



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.”**

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VISION

Corpus et Sanguis Christi

At the dawn of time God gave us life: “Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” (*Genesis 2:7*)

Although mankind rebelled against God, God never withdrew his love for us. Psalm 106 recounts at length the sins of the people of Israel, yet begins with this affirmation: “Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever!” (*Psalm 106:1*)

Eventually “when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” (*Galatians 4:4-5*).

Jesus, before his ascension, had promised: “behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age”, and he had shown his disciples how this was to be on the day of his resurrection: “he was known to them in the breaking of the bread”. (*Luke 24:35*)

The ‘Breaking of the Bread’ was central to the life of the early Christian community: “they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (*Acts 2:42*)

It is clear that the first Christians were certain that in the bread and wine of the Eucharist, they were truly eating the flesh and drinking the blood of Jesus. St Paul is absolutely insistent about this: “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.” (*1 Corinthians 11:27*) and he continues: “For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself.” (*1 Corinthians 12:29*)

They remembered what Jesus had taught: “Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.” (*John 6:56*) and even though many who heard him could not accept this and turned away, Jesus made no attempt to calm their disbelief by suggesting that his presence was merely symbolic, but instead challenged his closest disciples, ‘the Twelve’: “Do you want to go away as well?” (*John 6:67*), Peter responded with faith: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” (*John 6:68-69*)



The first Christians did not attempt to work out *how* this happened. Early liturgies make it clear that there is no doubt that the Bread and Wine of the Eucharist *were* the Body and Blood of Christ, and within a short time it became clear within the texts that this was the work of the Holy Spirit. Beyond that, the philosophical implication of this faith was left to later centuries, guided by the Holy Spirit, to express.

As the understanding of the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist grew, so too did devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

The Tabernacle became a focus of prayer outside the time of Mass, Eucharistic Adoration grew in popularity, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and the Forty Hours Devotion became regular parts of the life of the Church, and with them grew growth in holiness and missionary activity as well as many new works of charity.

Vatican II and the Catechism of the Catholic Church speak of the Eucharist as the “source and summit of Christian life”. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church §1324; Lumen Gentium §11*) It is therefore no surprise that an increase in devotion to the Eucharist, both in the celebration of Mass and in prayer to the Blessed Sacrament produces an increase in missionary and charitable activity; the signs of an increase in holiness. It is therefore no surprise that at times in history when these have been greatest have also produced an increase in the number of saints.

One such is Carlo Acutis, whose canonisation has been set for September 7th, having been delayed by the death of Pope Francis. Looking into the life of nearly all the saints about whom enough is known, there is a centre of Eucharistic devotion. When we are reminded of the words of Jesus recorded by St John in chapter 6 of his Gospel, this should come as no surprise to us. Our Gospel this year is St Luke’s account of the feeding of the five thousand, and the twelve baskets left over. This is a sign of both the material feeding of the hungry and of the inexhaustible supply of grace through which century after century the life of the Church and the spiritual life of Christians has been sustained by the gift of the Eucharist; the gift of the abiding presence of Jesus, feeding us now as he fed the first apostles and disciples from Emmaus to the present day.


Today we thank God for this great gift!

Notices of Interest

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. The date of the publication of the new Weekday Missal has been seriously delayed. The new date I have been given is September 27th. The reason for the delay has not been fully explained. Further news when I get it.
Any queries or volunteers please contact Kathleen on 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

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

Safeguarding: In an ideal world everyone should be safe as a matter of course, but our world is not ideal, and we all need protection. Hazards come in many different forms, adverse weather; cold or hot, wet or dry; natural or man-made hazards. Our Christian obligation to love one another requires us seek to keep others (and ourselves) safe. Safeguarding must be, therefore inbuilt into our Christian life. Safeguarding in the Church began with child-protection and has extended to include vulnerable adults. It must also include health and safety and cover every possible hazard that we may meet. It is not just the protection of all of us, it is also the responsibility of all of us. Last month, on 20th May the Church prayed specifically for survivors of abuse, and one of the most frequent complaints from survivors is the bad treatment that they have received. The Catholic Church in England and Wales has set up the 'Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency' (CSSA) which seeks to ensure the highest possible measure of safeguarding in the Church across every diocese and in every religious order. Within our diocese, this must be so in every parish! Please see the name and contact for our Parish Safeguarding Representative in the newsletter, who will be happy to talk to anyone who would be interested in finding more about this important aspect of our faith.

Christians Together Cherishing Creation:
 Everyone is invited to the event in Abington Park on Sun 27th July, from 2 to 4pm. Over the past few years people from St Gregory's have worked together with people from Abington Avenue URC, St Peter's Weston Favell, the Quaker community & other Christian congregations to encourage care for God's creation. Please support this event.

Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (next – 28th June), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially younger, more energetic ones!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be in the Sacristy, 7pm, on Monday 29th July. 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: The Confirmation will be in the afternoon of Sunday September 7th 2025.

