



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

My peace I give you

These words from the Gospel are said at every Mass:

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

The Roman Missal describes this as where ‘the Church entreats peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family’. The words of the prayer were widely adopted by the ecumenical movement, as seeking ‘Christian Unity’, but it is clear that it cannot only relate to that end.

In the early years of the Church when every Christian was at risk of persecution, and possibly martyrdom, those words of the Gospel were related to the peace of the individual, seeking to live out a life of faith without risk. In that context, the words that we hear in the Gospel next are significant:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”

The link between fear and a lack of peace is demonstrated over and over again throughout history. It is present in our own time, where the leadership of Russia fears that NATO is a threat, and likewise NATO fears that Russia is a threat. As a consequence each builds up a stockpile of weaponry, initially as defence against the perceived threat, but then, tragically succumbs to the idea that the best form of defence is attack.

It was fear that first provoked persecution of the Church — fear that following Jesus undermined Jewish religion and tradition; fear that refusing to worship the pantheon of ‘gods’ of the Roman empire, (including the Emperor himself) indicated a lack of loyalty to the Empire. It was fear that provoked the persecution of Catholics in the reign of Elizabeth I — fear that Catholics would support a Spanish invasion of England.

St John speaks of this from a different angle:

“God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. . . There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love” (1 John 4:16-18)

St John is speaking about our love for God as a response to his love for us, but what he says is true at a human interpersonal level and globally.

For those receiving Holy Communion for the first time, and for all who may have been coming to Communion for many years, the words of St John should be a guide to us; that God lives in those who live in love. The gift of the Eucharist is a gift of love, given by God out of his infinite love for us. He gave us Jesus to give his life to us on the cross, and continues to give us Jesus as our food for life.

When we receive Communion, God truly lives in us — abides in us. If we receive him in love, there can be no place for fear of God. Last week we heard his command that we must love one another, and if that love is perfect, there can be no place for fear. We also read the description of love as: “actively willing the good of the other, as other” (Bishop Robert Barron, *Catholicism*, page 48, quoting St Thomas Aquinas, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* at paragraph 1766.)

This must be seen as a pattern for ourselves, but can also be seen as a pattern for international relations. Manifestly the actions of the Russian military are not aimed at promoting the good of Ukraine, but this yardstick can also be used as a measure of the relationship between Great Britain and the European Union; or the British government and those seeking a safe place to live. To seek only one’s own advantage is to fail in love, and failing in love is a threat to peace.

Congratulations to those receiving Holy Communion for the first time this Sunday

Sara Jezakowska Sophia Connors Mary Connors Larry Connors Billy Connors Gisele Connors Irene Connors Andy Connors

May God’s blessing be with you always; may you grow in discipleship, in knowledge and love of God and in service to all mankind.

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for Easter & June 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 and there is a display of Confirmation cards and mementoes. 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*



We welcome into the family of the Church
Jason Patrick Blajut
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for him and his family.



Diocesan Pilgrimage, Walsingham: 4th June: A coach will leave from St. Gregory's at 8am on Sat. 4th June, leaving Walsingham at about 5.00pm. **Cost £16 per person (payable in advance).** Please see poster for full details. **To book, please speak to Caryll in the Office, or add your details to the list in the Lobby area and see one of the Clergy to pay.**

Hilary Green RIP: Many thanks for the prayers, Mass cards and condolences following the death of my sister, Hilary. Mass will be said for your intentions. *Michael*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 30th May, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: The preparation now turns to the receiving of Holy Communion for the first time, and we look forward to this in May. Thanks also to the parents in providing support and becoming catechists for their own children.

Confirmation in 2022: Sessions will run on Sunday mornings from 10.15 - 11.30. Please join us for 9am Mass as part of this course. Confirmation Mass is Saturday 2nd July at midday.

Red Boxes/Missio for Foreign Missions/Mill Hill Fathers:

Despite difficult financial times, 2021 was a good year for Missio, supported through prayer, with almost £2.5 million donated through England & Wales via Red Boxes, direct debits, cheques or online. Northampton Diocese raised £66,000+ - St Gregory's contribution being £4,177 - a bumper year after some lean COVID ones. Thanks & God bless those who helped. The founder of this network, Pauline Jaricot, will be beatified 22 May this year. Visit www.missio.org.uk to find out more about Pauline & how your support of Missio changes lives for the better. If you wish to become one of our donors or need other details please contact Alec or Dorothy.

Pauline Jaricot; today, Blessed Pauline Jaricot:

She was born in 1799 in Lyon, the daughter of prosperous a silk merchant, who grew up in the social whirl of the well-off. Her parents were faithful Catholics and gave her a good up-bringing, but she was attracted by the things of this world until a bout of ill-health. The visit of a priest brought her back to a lively faith, and she turned her back on her silk finery and devoted herself to the care of the poor. She also started a collection for the missions, asking people to give 1 sou a week. (A sou was 5 centimes; the smallest coin in regular circulation) From this grew the 'Propagation de la Foi' which came to England as the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF). Together with the Mill Hill Missionaries, they began the 'Red Box' collections, which continue to this day. She had a clear vision of her vocation and purpose as a lay-woman in the Church. May her prayers encourage many people today to recognise their vocation in the Church.

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

Choir Matters: Practices start after evening Mass, 1st Thursday each month: 7:45-9pm. The June practice is one week earlier to coincide with Ascension Thursday's evening Mass, May 26. Other dates are July 7, Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6. Old age & infirmity are catching up with some familiar voices - including myself - & new members are needed... the view from the Gallery is great. *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.

