



# 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

# The Joy of the Gospel

Twelve years ago Pope Francis published an ‘Apostolic Exhortation’ entitled (in Latin) *Evangelii Gaudium*; usually translated as ‘The Joy of the Gospel’, just eight months after his election. This has been described as his manifesto in which he set out the major themes of his papacy.

The document begins:

The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church’s journey in years to come. (§1)

His message was not new to us at St Gregory’s; the idea of mission in the parish was already being preached about although at that time there was no definite strategy. The traditional plan of the Church in England was that with good catechesis (teaching) of our children, they would remain faithful Catholics all their life. In spite of there being decades of evidence that this plan was not working, we tried a number of different plans of preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the hope that we would find one which would buck the trend.

However there was a growing understanding that just aiming our efforts at children was not enough, and that we needed to reach out to adults, and in particular, to the parents of the children. Our present scheme of preparation for First Holy Communion is called ‘Growing Up Catholic’, and involves the parents as well as the children.

This has been a vital part of our strategy, but more was needed, and this was provided by a priest from Canada who wrote a book entitled ‘Divine Renovation’, which outlined a whole new way of thinking about mission in the parish. Part of this involved running the Alpha programme.

The first Alpha session is entitled ‘There must be more than this’, and the next paragraph of ‘*Evangelii Gaudium*’ has the same theme:

The great danger in today’s world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. This is a very real danger for believers too. Many fall prey to it, and end up resentful, angry and listless. That is no way to live a dignified and fulfilled life; it is not God’s will for

us, nor is it the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ. (§2)

A world dominated by consumerism has no end-point; it is a ‘hamster-wheel’ in which the desire for more can never be satisfied. It is also a life in which acquisition becomes the overarching purpose, and the demands of charity and the needs of others are neglected.

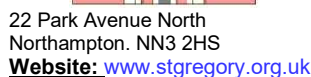
This is not a happy world, it is a world of discontent, and from that discontent, a seeking of someone to blame, leading ultimately to mob violence. It is a world in which those who have the power to do so become richer and gain more power, while the powerless become even more deprived. It is a world without joy, but one in which people seek happiness in places which fail to deliver.

Pope Francis makes this direct appeal to all of us to renew our own personal relationship with Jesus, as his encyclical continues:

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord”. (*Gaudete in Domino, Paul VI, 9<sup>th</sup> May 1975*) The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: “Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace”. (§3)

This is the start of the strategy for mission in the local parish. We must not forget the work of mission overseas, and for this we support the work of Mission through the ‘Red Box’ appeal (*Thank you for your continued generosity*). In our own parish we have just embarked on a new Alpha Course, and it is wonderful to welcome so many participants. When we began this strategy we received a generous donation from the Home Mission department of the Bishops’ Conference, and it is for that fund that we have a second collection today in this Sunday. In recognition of the importance of Pope Francis’ document, this Sunday has been designated as “*Evangelii Gaudium Sunday*”.

For some people the idea of evangelising fills them with dread. It is rather like looking at the water in a swimming pool and thinking it is very cold, and feeling a reluctance to jump in in spite of the people in the pool encouraging you and telling you it is wonderful. Not until you are in can you realise that it is indeed wonderful. In later paragraphs of his encyclical he speaks of the joy of evangelising.



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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:**  
Caryl Comley ☎ 713015  
Email: parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org

**Safeguarding representative**  
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

Sunday <i>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	Jude Ebeneza Arthur RIP The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Frances & Penelope Walsh
Tuesday St. Pius of Pietrelcina	9.00 am	Mass	G. Jones
Wednesday Our Lady of Walsingham	9.00 am	Mass	Andy Walsh & Family
Thursday Feria	9.00-11.00 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Mass	Josephine Redmond
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	E. Jones
Saturday St. Vincent de Paul	9.00 am	Mass	Cliff & Ester Snelling
Sunday <i>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Caryll Comley & family The Parish

<b><u>Your Offering to the Parish:</u></b>	Last Week Was £515.10. Thank you!
<b><u>Standing Order gifts to the Parish:</u></b>	Each week £557 is given through standing orders.
<b><u>Donations through the Diocese:</u></b>	An average of £75 is given each week.
<b><u>Second Collection This Sunday</u></b>	Evangelii Gaudium
<b><u>Gift Aid benefits to the parish:</u></b>	The value of Gift Aid averages £171 per week.
<b><u>Cleaners This Week:</u></b>	The Church is cleaned & sanitised on a regular basis.
<b><u>Counters this Week:</u></b>	CC & JH.

