



# 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 Word of God

“The Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord's Body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the bread of life, taken from the one table of God's Word and Christ's Body.”

*(Catechism of the Catholic Church §103)*

This is indeed the truth, manifested by the fact that the Fathers of the Church - the great theologians of the early years of the Christian Faith - were constantly quoting the Scriptures; manifested by the first translation of the Bible into the language of the people by St Jerome; manifested by the fact that so many of the Saints down the ages read the Bible, and many are recorded as having memorised large parts of it; manifested by translations into English and many other languages which were approved by the Church.

Sadly, in spite of all this evidence, some opponents of the Church have laid the accusation against the Catholic Church that we do not value or respect the Bible.

What is even sadder is that some Catholics have believed this too! However, we only need to read the Catechism of the Catholic Church to realise that this is wrong.

Many history books (even recent ones) maintain that The Catholic Church condemned translations of the Bible into English. This is also a false claim. St Aldhelm is thought to have been responsible for a translation of the psalms into English in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, and St Bede translated the Gospel of John in the eighth. The Lindisfarne Gospels are a translation from the 10<sup>th</sup> century and during the 11<sup>th</sup> century much of the Old Testament was translated into English; none of them prohibited by the Church.



It is, of course, true that there were translations which the Church did condemn, but it needs to be understood that these were not simply translations of the text of the Bible, but with comments and footnotes which were offering interpretations of the text which were contrary to Catholic teaching. It was on account of these comments and notes that they were condemned.

The ‘Douai-Rheims’ Catholic translation was, in fact completed by 1582, nearly 30 years before the King James version.

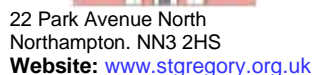
Today we have many translations into English, but there is still a distinction between ‘Catholic editions’ and other Bibles. The reason for this goes back to the work of St Jerome in the 5<sup>th</sup> century which was originally made from the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible. This contained books which were not included in the Hebrew versions known in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, although some have been found among the dead sea scrolls in Hebrew, suggesting that they were not

Greek compositions.

It is for a similar reason that Catholic Bibles number the psalms differently; we tend to use the Greek numbering rather than the Hebrew, although the text is the same.

In recent times successive Popes have encouraged us to love and study the Bible, such as Leo XIII, St Pius X, Benedict XV, Pius XI, Pius XII, Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis. It is not a post-Vatican II idea!

Many who have taken part in the Bible Timeline courses speak of how this has deepened their faith and understanding. This Sunday we are all invited to make a determined resolution to grow in our love and understanding of the Scriptures..



Priest:  
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015  
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Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
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Pastoral Assistant:  
Maria Heath  
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Safeguarding representative  
Carol McNeil ☎ 621807

Sunday <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am  12.15 pm 5.00 pm	Mass Mass  Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	The Parish Thanksgiving – Tom & Kathleen Nicholson Hilary Green
Monday St. Francis de Sales	9.00 am	Mass	Bridie Walsh
Tuesday The Conversion of St. Paul	9.00 am	Mass	Barbara & Sean Murray
Wednesday SS Timothy & Titus	9.00 am 12.30 pm	Mass Funeral Mass	Eileen Walton RIP Neil Cramphorn RIP
Thursday St. Angela Merici	9-10am 7.00 pm	Holy Hour of Adoration Mass	Mary McGowan RIP
Friday St. Thomas Aquinas	9.00 am	Mass	St. Gregory's Parishioners
Saturday Feria	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	Michael Fleming's Intentions
Sunday <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.15 pm  5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass  Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	The Parish Holy Souls Caryll & Peter Comley's Intentions

**Normal opening times:** Due to the relaxation in restrictions, the Church will be open every day from 8.45 am until 5.00 pm, except on Thursdays when it remains open until 7.45 pm

**Your Offering to the Parish:**

Last Sunday's collection was £259.95. Thank you!

**Standing Order gifts to the Parish:**

Each week £486 is given through standing orders.

**Donations through the Diocese:**

An average of £77 is given each week.

Gift Aid benefits to the parish:

The value of Gift Aid averages £88 per week

**Second Collection Last Week:**

Life House £170.92. Thank you!

### Cleaners This Week:

The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.

### Counters This Week:

CC &amp; PS.

