



# 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

# Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Jesus taught us to pray: “Thy Kingdom come”, and we say those words daily — indeed, probably many times daily.

## “**THY KINGDOM COME**”

In the New Testament, the word *basileia* can be translated by “kingship” (abstract noun), “kingdom” (concrete noun) or “reign” (action noun). The Kingdom of God lies ahead of us. It is brought near in the Word incarnate, it is proclaimed throughout the whole Gospel, and it has come in Christ’s death and Resurrection. The Kingdom of God has been coming since the Last Supper and, in the Eucharist, it is in our midst. The kingdom will come in glory when Christ hands it over to his Father:

“It may even be... that the Kingdom of God means Christ himself, whom we daily desire to come, and whose coming we wish to be manifested quickly to us. For as he is our resurrection, since in him we rise, so he can also be understood as the Kingdom of God, for in him we shall reign.” (*St. Cyprian, De Dom. orat. 13 PL 4, 528A*)

This petition is “*Marana tha*,” the cry of the Spirit and the Bride: “Come, Lord Jesus.”

(*The Catechism of the Catholic Church §2816-2817*)

The Catechism goes on to say that while the coming of the Kingdom refers primarily to the final coming of the reign of God through Christ’s return, we must not be distracted from our mission in this present world. Since Pentecost, the coming of that Reign is the work of the Spirit of the Lord who “complete[s] his work on earth and brings us the fullness of grace.” (§2818)

By a discernment according to the Spirit, Christians have to distinguish between the growth of the Reign of God and the progress of the culture and society in which they are involved. This distinction is not a separation. Man’s vocation to eternal life does not suppress, but actually reinforces, his duty to put into action in this world the energies and means received from the Creator to serve justice and peace.

(*The Catechism of the Catholic Church §2820*)

Chapter 13 of St Matthew’s Gospel has 7 images of the Kingdom of Heaven which help us to understand what we mean when we pray: “Thy Kingdom come”.

- 📖 The Parable of the Weeds among the Wheat (13:24-30)
- 📖 The Parable of the Mustard Seed (13:31-32)
- 📖 The Parable of the Yeast (13:33)
- 📖 The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (13:44)
- 📖 The Parable of the Fine Pearl (13:45)
- 📖 The Parable of the Fishing Net (13:47-50)
- 📖 The Parable of the well-trained Scribe (13:51-53)

Each of these tells us something important about the Kingdom and about how we should respond to the prayer: “Thy Kingdom come”. But first, we should note that in making that prayer, we are making a commitment to bring the prayer to fulfilment. We must not fall into the trap of thinking that God will answer the prayer without our own involvement. When we say those words, we should also be asking God to reveal what he wants us to do in order that his Kingdom may come, and his will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

The mustard seed teaches us that the kingdom must grow, and the weed amongst the wheat that we are children of the Kingdom. The yeast teaches us that we must be mingled in with others in the world until all is leavened; that is raised up. This therefore speaks of our mission. The hidden treasure and the fine pearl speak of the infinite value of being in the kingdom, and the fishing net reminds us of the terrible alternative.

The last of the parables, of the well-trained scribe speaks to us of life in the Kingdom; a life which is founded on something old but is open to that which is new. As Jesus spoke those words, he surely meant the treasures of the history of covenants that God had made with his chosen people; of the special relationship which had existed since the creation of Adam, but also of the New Covenant which was to be made in his blood. We can understand that in the treasures of the Old Testament and in the treasures of the New which are shown forth in the worship, and life of the Church.

It is also a parable for our own times. We treasure the past of the Church — the legacy and prayers of the saints, the writings and teachings of the great theologians who have gone before us, the treasures of the art, architecture and music from the past, but also recognise where the Spirit is guiding us today and that God is giving us new treasures which the Church of the future will regard as part of their inheritance while also welcoming what is new in their day.

Meanwhile, we must all be seeking to bring about the growth of the Kingdom and revealing its treasures to the world.



# Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Filip Matteo Mihalcut  
who received Christian Baptism recently.  
Please pray for him and his family.

