



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

He must be King

“Shepherd- King, o’er mountains steep
homeward bring the wandering sheep.
Shelter in one royal fold
states and kingdoms, new and old.”

Patrick Brennan

The coupling of Shepherd and King is interesting. We think of the ‘King’ as the highest in the land, while shepherding is not regarded as a ‘high-status’ occupation. In describing Jesus as both shepherd and king, the Scriptures are making an important statement about both, and about our ideas of status.

It is also interesting to compare Christian ideas with those of other faiths. Hinduism has a concept called ‘Rajdhama’; usually translated as the ‘Duties of Kingship’. This lists ten specific duties:

1. **Liberality, generosity, charity.**
The ruler should not have craving and attachment for wealth and property, but should give it away for the welfare of the people.
2. **High and moral character.**
He should never destroy life, cheat, steal and exploit others, commit adultery, or utter falsehood.
3. **Sacrificing everything for the good of the people.**
He must be prepared to give up all personal comfort, name and fame, and even his life, in the interest of the people.
4. **Honesty and integrity.**
He must be free from fear and favour in the discharge of his duties, must be sincere in his intentions, and must not deceive the public.
5. **Kindness and gentleness.**
He must possess a genial temperament.
6. **Austerity of habits.**
He must lead a simple life, and should not indulge in a life of luxury. He must have self-control.
7. **Freedom from envy, ill-will, enmity.**
He should bear no grudge against anybody.
8. **Non-violence.**
Which means not only that he should harm nobody, but that he should try to promote peace by avoiding and preventing war, and everything which involves violence and destruction of life.

9. **Patience, forbearance, tolerance, understanding.**

He must be able to bear hardships, difficulties and insults without losing his temper.

10. **Non-opposition, non-obstruction.**

That is to say that he should not oppose the will of the people, should not obstruct any measures that are conducive to the welfare of the people. In other words he should rule in harmony with the people.

In this list, we can see how Jesus rightly serves as a model of earthly kingship — in each of these duties, he demonstrates what royal duties involve.

In the book of the Apocalypse, we read the new hymn of the saints:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and break the seals of it, because you were sacrificed, and with your blood you bought men for God of every race, language, people and nation and made them a line of kings and priests, to serve our God and to rule the world.” (*Apocalypse 5:9-10*)

Through our Baptism, we are called into this kingly vocation as we are called to be one with Christ, and therefore the duties of kingship fall on each one of us. We can find Biblical parallels for each of the Hindu ‘Duties of Kingship’; indeed the Sermon on the Mount provides us with a very similar picture of duty.

Fundamental to this is the kingship is a responsibility, not a privilege; it is a state of service, not of being served, and exists for the benefit of the people, not for the benefit of the King.

Our Baptism gives us a high calling a call to be the ‘highest in the land’, and to be a shepherd. Traditional Christian teaching speaks of the ‘pastoral responsibility’, with the Pope and the ‘supreme Pastor’, among the bishops. Our Patron, Pope, St Gregory the Great wrote a book entitled “Cura Pastoralis”; King Alfred translated it into English — the first book ever written in English! — He understood his pastoral role as ‘servant of the servants of God’; that the Christian life is one of service: “whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave, just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (*Matthew 20:27-28*).

As we celebrate the Kingship of Christ, we should be under no illusions as to what this means for us; if we are to be one with Christ, we too are here not to be served but to serve; and not only to serve Christ himself, but to serve all those whom Christ came to save.

Notices of Interest

An Important Notice Regarding the Celebration of Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: We are instructed that there will be no public Masses until at least 3rd December; however, Mass will continue to be said privately, daily, and this will be on the parish website and our parish Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StGregsNorthampton>. The church is open every day from 9.00 am until 10.30 am; thanks to a generous anonymous donation, the heating will be on! Each day there is adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during this time.

Statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales We obey the Government Regulations in solidarity with so many others on whom are being imposed restrictions which impact severely on their lives and livelihoods. It is important to recognise that these Regulations are not an attack on religious belief. However, they do demonstrate a fundamental lack of understanding of the essential contribution made by faith communities to the well-being, resilience and health of our society. At this difficult moment, we ask that, as a Catholic community, we make full use of our churches as places of individual prayer and sources of solace and help.

Gift Aid Envelopes: Although we are not allowed to celebrate Mass, the Church will still be open daily from 9am until 10.30am for private prayer. **It would be very helpful if you could bring any green envelopes in during this time** and place them in either the CAFOD box by the office door (at the back of the Church) or in the candle money box to the left of the foyer door. Thank you!

Repository: We have a stock of Calendars, diaries and Christmas cards available. If you wish to buy any, please come to the Church between 9 and 10.30am and speak to a Steward who will show you what to do and where to go.

Counters: As we are now, once again, in lockdown, counting will cease until such time as we are cleared to have public services again. Hopefully the next count will be on 9th December!

Supporting CAFOD and the Hope Centre: Please see the respective websites to make donations for CAFOD and / or the Hope Centre: <https://cafod.org.uk/>
<https://northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

Bible Alive for November 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.

Prayer Course: Are you interested in finding out more about prayer? Whether you're new to it or whether you've been praying for years, there's always more to experience. Join us for the prayer course on zoom from Thurs 22 October, 8.00 to 9.30 pm, then every 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at the same time. To register & receive zoom details please email Maria: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School. If you have a child due to start primary school in September 2021, St Gregory's are welcoming parents to visit the school and see it in action. Contact 01604 403511 to arrange a visit. Closing date for place applications is 15th January 2021 at 5pm.

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), of which CAFOD is an active member has launched a nationwide appeal for funds.
Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal> or use a CAFOD envelope and give through the parish.

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.

Exploring the Post-Lockdown Church: The webinar series has been wonderful, and thank you to all who promoted it and came along throughout the series. We have had 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.

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.

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 contact Deacon Michael direct (01604) 647750, E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com for information.

First Holy Communion 2020: We are happy to announce that enrolment for next year's programme for any child wishing to make their First Holy Communion who is in school year 3, 4, 5 or 6 will take place soon. The enrolment will be on line in December, so watch this space! At the moment we can't give any more details of how or when the preparation will take place but rest assured, it will!

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

Parish Finances: As colder weather is here & we need to turn the heating on, our finances will come under a bit of strain. We have kept solvent through the lockdown; great thanks to all who have been so generous.

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)**

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

Tip No. 114 Living sustainably with creation: In Scotland doctors have piloted "prescribing" outdoor activities for both physical and mental health benefits. LivingSimply! How much has the modern world forgotten?

Tip No. 115 Solidarity with the Poor: Around the world COVID has caused widespread unemployment but it is the children who starve. worldgifts.cafod.org.uk OR phone 0800 14 000 14

Scripture Readings 22nd November 2020, Christ the King, Year A

Ezekiel was writing in Babylon (now Baghdad) after Israel's exile in 587 BC. He encourages the Israelites, despairing after their crushing defeat. Because he loves his people, God will take over their care and protection from their failed leaders, and provide a new King from David's line.

In the Psalm, a shepherd's care and protection for the sheep he leads, and a host's welcome at a banquet, illustrate God's loving care for us.

From 51 AD Paul worked for about eighteen months with the Christians in Corinth. Five years later he wrote to correct some of their enthusiasms, including doubting the resurrection of the body. Greeks tended to see the spirit as more important than the body and how they behaved in this life. But Paul insists that it is the whole person – body and spirit – that is raised, just as Christ appeared in his risen body to many of his followers after his Resurrection.

In Matthew's gospel, in his final speech before his Passion, Jesus describes the Last Judgement when Jesus is enthroned as King. These are the terrifying criteria he will use: have we fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked, visited the sick and those in prison? Dies Irae – Day of Wrath – indeed!