**Readings for this Sunday** (*Readers 9am: Richard Heron, 11am: Maureen Moriarty*)

**Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10:** *Ezra read from the law of God and the people understood what was read.*

**1 Corinthians 12: 12-30:** *You together are Christ's body; but each of you are different.*

**Luke 1: 1-4, 4: 14-21:** *This text is being fulfilled today.*

**Readings for next Sunday** (*Readers 9am: Paul Sefton, 11am: D. Phillips*)

**Jeremiah 1: 4-5, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 12: 31-13: 13; Luke 4: 21-30. (Page 58)**

During this season

## Peace on Earth; Christian Unity:

Of Ordinary Time, Winter,

Victims of Trafficking; The Sick & their Carers;

**We are asked to pray for:**

### Racial Justice; The Unemployed.

## The end of Plan B — A message from your Health & Safety Representative

Although many of the restrictions with regard to Covid-19 have now been "officially" lifted, the fact remains that the virus is still with us and presents a real and present danger especially to the elderly and vulnerable. Also, given that our own General Hospital is struggling to cope with ever-increasing numbers of emergency admissions, it seems only right that we, as a Christian community, try to look after each other as best we can and do everything in our power to keep people, including our own congregations safe.

For this reason I would therefore strongly urge everyone attending mass and other services to continue wearing face masks, using hand sanitizers, and, not least, maintaining, where possible, adequate social distancing for the time being.

*Mike Gibson*

While we will continue to offer refreshments after the 9am Mass on Sundays and Wednesdays, it is understood that there will be some who would prefer not to come, and although masks should be worn as far as is possible, clearly while eating and drinking this cannot be done. However, please, everyone, think of the well-being of others. **If you feel unwell, DO NOT COME!**

**Please Pray for the Sick:**

[illegible]

**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

Mary Dillon	Alice Fox
Patricia Bissett	John Kennelly
Anne Starmer	Thomas Fallon
Kathleen Cumiskey	Kevin Dillon
Margaret Brown	Esther Birdie
Arthur Bull	Alice Shanahan
Michael Brennan	Margaret Taylor
John Livingston	Wilfred Bacchas
Paul Greaves	Joan Maher
Catherine Anderson	Maurice Myers
Mary Tomkins	Michael Jeffrey
Mary Broughton	Millicent Chappell
Sylvia Lea	Frank O'Callaghan
Cuthbert Joseph	Albert Yates
James Flannery	Terry Murphy
Joseph Byrne	James McCabe
Maurice Hanlon	Sheila Davis
Peter Curran	Catherine O'Regan
Terry Easton	Christopher Teague
Catherine Griffin	Ada Letchell

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

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

### 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

**Bible Alive** for January & February 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. 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

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next preparation will be in the Sacristy on Mon. 21<sup>st</sup> February, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

**First Holy Communion 2022:** There will be six 'in-person' sessions preparing for first Reconciliation, both at Sacred Heart church, Weston Favell from 3.00 pm until 5.00 pm on Saturdays, 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December before the Christmas break. Those preparing on-line will receive emails with what they need. After Christmas there will be sessions on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Confirmation in 2022:** Confirmation classes will start soon. Confirmation will take place on Saturday 2nd July. Registration will open 13th March for two weeks. The course will commence thereafter.

**Parish Finances:** Continued thanks for the wonderful generosity that you are showing to the parish.

**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)

**Gregory Care update on toiletry donations:** Thank you to everyone who has donated toiletries to be sent out with food bags from the cathedral.

**Synod 2021-23:** Jehanne Houghton, Catherine Mulligan and Aideen Fogarty will be inviting people to get together and talk about the particular questions that have been put to the Church. It is important that everyone has a chance to participate in this process which will continue over the next six weeks. It will be done in small groups rather than through formal meetings. It is worth thinking about these questions in advance:

- ? What does it mean to you to be a Catholic?
- ? What are your experiences of the Church doing something well?
- ? What are your experiences of when things have not gone so well?
- ? What are your dreams for the Church?

There is an additional question which would be of interest in the parish and is very relevant to the overall theme of the Synod which is "Communion, Participation and Mission".

- ? How do you feel about the Alpha programme?

Communion is not just 'Holy Communion'; it is about the communion that we all have with each other; about fellowship in Christ. Participation is not just about attending Mass, it is about how we take part in the entire life of the parish, and Mission is not just about supporting Missio, it is about how we become truly 'Missionary Disciples'.

**Courses for Readers:** The Bible Timeline course has resumed after the Christmas break, and continues on Wednesdays, starting at 7.30 pm. on Zoom. We will be looking at the era of division after the reign of Solomon when the North did a 'Nexit', with disastrous consequences. Please email to Fr Andrew for further details. New people are welcome to join!

**Invitation to Readers this afternoon:** Sunday of the Word of God. Bishop David will celebrate this with a special liturgy in the Cathedral at 3.00 pm, at which readers will be blessed for their ministry. All readers are invited to attend.

**Vacancies:** St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School are recruiting for an experienced Office Manager. In addition to this there are a couple of Teaching Assistant vacancies as well. Please see their website [www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk) or contact the school on 01604 403511 for details.