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Whatsapp & telephone on the 1st Saturday of the month, in the Hall: 10 am-12pm. This year is the 11th anniversary of our Prayer Meetings and there is a special leaflet available in the narthex for your information.

Art Retreat at the Monastery of Christ our Saviour, Turvey, MK43 8DH on Sat. 19th July, 9.45am-4.30pm. £50 for the day which includes materials, refreshments and a vegetarian lunch. See poster for full booking details.

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. Just £1 for you & any number of children & includes snacks for the children & yourself. Term time only. Looking forward to seeing you!

Called & Equipped: Called & Equipped is a comprehensive year-long formation programme providing a strong foundation in Catholic teaching & spiritual life. It is suitable for Parishioners already involved in ministry or anyone seeking to deepen their faith. See the cards in the Narthex for details of how to get more information.

Peter's Pence Collection: This collection is taken in every Catholic parish across the world at the time of the celebration of the feast of SS Peter & Paul (29th June). Its purpose is to support the Holy Father's mission, which extends throughout the entire world, from the proclamation of the Gospel to the promotion of integral human development, education, peace, & brotherhood among peoples & to support the numerous charitable works in aid of people & families in difficulty, populations afflicted by natural disasters & wars, or who are in need of humanitarian assistance or support for development. Last year the total raised in our Diocese was £11,385.91, for which, many thanks.

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.

Women of Hope: A Special Diocesan Gathering: The Women in Ministry group in the Diocese of Northampton are running a special event on Sat 19th July 2025 at St Mary's Woburn Sands from 11am-4pm. Join us for an opportunity for women across the Diocese to gather, share & celebrate stories of our ministries past & present. We welcome Avril Baigent who will share her experiences of the Synod in Rome & lead us in a synodal listening process. Bishop David will also be joining us for the day & the final liturgy. All welcome! Sign-up using the link: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/northamptondiocese/1600230> Or contact Helen Burgess helen.burgess@northamptondiocese.org

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.

Choir Notes: next practices are from 11-12 on the 2nd Saturday of the month: Aug 9, Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8. *Alec*

40 Hours of Prayer - "Quarant' Ore": This will start with Mass at 7am Frid 18th July & continue until Mass at 10pm Sat 19th July. There will be a sign-up sheet, and groups wishing to lead particular times are invited to participate. This is an important part of the prayer-life of the parish, & over the course of the 40 hours, it is hoped that everyone will find just one hour to be with the Lord.

Gregory Care: Forthcoming events for your diary:

➔ **NEXT SUNDAY — 29th June** Picnic in the park. Please come
20th September African Unity in Diversity Event. We are looking for someone to help organise this day, so if you are African and would like to showcase your culture please get in touch with us.
15th November Indian Unity in Diversity Event.
Our first Event hosted by our Romanian and Polish communities was a great success and has set a very high bar (not that it's a competition!)

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

Scripture Readings: Corpus Christi, 22nd June 2025

In Eucharistic Prayer I – the Roman canon – we hear these words just after the Consecration: "the bread and wine offered by your priest Melchizedek". Melchizedek, the Canaanite priest-king of Jerusalem, offered food and drink to Abram and his 318 retainers as they returned from victory, blessing Abram in the name of the one God they both believed in. Abram accepted Melchizedek's blessing and gave him a tithe (a tenth of everything he had). Their shared meal confirmed them both as God's people.

When David captured Jerusalem he took over this priest-kingship. Hence today's Psalm praising David, appointed by God as a "priest for ever of the order of Melchizedek", while also asserting the dignity of the Messiah as both king and royal priest.

The author of Hebrews saw Melchizedek's priesthood as superior to the Levitical priesthood and saw Jesus, descendent of David, with his gift of bread and wine to his disciples, as succeeding to this ancient priesthood.

Paul had told the Corinthians to stop misbehaving during the Eucharist. He then gave this earliest description we have of its institution during the last meal Christ shared with his disciples before Calvary.

Melchizedek's offering of food to Abram is echoed in the feeding of the 5,000 in the Gospel, anticipating Christ giving himself to us as heavenly food in the Eucharist.

Psalm Response: **You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.**
(Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 109(110):1-4; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Luke 9:11-17)

Chris Oliver

Chant used for the Communion procession at 11.00



If you have not already, please register as soon as you can, and include your home address, telephone number and email address in the 'About You' tab and ask for the newsletter in the 'Your Church' tab. It is helpful if you can indicate which Mass you normally attend.

www.caspar.church/me?ID=56067

You will need internet access for a security code which will be sent to you by email. (Check junk/spam and set CASPAR not to be treated as spam.)

CASPAR
"Your Church" tab.
Please sign up. To receive the newsletter at home; choose the 'email' box at the bottom of the window.

You can also indicate which Mass you usually come to.

Abington Park

We are very blessed in this side of Northampton with our parks and green areas. This Sunday, with expected good weather, please come to the park for a picnic at lunchtime. If the writing on the reprint of the poster is too small, please look at the real thing in the church.

Please also take note of the poster below for next month on Saturday afternoon, 27th July where we hope to showcase the Church's care for creation.