

The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234951

OUR
VISION

**“A truly thriving Catholic community,
confidently and humbly proclaiming the
Good News of Jesus Christ.”**

OUR
VISION



The Giving of the Keys to Peter

This fresco by Pietro Perugino is one of a series of paintings in the Sistine Chapel depicting scenes in the life of Christ, showing the moment described in today's Gospel, but set in an entirely anachronistic context. There are some who might complain about this, but since we cannot know the exact view of Caesarea Philippi, any attempt at realism would be imaginary and probably wrong.

This representation invites us to recognise that the story has an eternal significance, and therefore was true in the first century, was still true in the fifteenth when this was painted, and remains true in the twenty-first.

Christ and the twelve apostles in the foreground are dressed in what was believed to be 1st century dress, while in the same group are figures in 15th century dress, among them is a self-portrait of the artist. Disciples of Christ are to be found in every age, including our own.

In the middle ground are two apparently disconnected scenes – they are separate events in the life of Christ; to the left, the demand of the tax to Caesar (*Matthew 17:24*), and to the right the attempted stoning of Jesus recorded by John (*John 8:59*). Read in context, both these events reflect the divinity of Christ.

In the background are three buildings representing classical architecture, (actually the Arch of Constantine is depicted twice and in the centre is the baptistery at Florence).

The painting has a huge significance in the private chapel of the successor of Peter, and should remind us of the beautiful words of Christ: “Whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”.

What a wonderful experience of divine mercy it is to hear those words of grace: “I absolve you from your sins”.



23rd August 2020
Twenty First Sunday of the Year
Parish Mass Book - Year A
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 Northampton. NN3 2HS
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Each day, Mass will be celebrated in church at 9am (except Thursdays which will be at 7pm), and with numbers limited. Mass will continue to be available on the Parish website, and on the parish Facebook page (StGregsNorthampton).

Sunday <i>21st Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am	Mass Mass	The Parish Maggie Ndekwe's Intentions
Monday St. Bartholomew	9.00 am	Mass	Imelda & Patrick Devenney
Tuesday St. Louis	9.00 am	Mass	Frances & Joe Holt & Family
Wednesday B. Dominic of the Mother of God	9.00 am	Mass	Rev. Robin Cooper RIP
Thursday St. Monica	9.00 am to 12 noon 7.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Mass	Philip Ndekwe RIP
Friday St. Augustine	9.00 am	Mass	Clare O'Rourke RIP
Saturday The Passion of St. John the Baptist	9.00 am	Mass	Canonisation of Bl. Cyprian Tansi
Sunday <i>22nd Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am	Mass Mass	The Parish Canonisation of Bl. Cyprian Tansi

Please pray for the sick:

Anniversaries:
May they Rest in Peace

Edith Perkins	Marjorie Mallon
Frederick Kitchener	Charles Osborn
Arthur McGill	Carla Fenlon
Mary Clifford	Edwin Stenson
Ellen Jackson	Florence Percival
Michael Spittals	Alfred Lack
Thomas McKinney	Mary Lawrie
Daphne Wimborne	Edmund Barrett
Robin Cooper	Leonard Rush
John Barry	Evelyn Osborn
Jose Pallett	Joan Phelan
Harold McLoughlin	John Lynch
Bernard Kelly	

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £187.63. Thank you!
Standing Order gifts to the Parish: Each week £551 is given through standing orders.
Gift Aid benefits to the parish: The value of Gift Aid averages £133 per week.
Cleaners This Week: There is no Church cleaning at the moment.
Counters This Week: AB & LA

Readings for this Sunday

*I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder.
 All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him.
 You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of
 heaven.*

Readings for next Sunday

Jeremiah 20: 7-9; Romans 12: 1-2; Matthew 16: 21-27. (Page 68)

During this season Human Life; Seafarers;
of Ordinary Time, Summer. Victims of Persecution/Oppression;
We are Asked to pray for Europe; Christian/Jewish Relations.

Are you new to the Parish? You are welcome! Please introduce yourself to the Clergy
In hospital? Let the Chaplaincy know on 01604 714556
If you are in need, please ring Gregory Care on 07982 235379. Someone will respond as soon as possible. Please be patient.