**Readings for this Sunday:** — see inside for details

<b>Amos 8: 4-7:</b>	<i>Against those who 'buy the poor for silver'.</i>
<b>1 Timothy 2: 1-8:</b>	<i>Prayers should be made for all people to God, who desires all people to be saved.</i>
<b>Luke 16: 1-13:</b>	<i>You cannot serve God and money.</i>

**Readings for next Sunday (CTS New Sunday Missal Page 1065)**

**Amos 6: 1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6: 11b-16; Luke 16: 19-31.**

<b><u>During This Season of</u></b>	Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest;
<b><u>Ordinary Time, Autumn, We</u></b>	The Spread of the Gospel; Victims of War;
<b><u>We Are Asked to Pray For:</u></b>	Prisoners & Their Families; Children & Young People.

# Gregory Care Quiz

Saturday 11th October 7.00 pm

## St Gregory's Hall

Tickets will be available next week.

## Light Supper

Bring your own drinks.

Teams of 6 people per table.

Get a team together and join us for some fun and “healthy”

## Competition!

£7:50 per person

All in aid of Gregory Care.

**Please Pray for the Sick:**

[illegible]

**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

William Costello	Florence Haggett
Henry Labrum	Bernard Spice
Carol Allen	Sean Green
Jozef Grabowski	Thomas O'Connor
Muriel Golding	William Jackson
Joseph Mack	Percy Hopkins
Veronica Attwell	John Whatton
Cheron Kelly	Edna Perkins
Francis Barker	Martin Cawley
Kenneth Howell	Mercy Branson
Mary Hopkins	Eileen Bennett
David Deeprose	Rudolf Wloczyw
Keith Jones	

## **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS** **FOR SEPTEMBER**

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

**Prayer for Peace for Ukraine, the Holy Land**  
**and all places of strife.**

**Please continue to pray**

for an end to wars,

**and for all victims of w**

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.

## Notices of Interest

**Important Note From the Office!** Please be aware that the Church has no internet at the moment, and as our phone line is tied to the internet we have no phone either! I can access most emails from my phone, but it may take me a while to respond (my phone doesn't always like gmail), but if you email - [parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org) I should see it and reply shortly. Please be patient if I miss something you have sent through by email – I will do my best! This will be for approx. another week, so apologies, but these things happen. *Caryll*

**Frances Taylor RIP:** Sadly, Frances has passed away. Please remember her in your prayers. Funeral arrangements will be reported as soon as we have them.

**Repository:** The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. Any queries or volunteers please contact Kathleen on 01604 629103 or [Kath.healey.789@gmail.com](mailto:Kath.healey.789@gmail.com)

**Bible Alive:** The new edition has arrived and is available in the narthex. Each edition now covers two months, & while the price per month remains unchanged, the two-month edition is priced at £6. It is extremely good value. Please put money for Bible Alive into the 'Books and Papers' box in the narthex wall.

**Parishioners With Young Children:** Please, please, do not allow your child to play with/throw around pamphlets/leaflets/booklets etc which are displayed either in the Narthex or the Foyer. They are not toys. Thank you!

**Church Cleaning:** Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (next – 27<sup>th</sup> September), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially the younger, more energetic ones!