Psalm Response: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

(Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17 ; Ps 22:1-3. 5-6 r.1; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Matt 25:31-46)

Chris Oliver

6.00 pm. Daily Prayer

In union with the Church of England and other Christian denominations, we are asked to join in daily prayer during this lockdown, and daily intentions are suggested. We have a tradition of saying the Angelus at 6.00 each evening. We could make these prayers after saying the Angelus:

- Sunday:** Family, friends, and loved ones;
- Monday:** Schools and colleges, children, and young people;
- Tuesday:** The elderly, those who are isolated and vulnerable;
- Wednesday:** Businesses, the workplace, and economic wellbeing;
- Thursday:** The NHS and other key workers;
- Friday:** National and local governments;
- Saturday:** All who are grieving, those suffering with physical and mental health.

A Prayer to say each day this week

Lord Jesus Christ,
in these dark and difficult days, we turn our hearts to you.
In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster.
Do it again, we pray.
Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders,
Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS and all our
frontline workers.
Give comfort beyond human comfort to the elderly and all who
grieve.
Lord Jesus Christ,
in these dark and difficult days,
turn your face towards us,
have mercy upon us,
and heal our land, we pray. Amen.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Jubilee of the Passionist Order

On 22nd November 1720 young Paul Danei, founder of the Passionists, began a 40-day retreat in the small cell of the Church of San Carlo in Castellazzo. During this retreat he wrote the Rule of "The Poor of Jesus", the future Congregation of the Passion. He adopted the religious name of Paul of the Cross and, over time, the members of the Congregation assumed the name "Passionists", in keeping with the commission that Our Lady had given to Paul—to preach the Passion of Jesus Christ as "the greatest and most wonderful work of divine love" capable of transforming humanity and the entire world. Amongst those who followed this vocation was Blessed Dominic Barberi (Bottom right in the icon) who came to England and was responsible for the beginnings of the 'Second Spring', the revival of the Church in England which led to the restoration of the hierarchy and the establishment of our Diocese.



The Icon to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Passionists

God our Father,
you gifted St Paul of the Cross with such a fervent heart
that he would inflame then world with the love of Jesus crucified. .
Grant us, we pray, to share in the same passionate experience
so that we may announce to our brothers and sisters,
especially the crucified of our time,
the merciful love of the Crucified and Risen Lord. Amen



St Paul of the Cross

Born: 3rd January 1694, North Italy
Influenced by St Francis de Sales
'Treatise on the Love of God'
Order founded: 1720
Ordained: 7th June 1727 in Rome
Died: 18th October 1775 in Rome
Canonised: 29th June 1867

Message from Bishop David:

Conference of England and Wales declared this year 2020 as: THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: A YEAR OF THE WORD” and chose the theme in line with the spirit of the document, Verbum Domini. This initiative will be continued through 2021, not least because of the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The God Who Speaks- Our Liturgy of the Word

A Series of 3 Online Zoom Sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year. A valuable opportunity to develop our engagement with the Scriptures that we hear proclaimed at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Led by Mgr Kevin McGinnell, Chair of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission and Alex Heath is Adviser for Adult Faith Formation

Tuesday 17 November 2020, (7.30-8.30 pm) Preparing the Way for

the Lord. Mark’s Gospel & The Season of Advent

Tuesday 19 January 2021, (7.30-8.30 pm) ‘He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures’ (Lk 24:45) ^[1] _[SEP] The importance of God’s Word for Christian identity & everyday living

Tuesday 16 February 2021, 7.30-8.30 pm: ‘Many more began to believe in him because of his Word’ (John 4:41) John’s Gospel & The Season of Lent

Each session will include input, prayer and the opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Cost: No charge but there will be the opportunity to make a donation. Please register in advance to secure a place by e mail or phone: email admin@nores.org.uk Once you booking is received you will be sent details of how to join the online Zoom sessions.



SECOND COLLECTIONS

13th September
4th October
11th October
18th October
15th November
29th November
13th December
20th December

Holy Places
CAFOD
Peter’s Pence
World Mission
World Communications
Day for Life
Home Mission
Sea Sunday