Instructions on face covering during the pandemic

All, except those exempt, are to wear face coverings during public worship. The communicant should approach the place of communion, undo their face covering, receive the Host in their hand, and after consuming the Host replace their face covering. Please remember that you should consume the Host before you move away. The obligation to attend Sunday & Holy Day Mass remains lifted & those who are shielding, those who feel vulnerable (whether officially so or not) & those who feel unwell (whether with 'official' CoVid-19 symptoms or not) should not attend Mass.

Maud Currid RIP

Please pray for the soul of Maud Currid who died peacefully in Northampton General Hospital on Wednesday 12th August. Her funeral Mass will be on Thursday September 3rd at 11.00 am.
 Jesu Mercy Mary Pray

Deacon Michael Graney RIP

Please pray for the soul of Deacon Michael Graney who died on Monday 10th August 2020, peacefully in his nursing home in Somerset. His funeral will be on September 2nd at the Mendip Crematorium. (Limited numbers)

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
FOR AUGUST

We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

An act of Spiritual Communion

I prostrate myself at your feet, O my Jesus, and I offer you the repentance of my heart, which abases itself in its nothingness and in your Holy Presence.
 I adore You in the Sacrament of your Love; I desire to receive You in the poor abode that my heart offers You.
 While awaiting the happiness of Sacramental Communion, I wish to possess you in spirit. Come to me, O my Jesus, that I may come to You. May your Love inflame my whole being in life and in death.
 Jesus, I believe in You, I hope in You, I love You.
 Amen.

Pope Francis [20 March 2020]

Notices of Interest

Confession: Confession will be available between 9.30 am and 12.00 noon daily, but please email first to arrange a time to ensure that Fr Andrew is free.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: From 9.00 am to 12 noon on Thursdays, and then following Mass in the evening there will be Adoration until 8.30 pm.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Victoria Chereches
who received Christian Baptism last week.
Please pray for her and her family.

The Office: The office will be closed this week (24th-28th August inc). Please see one of the Clergy if you need anything. *Caryll*

For Parents and Teachers. CAFOD have launched a National Assembly which can be used at home. It is all about CAFOD's 'Summer of Hope' and informs, inspires and encourages children, at a time when children may really need it. It is led by passionate youths and is a real must-watch! <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Summer-hope-assembly>

CAFOD Corona Virus online petition: Out of love for our brothers & sisters please sign the online petition to our Prime Minister asking him to ensure the most vulnerable people are a priority in the UK's international efforts as well as at home. Visit <https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1> to sign the petition online.

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/>

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), of which CAFOD is an active member has launched a nationwide appeal for funds. CAFOD is working in the most deprived areas of the world, helping local communities stricken by coronavirus to survive by:

- Delivering food to where it is needed most.
- Improving hygiene, handwashing and sanitation at the community and household level.
- Producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention.
- Training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns.

Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal> or use a CAFOD envelope and give through the parish. There will be an opportunity to give to the appeal this Sunday.

Global Healing: The Bishops' Conference have produced a film entitled "Global Healing", which can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/environment/global-healing/global-healing-films/main-film/>. It highlights the state of our planet & looks more closely at the Pope's encyclical letter on caring for our common home – Laudato si'.

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.

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

Bible Alive for August & September 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. Please help yourself to a copy of The Crusader.

Forthcoming Alpha Course: The next Alpha Course was due to start on Tuesday April 21st. In view of the current projections for the Coronavirus pandemic, we have to postpone this course. However, those who have registered will be kept informed about any change of date. Much the easiest way to enrol is through the web-site at <http://stgregory.org.uk/alpha/>.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be on Monday 7th September at 7pm in the Sacristy. **Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 0799908997 before you attend to book your place.**

First Holy Communion — 2020: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established.

Confirmation – 3rd Preparation Session: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established. There is a provisional date for Confirmation of 20th November (Note change).

Notice from the Diocese

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)**

Holy Communion and face masks: Last week instructions were given that the wearing of face masks was to become compulsory in churches; this has now come into force; and you should wear one if you are not exempt. Stewards are not responsible for policing this, but may remind you that this now the law. However, you clearly cannot have your mouth covered while receiving Holy Communion! The Church's rule is that you consume the Host before you move away from the minister. Please remove your mask before being given the Host. Priest and Deacon wear face-coverings for your protection.

Becoming a Catholic: For adults interested in becoming a Catholic, the parish runs Journey in Faith process (RCIA). Also offered for adults who are Catholic, but have not received all the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist. Please speak to Alex Heath (07963032175) or Fr Andrew.