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

**Choir Matters:** practices are Fridays 1:45 – 3:00 pm starting Feb 4, (Ash Wed is Mar 2): Mar 4, 11, 18, 25 and Apr 1, 8 as we prepare for Easter (Apr 17). Alec

**LUX. Pilgrimage:** Nymo have had to make the difficult decision to cancel the Lux pilgrimage this year.

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

## For your Diary — Moveable Feasts this year:

Ash Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> March
Good Friday	15 <sup>th</sup> April
Easter Day	17 <sup>th</sup> April
Ascension Day	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May
Pentecost Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> June
Corpus Christi	19 <sup>th</sup> June
40 Hours Devotion	24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> June

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

**The Net Charismatic Prayer Group.** A new prayer group will commence meeting on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 7.30pm to 9pm in the prayer room of The Sacred Heart Church Hall, Weston Favell. The Net will meet every first and third Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome!

**Northampton Diocese Vacancy:** For all info on vacancies, please go to [northamptondiocese.org/jobs/](http://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/) or email [hadmin@northamptondiocese.com](mailto:hadmin@northamptondiocese.com).

**Pivotal Players:** Last Monday we continued the series of sessions on 'Pivotal Players' with St Catherine of Siena. This week the session will look at St Ignatius of Loyola, who as founder of the Jesuits, inspired missions to the New World, and had an enormous impact on spirituality through 'The Spiritual Exercises' and retreats. The Acts course will be delayed until the state of the pandemic is clearer as it is not easy to socially distance in the Sacristy. It will be on Tuesday mornings after Mass beginning when it is safe to do so. On Tuesday evenings, starting on 11<sup>th</sup> January, there will be training for Alpha leaders and on Wednesday evenings the Zoom Bible Timeline is continuing. Please email Fr Andrew for the Zoom links.

**Heat wants to escape!** Please, please, please, can we all help to keep the heat inside by closing the outside doors, and not leaving them open.



## Scripture Readings 23rd January 2022, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

In 538 BC King Cyrus of Persia helped the Israelites to return to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon. There Ezra and Nehemiah shared the tasks of re-establishing the Jewish state and religion. Nehemiah rebuilt the city's walls and administration. In today's reading we hear about Ezra's formal reading of the Jewish Law, and the people's joyous celebration of God's gift of the Law.

The Psalm praises God's moral law – and asks forgiveness for our transgressions.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians he compares a community to the human body. Every Christian becomes part of Christ's body by baptism. So all gifts come from the spirit; all gifts are necessary; all contribute to the good of the whole community. All Christians are equally valuable and wanted by God.

Our reading of Luke's Gospel over the ordinary Sundays of Year C now resumes, to be interrupted only for Eastertide. First we are

reminded of Luke's reason for writing a gospel: he is carefully putting into an orderly sequence what he has heard from eye-witnesses, so that his hearers may "realise the certainty of the teachings" they have received. Today's reading then continues from the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, including his self-proclamation in his home town. Next week we hear his neighbours' reactions.

Psalm Response: **Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.**

(Neh 8: 2-10; Psalm 18(19); 1 Cor 12: 12-30; Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21)

Chris Oliver

## An Invitation to all who volunteer in the Parish

The parish could not function without the help of many, many volunteers who help in a vast number of different ways. Some are very obvious and can be seen; but others are 'behind the scenes' and less visible. We have been going through a tough time in many different ways, and this is a way of saying 'thank you'. On Friday March 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a dinner in the hall, to which all volunteers for the parish are invited. There is no charge – this is

not a fund-raising occasion, no raffle, no collection plate, just an occasion for the parish to say thank you to all who give so generously. The only condition is that you RSVP to this invitation by email to Helen at [helentme00@hotmail.com](mailto:helentme00@hotmail.com) so that we know the numbers and can cater adequately. It will be a proper meal (don't eat first), but being a Friday, will not involve meat.

## Working Together to bring the Word of God to the Northampton Diocese

As well as the local costs that we meet, we also pool some of our costs with other parishes where it makes sense to do so. These costs include the recruitment and training of new and existing priests, the welfare of sick and retired priests, the cost of the Bishop and his office, Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Financial Management, Legal Matters, Human Resources etc. These shared functions are essential to allow a charity to operate safely and legally.

For many years this has remained at a constant 23% of the income from the normal Sunday collections and donations. This is one of the lowest of any diocese in England and Wales. Over the diocese as a whole, parish collection incomes have remained about the same for the ten years before the pandemic, and since COVID-19, the income for the diocese has reduced significantly. However, over this ten-year period the diocesan expenses have increased; care costs of our sick priests have risen steeply and we now have more priests requiring such support but other costs have also increased in areas of compliance such as safeguarding, Health and Safety, and property management. We along with other Dioceses and other charities now have to employ professional staff to manage our operations and their salary costs increase with inflation on an annual basis. In times past priests were used to take on these responsibilities; responsibilities for which, in most cases, they were not trained and had no expertise or qualifications, and cost the diocese little or nothing. Today we need trained and qualified professionals, either by legal requirement or simply to have competent service. However, there is a cost to this.