**Parking:** Our car-park is small, & many have to park on the road. We are in a residential district, & our neighbours also like to park. Please be considerate, & remember that there are laws regarding where you may park. It is illegal to block a drive to a house where there is a dropped kerb or where a white line is painted indicating the needs of a disabled driver. It is also illegal to park at a road junction. There is usually space on Wellingborough Road at the side of Abington Park opposite the bottom of Lime Avenue.

**Missio Matters:** It seems only recently that the summer mag became available but now is the time for you to collect your autumn version! The focus here is to prepare for World Mission Sunday on Oct 19. Copies will be available at the church main entrance, on the left hand side as you come in, & are in alphabetical order to make it easier. Your generous support for the work of missionaries continues to impress: God bless you all for that. New donors most welcome, if only to replace others who are now deceased - at least four in the last year. Speak to Dorothy (9am) or Alec (11am) or the clergy for further details.

**Marriage support:** Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? The next programme starts on 17<sup>th</sup> October [www.retrouvaile.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaile.org.uk) Tel: 07887 296 983

**Ceili Dancing:** Dancing continues every first & third Wednesday of the month in the Parish hall. All welcome.

**Choir Notes:** next practices are from 11-12 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month: Oct 11, Nov 8. *Alec*

**Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group** prays together online via Whatsapp & telephone on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month, in the Hall: 10 am-12pm.

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

**Baptism Preparation:** The next session will be in the Sacristy, 7pm, on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

**First Holy Communion 2025/6:** First Holy Communion 2026 Registration will be on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October after the 11am Mass**. If you know that you cannot come on that date, there is an alternative **after the 10.30 Mass at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October**. Whichever day you register, it is for the same course, and makes no difference to where First Holy Communion is received.

**Confirmation in 2025:** The Confirmation will be in the afternoon of Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> 2025.

**Supporting Your Parish:** 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)**  
Please remember that if you pay income tax, the Church can reclaim this on your giving, (£2.50 for every £10 given) and this is much simpler if you give by standing order.

### Gregory Care: dates for your diary:-

**15th November** (time to be confirmed) Indian Unity in Diversity Event  
On both days the host community will be sharing their culture through food and entertainment.

**11th October** Parish Quiz and Supper Evening. (Further notice elsewhere)

**28th February** Table top Sale.

**9 March** St Gregory's Fun Day as part of Headlands celebration.

**6h June** Picnic in the Park.

**We hope as many people as possible can join us at these events.**

**Tots @ St Gregory's:** If you have care of a pre-school child on a Tuesday morning we would be delighted to welcome you. Looking forward to seeing you!

**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
<b>September until the Harvest collection:</b>	<b>CAFOD</b>
After harvest until the beginning of Advent:	The Bible Society

## Alpha in the Autumn 2025 — Dates and Subjects

Second Session	September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Who is Jesus?	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. <b>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: <a href="https://stgregory.org.uk/alpha">https://stgregory.org.uk/alpha</a></b>
Third Session	October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Why did Jesus die?	
Fourth Session	October 14 <sup>th</sup>	How can I have faith?	
Fifth Session	October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Why and how do I pray?	
Sixth Session:	November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Why and how should I read the Bible?	
Seventh Session	November 11 <sup>th</sup>	How does God guide us?	
Eighth Session	November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Does God heal today?	
Alpha Away-Day	November 22 <sup>nd</sup> (Saturday)	Who is The Holy Spirit?	
Ninth Session	November 25 <sup>th</sup>	How can I resist evil?	
Tenth Session	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Why and how should I tell others?	
Eleventh Session	December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	What about the Church?	

**Let's get *inviting.***   
alpha.org.uk/promote



# Scripture Readings: 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year, 21<sup>st</sup> September

Amos was a shepherd from Judah who around 760 BC prophesied doom to the northern kingdom Israel, largely because of its social injustice. Israel under Jeroboam was very prosperous, but when it was overrun by Assyria 40 years later the prophet's warnings were remembered. It was not just the ways the rich cheated the poor – inflating the currency and giving short measure. Worse was their belief that sacrifices and fasting would absolve them from God's blame: sacrifice without justice is meaningless.