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)**

Planned Giving Envelopes: If you use envelopes, please take your new box from beside the confessionals. Apologies to any who have transferred to standing orders but have still been issued with envelopes. Standing orders are managed by the Diocesan Finance Office, and the parish does not always have full details.

Parish and Diocesan Finances: A new financial year has begun, and as soon as we have the complete accounts from the Diocese, they will be published. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, and if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

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

Wednesday evening Bible Study by Zoom: 8 week course on Romans led by Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, subtitled "The Gospel of Salvation".

Session 1, 18th May	Introduction:
Session 2, 25th May	Chapters 1-2:
Session 3, 1st June	Chapters 3-4:
Session 4, 8th June	Chapters 5-6:
Session 5, 15th June	Chapters 7-8:
Session 6, 22nd June	Chapters 9-11:
No session on June 29th	Feast of SS Peter and Paul, Mass at 7.00 pm
No session on 6th July	Diocesan 'Year of the Word' Webinar on the Sunday readings through the summer
Session 7, 13 th July	Chapters 12-13:
Session 8, 20 th July	Chapters 14-16: The End of the Story.

Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

Tots @ St Gregory's: TINY TOTS look forward to seeing you: if you have charge of a pre-school child, from 9:30- 11:30 on a Tuesday morning, you are most welcome!

Monday evening Zoom session: This is taking a break for the summer. New courses will start in the autumn.

Scripture Readings 22nd May 2022, 6th Sunday of Easter, Year C

In Acts, after the success of the first mission of Paul and Barnabas in setting up Gentile churches, Jewish Christian visitors from Jerusalem came to Antioch saying Gentiles must be circumcised to be saved. So Barnabas and Paul went up to Jerusalem for what is called the First Council of the church. The issue appears simple, but underneath were two other issues: whether Christianity could remain within Judaism; and whether Paul's new Gentile Christian communities could remain in communion with the rest of the church. The Holy Spirit leads the discussion to a decision.

The Psalm calls on all peoples to praise the Lord because he governs wisely and makes the earth give food.

From Revelation we have part of John's vision of the new Jerusalem, the church, founded on the apostles. Here Christ dwells among men, so no Temple needed.

In John's gospel, Jesus' Last Supper discourse shows his joy that he will soon return to his Father. He promises to send "another" Advocate who will make Jesus present in his church for the rest of time. The name "advocate" captures the several roles the Holy Spirit plays in the church and for us. He both consoles and advises or counsels us, while also representing us to God in the heavenly court.

Psalm Response: **Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

(Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Psalm 66(67); Rev 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29)

Chris Oliver

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

LIFETEEN SUMMER CAMP 2022

Sunday 24th to Thursday 28th July 2022
Alton Castle: For more information and to go to the bookings page visit <https://nymo.org/summercamp/>

40 Hours Adoration

There will be our annual 40 hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for 2022, from 7.00 am on June 24th until 11.00 pm on Saturday June 25th. Please keep this date in your diary.

ALPHA IS NOW RUNNING

The current Alpha course is now in progress, but there will be another starting in the autumn.

There is a small team of leaders and helpers. Now is not too soon to be thinking about whether you could join them. Catherine Mulligan leads the catering team, and offers of help in the kitchen and in the preparation of the hall on Tuesday afternoons is always welcome.

DID YOU KNOW?

Everyone is surely aware that the country; indeed most of the world is facing a financial crisis. At the domestic level, this is acutely felt by every household. Of course, it is also felt by the Church.

One of the characteristics of the Church is that we are committed to giving to other needy causes, and every year it is our aim that we will give away at least 10% of the total money that we are given.

St Gregory's parish is recognised as a significant giver to both CAFOD and to Missio. CAFOD is the Catholic Church's chief initiative for providing aid and development for overseas countries. We have been supporting the international and multi-agency project which is seeking to ensure that every person has access to clean and safe drinking water, as well as the particular aid projects that are the focus of the Lent and Harvest collections. CAFOD is part of the international agency called 'Caritas', which is one of the biggest aid agencies in the world.

Missio is the Catholic Church's international missionary organisation. While it is primarily concerned with the proclamation of the Gospel, it is also inevitably concerned for the material wellbeing of the communities in which it works, and partners with Caritas wherever there is need.

We are not only concerned with overseas aid; we support local aid organisations. It was a parishioner of St Gregory's, Val Hanson who was instrumental in starting what is now the Hope Centre, and from the beginning, St Gregory's has been a weekly and generous supporter of their work in feeding the homeless in Northampton. Our regular gifts of food are much appreciated, together with the financial help that is given.

More recently the Cathedral Foodstore has been established. This began as a means of supporting needy families during the

pandemic; initially for families with children in the Catholic schools of our town, but now extended. St Gregory's made a commitment to provide toiletries, a frequently forgotten domestic necessity.

This is undertaken by Gregory Care, who also support those who live in the parish and are in material need, not simply by giving money, but by helping individuals and families to manage financially.

When we started to provide refreshments after the 9.00 Sunday Mass and on Wednesdays, it was decided that **ALL** the takings should be allocated to charitable concerns, with the exception of through the summer when we would use the money to buy the tea and coffee and other necessities and stock up.

This is how it works:

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

Now that we are offering refreshments after the 11.00 Mass every Sunday, we hope that this form of giving will grow. Following popular request, we are only serving ground coffee, and are committed to fair trade. When you come in for refreshments, please remember the good causes that we are supporting.