Online Prayer resources during this time

Live-streamed Mass from the Cathedral
<http://northamptoncathedral.org/live/>

Live-streamed Mass from Walsingham
<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

EWTN
<https://www.ewtn.com/tv>

Sacred Space guided prayer
<https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Scripture Readings 23rd August 2020, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's reading from Isaiah helps us to understand the tremendous power Jesus gives to Peter and the Apostles: Eliakim, newly appointed as "master of the palace", is given complete authority to decide who may enter the House of David – and who may not. And he is to be "a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the House of Judah".

The Psalmist thanks the Lord for answering his prayer, while calling on all rulers to join in this hymn of thanks for the Lord's words.

Earlier in his letter to the Romans, Paul suggested that he was sent as the apostle to the pagans "in order to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them". Israel, even while attacking the gospel, is still God's "beloved", since God never takes back his promises. Now Paul gasps in awe and wonder at the daring brilliance of God's plan, which we can never fully comprehend.

This chapter of Matthew's gospel began with Jesus finally breaking off discussions with the Jewish authorities. Now recognised as divine, Jesus, begins to form his disciples into a community to continue his work after his death. Like Eliakim, Peter, and – in chapter 18 – all the Apostles, are given authority to make eternal decisions, which will be upheld by God.

Psalm Response:

**Your love, O Lord, is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.**

(Is 22:19-23; Ps 137(138); Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20)

Chris Oliver

The Season of Creation

Tip No. 92:

Living sustainably with creation: *electricity is now not made from fossil fuels: coal or oil. So we now need to choose cars using electricity. Hybrid is partly electric while others are fully electric, both save climate changes. Only diesel damages the planet and produces tiny particulates that poison human lungs..*

Tip No. 93:

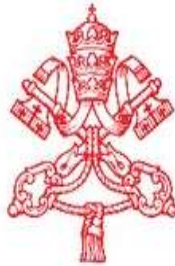
Solidarity with the Poor: *Short distances can be covered by walking, cycling or scooting; make the time to do it.*

Actions to LiveSimply : Communication regularly (telephone) with of our , 'family in faith,' can cheer our predicament, or with eye contact using WhatsApp, Messenger or Skype.

Many thanks to Harry and Helen Charles who have offered to co-ordinate our parish's work towards the "Living Simply Award". Anyone who is interested is being involved in this, please contact them, or speak to Fr Andrew

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development was established by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, in August 2016.

It promotes integral human development by encouraging a better relationship between humanity and the Earth. This allows for reawakening the dignity of individuals and peoples based upon the need for the material and spiritual maturity that each one of us possesses, improving at the same time the environmental, social, cultural and religious conditions in which we live.



**DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Therefore, the Dicastery, in dialogue with the members of the Church, international organizations and civil society, confronting believers and non-believers, proposes activities, projects and initiatives of study and reflection dedicated to a greater elucidation of *Laudato Si*; to the environment and to ecology, helping to spread a culture of respect for the planet and the human being; to the right to land; to the development of agriculture; to the correct management of energy, water and subsoil sources; to mining and extraction activities; to the rights of indigenous peoples.

Last year, the Holy Father Pope Francis officially invited the faithful to participate in this annual "season of increased prayer and effort on behalf of our common home." As the Holy Father said, "this is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew," a season "to reflect on our lifestyles," and a season "for undertaking prophetic actions . . . calling for courageous decisions . . . directing the planet towards life, not death."

Pope Francis' message, which calls us to attend to the "immense hardship for the most vulnerable among us," is particularly relevant in the light of the coronavirus pandemic. As the world experiences deep uncertainty and suffering in the midst of a global emergency, we are called to recognize that a truly healthy recovery means seeing that "everything is connected" and repairing the bonds we have broken. We realize that we need to grow more and more in solidarity and take care of one another in fraternity.

Inspired by the apostolic exhortation *Querida Amazonia*, we encourage the people of God to accelerate their walks towards *new paths for the Church and for an integral ecology* by planning activities for the Season of Creation. These might include activities such as a special mass or pilgrimage walk, sustainability practices, or advocacy initiatives to respond to the "cry of the earth and the cry of the poor," to take place during this special season.

This special season offers us the chance to work toward the renewal of our Earth and the precious relationships we share.



During this time of restricted public worship, please keep reading the Bible. The September "Bible Alive" is now available — see the note elsewhere in this newsletter.