**Repository:** A display of Christmas cards & other items are available in the Hall foyer. Due to Covid & the lack of new staff this will be in reduced form. Please observe Covid recommendations. I am grateful that my small but very loyal helpers will try to be available, but if there is no-one to help, please put money into wall box to the right of the Sacristy door. *Kathleen Healey (01604) 629103*

**Used Postage Stamps:** As Christmas rapidly draws near could I appeal to everyone to save their used postage stamps. My loyal supporters will already know that the used postage stamps raise thousands of pounds for the missions abroad. It all started when a young priest became very ill and was sent back to England to die. He wanted to do something useful with his time, and eventually started collecting used postage stamps and postcards. This caught on in a big way and lots of money was, and still is being raised. It doesn't cost anything except a bit of time. They are being sent in the name of St Gregory's and I pay the postage myself. The good news is that the young priest is now in his 90s, and still going strong. Truly God works in mysterious ways. Thank you, *Linda Fleming*

**Bible Alive** for December 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.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next preparation will be in the Sacristy on Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 7pm. Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

**First Holy Communion 2022:** We have enrolled as many children as we are able to prepare for First Holy Communion in 2022. Please keep the children and their parents in your prayers. Increasingly we are emphasising the importance of parents in the growth in faith of their children; it would be worth-while for parents to look out for the next Alpha course.

**Confirmation in 2022:** The next Confirmation programme will be announced soon, but there will be a time of reflection before any definite plans are made. Please keep looking at this space where information will appear.

**Parish Finances:** Continued thanks for the wonderful generosity that you are showing to the parish.

**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)**

**SPUC - Silent Prayer Vigil:** Please note that the Pro Life Vigil planned for 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. will now start on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. from 10am to 12pm. In St. Giles Terrace. Further info from William on 07393965643 or [wpcurrie@btinternet.com](mailto:wpcurrie@btinternet.com). The plight of the unborn child and the horror of abortion is the preeminent moral issue of our time. As Catholics we all have a duty before God to do all we can to save unborn children from abortion. Please consider joining us and if you are unable to do so then please support all Pro Life organisations and keep them in your prayers.

**News from the Foodstore!** Thank you again for your wonderful support. This is much appreciated, and the need continues, particularly for basic toiletries, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, shower gel, washing-up liquid. We as a parish continue to support the Cathedral Foodstore by supplying toiletries to add to food bags. The Cathedral supply these provisions each week to families in need from around Northampton. Please donate what you can, & continue to pray for this work. Remember that as the weather gets colder, the need becomes greater. Many Thanks, *Gregory Care.*

**Thank you to those who responded** to the urgent call for help in preparing for Alpha last Tuesday. This was very much appreciated, and the evening went off without a hitch, and the meal was enjoyed. Alpha is our primary means of fulfilling our parish mission, and it would be wonderful to have more people involved in this. The next course will be run in the spring, with a large team, no one is asked to do too much, and, as those who helped found out, it is all done in good humour and cheerfulness!

**Choir Matters:** To avoid travelling in the dark on Thursday's, choir members have asked for practices, up to Dec 17, to be moved to Fridays every week: 2-3:15. Our next session will be Nov 19. *Alec*

**Red Box Scheme Donors:** Missio have sent me your free calendar for 2022. These are at the back of the church in (as near as I could get) a Red Box. The envelopes are addressed to those concerned and are in alphabetical order. Please keep them that way! I do have some calendars spare so if others would like to financially support our Foreign Missionaries please speak to Alec or Dorothy or one of the clergy. *Alec.*

**We now have heating again!** Please, please, please can we all help to keep the heat in by closing the outside doors, and not leaving them open. Even if you think someone is following you, unless they are right behind, please close the door. And if someone does close a door in front of you, please do not be offended!

**Tots @ St Gregory's:** We will be in the hall from 9:30-11:30 each school week Tuesday! If you have care of a baby or pre-school child Tuesday mornings why not join our very friendly & fun group? We only charge £1 for an adult & however many children they bring & this includes snack & all activities!

**Thomas Becket School:** Learning Support Assistant required. Start date 13<sup>th</sup> December, 30 hours per week, 8.30-3.30. See poster in Narthex for full details.

**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.

**St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School Vacancy:** Class Teacher (Maternity Cover) for KS1 starting January 2022 until July 2022, please contact the school for details 01604 403511

**St. Gregory's Primary School:** Reception Open Afternoon - Mon 22 Nov 2pm - for parents of children starting school in Sept 2022, please join us for a tour of our school and a presentation by our Head Teacher.

**Courses for Readers:** The Bible Timeline course has started on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7.30pm. on 13<sup>th</sup> October. All are welcome, but those who proclaim the Scriptures at Mass are particularly encouraged to take part. Please email to Fr Andrew for further details. It is not too late to join!

# Scripture Readings 21st November 2021, Christ the King, Year B

The Book of Daniel was written about 165 BC. It looks forward with certainty to the day of the Lord at the end of history, when the kingdom of God will triumph. In this vision the worldly kingdoms opposed to God have been portrayed as various beasts. In contrast, Jesus and the glorified people of God who will form his kingdom on earth, are represented in human form, as “one like a son of man”. This became the most characteristic way in which Jesus referred to himself, as the one through whom the salvation of God’s people is realised.