The Psalm urges praise for God at all times and in all places for he who is supreme over all stoops down to raise up the poor.

In our modern liturgies we follow all of Paul's advice to Timothy: we lift up our hands in the traditional manner to offer prayers of petition, intercession and thanks, and we pray for secular authorities – "so that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life". We should reject

false gods like riches or possessions. There is only one God, and Christ Jesus, our one High Priest, is the only mediator between us and God.

In the Gospel Jesus also warns us not to be seduced into worshipping money. Jesus says though the steward was "dishonest", his motive was right: to gain friends who would help him later.

Psalm Response: **Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.**

(Amos 8:4-7; Ps 112(113):1-8; 1 Tim 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13)

*Chris Oliver*

**Please pray for the soul of Chris Oliver who died on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. May he rest in peace and may God reward him for all the good he has done.**

## Coming Up

**Sunday 28th September**  
Season of Creation Event  
5.00 pm, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

**Tuesday 30th September**  
"Vale et Salve"  
(Farewell and Welcome)  
Farewell to Fr Andrew;  
welcome to Fr Christopher  
Mass at 7.00 pm

**With the prayers of St Carlo**  
**Acutis, we have two volunteers**  
**to prepare PowerPoints for the**  
**9.00 am Sunday Mass.**  
*Deo Gratias*

## ETHICS UNPLUGGED:

**A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO KEY ISSUES—ZOOM MEETINGS**  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER & 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

**A Partnership between Caritas, Mission Northampton & the Cathedral**

**Would you like to know more about the Churches response to some important current ethical issues? Join any of our four online Zoom sessions each exploring a different ethical challenge through a Catholic lens.**

**Week 1 -Thurs 2nd October, 7.30-9pm:**  
A Catholic Response to Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery.

Speaker Miriam Cakebread, Policy & Network Officer, Santa Marta Group

**Week 3 – Thurs 30th October, 7.30-9pm:**  
A Catholic Response to Artificial Intelligence

Speaker: Aidan Cottrell-Boyce, London Jesuit Centre

**Week 2 -Thurs 16th October, 7.30-9pm:**  
A Catholic Response to Gender Identification

Speaker: Bishop David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton

**Week 4 – Thurs 13th November, 7.30-9pm:**  
A Catholic Response to Ageing, Life & Death in British society today

Speaker: Dr David Jones, St Mary's University & the Anscombe Bioethics Centre

To book your place and receive the zoom link please go online:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/ethics/>

## The Season of Creation is continuing

St Gregory's is participating in the ecumenical prayer service on Sunday evening 28<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00 pm, and our contribution will focus on 'Peace and Creation'. Other themes relate to biodiversity and insects, birds, animals and their habitats, water, air and food.

The sheer destructive power of warfare is presented to us daily on the television news; whether from Gaza, Ukraine or elsewhere. The waste of the earth's resources in destroying land, buildings and natural habitats is an ecological crime, and the personal suffering of the human lives is heart-breaking for all those involved, and should be also for the rest of the world. Each casualty of war is another reason to pray for and to work for a just peace. War has no winners, only losers.



**PRAYER**  
FOR GODS' CREATION

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

**6.00pm -approx 7.30pm**

**Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 147-155 Kettering Road, NN1 4BS**

Join us for an evening of reflection and prayer focussing on our planet, what is damaging it and what we can do

In association with Northamptonshire Ecumenical Eco Churches Group

"Peace is not merely the absence of war", says the Vatican II document 'Gaudium et Spes', and goes on to say: "Peace results from that order structured into human society by its divine Founder, and actualized by men as they thirst after ever greater justice". (§78)

War is a dis-ordering of God's creation, and is destructive at every imaginable level. It springs from pride, ambition and avarice, it produces death and injury among humans and animals, it causes grief and pain, generates migration and fuels poverty, hatred and injustice.

We are right to focus on the human cost of war and deplore this, but we should not forget the other costs of war; the cost to our ecology and environment and its carbon footprint on our planet.