." (*Pope Francis, General Audience, 19th August 2020*)

On 3rd March (ten days away) the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak will deliver his budget, and while the pandemic still continues, it cannot be expected that it will present a complete picture of the country's financial position. Many have benefitted greatly from the government schemes, although at the same time, many have also missed out and have endured real hardship.

As the eyes of the world will be on Britain this year, it is vital that we all come together to raise our voices and ensure that our government listens.



Wherever you are, you have a role to play in helping to address these issues:

- **Tackling the climate crisis by urging world leaders to use this year's climate talks to agree ambitious goals that address the scale of the climate emergency and ensure that those countries least responsible do not end up paying the highest price.**
- **Ending unjust debts by pushing for full debt cancellation for low and middle-income countries. This will free up vital resources so that they can tackle the health and economic impacts of the pandemic.**
- **Holding business accountable for practices throughout their supply chains to ensure that communities are protected from human rights abuses and environmental destruction carried out by multinational businesses**

Stay in touch

We will have ways for everyone to join the CAFOD campaign throughout the year including our petition to the Prime Minister ahead of COP26, lobbying our MPs to get the most out of the G7, organising parish campaign activities and mobilising for the climate talks in Glasgow

Pope Francis has warned that it would be "a scandal" if the money governments are spending to rebuild economies and save businesses "were to focus on rescuing those industries that do not contribute to the inclusion of the excluded, the promotion of the least, the common good or the care of creation".



SECOND COLLECTIONS 2021

28 th February	CAFOD (Lenten Fast Day 26 th Feb)
2 nd April	Good Friday Collection for the Holy Places
25 th April	Diocesan Priests' Training Fund
16 th May	Mass Media
20 th June	Day for Life
27 th June	Peter's Pence
11 th July	Apostleship of the Sea
19 th September	Home Mission Sunday
3 rd October	CAFOD (Harvest Fast Day 1 st October)
24 th October	Mission Sunday
7 th November	Bishop's Maintenance Fund
14 th November	Sick & Retired Priests' Fund