The Psalm praises the eternal kingship of the Lord, who triumphs over rebellion and chaos.

The Revelation to John was probably written about 90 AD, during a time when Christians were being persecuted. Today we hear John’s greeting to the seven churches of Asia, before he

criticises them. His summary of the Christian faith includes a reference to Daniel’s vision.

The Gospel of John was also probably written near the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. It is very different from the other 3 gospels, which are read in Ordinary Time over the 3 year cycle. In today’s reading Jesus clearly tells Pilate the nature of his kingship, reflecting how much the understanding of Jesus had developed over the 60 years since his death.

Psalm Response: **The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.**

(Daniel 7: 13-14; Psalm 92(93): 1-2.5; Rev 1: 5-8; John 18: 33-37)

*Chris Oliver*

## A WEEKEND JOURNEY TO EMMAUS

**Hosted by Mission Northampton**

**A heart warming journey with Jesus  
as he explains the Scriptures.**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00 am–8.00 pm and

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 10.00 am–4.00 pm:

**a commitment to the whole weekend is essential.**

**St. Thomas Centre, Northampton Cathedral, Primrose Hill,  
Kingsthorpe Rd, Northampton, NN2, 6AG.**

**Details of how to register & pay coming soon.**

**Please email your interest to: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk  
to reserve your place.**

## New Methods: Workshop

**“Catholicism — The New Evangelisation”**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm**

**Final session!**

“The Catholic Faith is not about myths or legends, symbols or literary devices. It’s about an encounter so overwhelming that you want to tell the whole world. It’s an encounter with Jesus Christ. Throughout history the call of Christ has sent people to the corners of the earth with a message of great joy - a message that has built civilisations, inspired cultures & even sent some believers to prison & others to their graves.

**We have the same call. That is evangelisation**

*A course by Bishop Robert Barron, delivered by Zoom!*

The workshop focuses on various ways in which each of us can become a new evangelist:

- ✓ Be aware and capture your own story and be ready to share it
- ✓ Continue to enrich your own faith formation by remaining grounded in prayer and Scripture and staying faithful to the Sacraments
- ✓ Discern how to proclaim the Good News in words and actions
- ✓ Seek personal evangelisation opportunities
- ✓ Support parish / group evangelisation initiatives

For those who have missed this course, it will run again after Christmas. We are all called to be ‘missionary disciples’; this will help us, both personally and as a parish.

## 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

**DO YOU SING OR PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?**



**Why not join our fabulous CHOIR!**

**See Rosemary or Alec after Mass**

**Come and give it a bash!**

**SOCIAL EVENING  
TEN PIN BOWLING**



**Come along and join us for a fun evening.**

When: Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Time: 7.00 pm

Cost: £10 per person

Contact Daniel ([Dan.Davighi@outlook.com](mailto:Dan.Davighi@outlook.com))

**Let’s smash those skittles down!**

*Let's smash those skittles down!*

**HELP IS NEEDED IN OUR KITCHEN!**



**We are looking for volunteers, to assist  
with serving coffee and tea, on Sunday  
after 09h00 Mass**

**Please see Jehanne or Rayner after Mass**

## Our Diocese

Bishop David has reorganised the administration of the diocese under the three headings of Priest, Prophet and Servant King.

Servant King covers all those areas of governance which support, govern and assist with compliance, such as finance, property, human resources and employment, the marriage tribunal, health and safety, safeguarding, data protection: May Christ our King bless this important but mundane work!

## **St Gregory's next Alpha:**

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which we are hoping will be able to 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. It is good to have established believers as well as potential converts and those who simply want to know more about our faith. 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](http://www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha)

<b>First session:</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> September 2021:</b> Is there more to life than this?
<b>Second Session:</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b> Who is Jesus?
<b>Third Session:</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b> Why did Jesus die?
<b>Fourth Session</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b> How can I be sure of my faith?
<b>Fifth Session</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b> Why and how do I pray?
<b>Sixth Session</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> How does God guide us?
<b>Seventh Session</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> Why and how should I read the Bible?
<b>Away-Day</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> Who is the Holy Spirit?
<b>Eighth Session</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021</b> How can I resist evil?
<b>Ninth Session</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> Why and how should we tell others?
<b>Tenth Session</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b> What about the Church?
<b>Eleventh Session</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b> What about the rest of my life?