For many years, the collective contributions paid by parishes has been insufficient to pay for these essential shared costs and we have relied on legacies, property sales and fundraising initiatives such as Together in Faith to support us. Over the last 10 years the diocesan costs have increased through inflation by around 24% but as mentioned earlier the amount donated, has basically stayed the same.

This is not sustainable and as a result it has been agreed by the Diocesan Trustees and the Council of Priests that the charge made to each Parish for the shared services will increase from 23% of our offertory receipts to 40% over the next 4 years. This will be reviewed annually to ensure that it is fully covering the essential shared costs.

This is an enormous increase, and would have been better introduced long ago and gradually. It comes at a difficult time, with the squeeze on household income for everyone, and in particular the increase in gas and electricity bills which will impact on the church as it will on every household.

Here at St Gregory's our income has dropped less than in many other places; we are fortunate in that we were able to open as soon as it was permitted, and so many people transferred their giving to standing orders which greatly benefitted the parish. As a result, we have been running at a small surplus, even through the time of lockdown. St Gregory's is a generous parish, and the need to cover our increased costs here must not impact on our support for our other agencies, for CAFOD, Missio, the Hope Centre, the Life House and Gregory Care supporting the Cathedral Foodstore.

In the next few weeks the parish will be producing a budget for the coming financial year, as every parish in the diocese has been asked to do. We are fortunate in that we have reserves thanks to the money we have been putting aside for a new parish office, and which has had to be put on hold due to the diocesan financial situation.

It would be good if we all looked at our own personal and family finances, and if maybe any whose giving has not changed for many years, might consider whether they could give more to enable the diocese and the parish to be more effective in the mission which we share. Only as a financially thriving parish can we effectively be a missionary parish, as we are called to be.

## The God Who Speaks - Our Liturgy of the Word



*A Series of 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 the Liturgical Formation Team with presentations by Liz Clark, Fr Allan Jones CRIC, Mgr Kevin McGinnell & Fr Andrew Behrens**

**Wednesday 23 February 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)**  
*Preparing for Lent*

**Wednesday 6 April 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)**  
*Preparing for the Triduum*

**Wednesday 20 April 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)**  
*Celebrating Eastertide*

*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](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone: 01582 723312 (ext 1)

Once your booking is received you will be sent details of how to join the online Zoom sessions. Thank you.

*(Photo from www.pexels.com)*

## Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.  
All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen

*It's a huge undertaking,  
but the Synod is getting  
underway in our diocese.*

## Synod 2021-23

- How we will manage our conversations in the parish will be announced soon. Pope Francis is clear that the voices of the loud and powerful and those with an axe to grind or a bee in their bonnet should not drown out the voice of the quiet and the marginalised.

# The End of Christmastide

This week the crib will be put away, the liturgical colour returns to green and normal programmes resume. This is the last day for making donations to the Hope Centre through the crib — it looks as though we may break our record. Thank you.

## St Gregory's next Alpha:

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which we are hoping will be able to be in the hall and in person. It is highly recommended for everyone, and is very enjoyable. Each session starts with a good meal (A proper evening meal, not just a snack), then we watch a film together about our faith. After the film we have a conversation around our table about what we have seen and heard. It is good to have established believers as well as potential converts and those who simply want to know more about our faith. Please come, and if you can, bring a friend. There is no charge, but donations are cheerfully accepted. For catering purposes, please register at

[www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha](http://www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha)

Bishop David will preside at a Service of the Word in the Cathedral at **3pm on Sunday 23rd January**. As a part of this Service Bishop David will bless all readers who proclaim the Word of God in their parishes. All readers are invited to attend.

<b>First session:</b>	<b>After Easter 2022:</b> Is there more to life than this?
<b>Second Session:</b>	<b>After Easter 2022:</b> Who is Jesus?
<b>Third Session:</b>	<b>After Easter 2022:</b> Why did Jesus die?
<b>Fourth Session:</b>	<b>After Easter 2022:</b> How can I be sure of my faith?
<b>Fifth Session:</b>	<b>After Easter 2022:</b> Why and how do I pray?
<b>Sixth Session:</b>	<b>After Easter 2022:</b> How does God guide us?
<b>Seventh Session:</b>	<b>After Easter 2022:</b> Why and how should I read the Bible?
<b>Away-Day:</b>	<b>After Easter 2022:</b> Who is the Holy Spirit?
<b>Eighth Session:</b>	<b>After Easter 2022:</b> How can I resist evil?
<b>Ninth Session:</b>	<b>After Easter 2022:</b> Why and how should we tell others?
<b>Tenth Session:</b>	<b>After Easter 2022:</b> What about the Church?
<b>Eleventh Session:</b>	<b>After Easter 2022:</b> What about the rest of my life?

