



# 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

## Pastoral Letter for Pentecost 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Solemnity of Pentecost reminds us that everything which exists, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of “God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.” God our loving Father creates and continues to give life to the world through His Word, Jesus Christ, in the power of His Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which we celebrate at Pentecost, is not something separate from Creation. God’s revelation of himself in Creation is inseparable from the revelation of his love for us in Christ and in his desire to live in us through his Holy Spirit.

‘God’s Spirit is always and everywhere “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, and the voice of Pentecost is echoed in the voice of creation being transformed into the glorious liberty of God’s children.’ In this liberty, as God’s children, we call on the Spirit to ‘renew the face of the Earth’, and as his children, we are called, in turn, to use this liberty for the good of creation and for the good of all that brings life. Our world, God’s creation, is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. But how have we used that glorious liberty? How do we honour this precious gift? Are we really demonstrating love, care and respect for our common home?

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, we are acutely aware of the damage that continues to be inflicted on the Earth, and the repercussions for the well-being of our brothers and sisters, both here in our own countries and, more especially, in the poorest countries of our world. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have both taught us that everything is interconnected and interdependent. The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth. The urgency of the situation, and the enormity of the challenges we face, have spurred us to speak out together this Pentecost Sunday, as bishops of England, Wales and Scotland, about the role that the Catholic Church and our faith must play in our shared care for God’s gift to us. For all too long we have either been ignorant of, or ignored, the systematic exploitation of our planet and the unsustainable consumption of its resources. While accepting the crucial need and demand for energy for the benefit of the poorest of our brothers and sisters, the provision of our energy must, nonetheless, be by means which radically reduce the use of carbon-based fuels.

In our political thinking, there must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods, in authentic freedom. Pope Francis speaks of a global

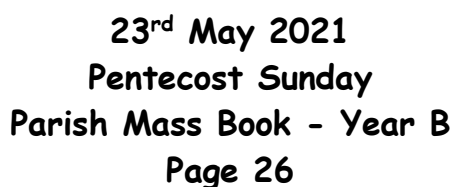
politics that looks beyond our own needs to the needs of all, most especially the poor and the marginalised.

But we cannot leave the healing of our common home and the wellbeing and care of our brothers and sisters merely to a response from industry and governments. Our own local concern and action is necessary and has far-reaching consequences. We all have a part to play, each and every one of us, in the routines, choices and decisions of our everyday lives and our aspirations for the future. The actions of parishes, families, schools, and individuals will have a significant impact on our efforts to restore our common home. There are now many resources, freely available, to advise us on our choice of food, saving of water and electricity, suggestions about travel, waste, and re-use. These are measures that everyone can employ, in some degree, with minimal inconvenience and change. They are effective ways in which we can each reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation.

This Pentecost comes at a time of remarkable challenge and opportunity. We are gradually emerging from the tragedies and restrictions of the pandemic. We have the ability to make changes. Our countries are also hosting two most important meetings this year, the G7 in June and COP26 in November. These meetings will gather together men and women who have the power to make defining choices and policies which will help us build back better, provide for our brothers and sisters, and take care of our common home.

In all our human endeavours, we need the presence of the Holy Spirit, “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, whose gift to the Church and the world we celebrate again at Pentecost. Let us keep this Feast with that enduring hope that we can begin to repair the damage we have done and provide a healthy home for future generations. Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and ‘renew the face of the earth’.

Renew your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost.  
Grant to your Church that, being of one mind  
and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus,  
and following the lead of Blessed Peter,  
it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour,  
the reign of truth and justice,  
the reign of love and peace. Amen.



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

E-mail: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk

[illegible]

Gertrude Ginn	David Ryan
Teresa Tynan	Robert Finnegan
Harriet Manger	Martin Keegan
Grainne Morris	Philip Ndekwe
Florence Sweeney	Shaun Murphy
Lolo Grace Ndekwe	Annie Desmond
Catherine Robinson	Fanny Hearn
Theodor Jilek	Hugh Finegan
Rose Williamson	Joyce Rama
Margaret Bryant	Gareth Bates
Daniel Quinn	Oswin Barber
Ellen Osborne	Ronnie-Boy Huarns
David O'Grady	John Finn
Michelle Achong	Katherine Cosgrove
Jane Wallis	Percival Timmins
Henry King	Charles Attard

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY**  
We pray that those in charge of finance will  
work with governments to regulate the  
financial sphere and protect citizens from its  
dangers.

*Pope Francis [20 March 2020]*

CC &amp; MB.

*As the Father sent me, so I am sending you: receive the Holy Spirit.*

## Christian/Jewish Relations.

**Please get in touch with Gregory Care (07434 669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.**

# Notices of Interest

**Bible Alive** for May & June 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.

**Repository:** If you wish to buy anything, please come to the Church between 9 and 10am & speak to a Steward who will show you what to do & where to go.

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

**Baptism Preparation:** Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

**First Holy Communion 2021:** The programme is running through 'Loom', an on line platform used by many schools. Parents need to 'home-school' children. The programme is called "Growing Up Catholic", and there are 6 sessions preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by six sessions preparing for First Holy Communion.

**Confirmation:** At last we have a date: 1<sup>st</sup> October; feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux! The Confirmation will be at St Gregory's.

**Re-Envisioning Catechesis:** The Church has recently produced a new version of the "Directory for Catechesis", which makes clear the link between evangelisation & the teaching of the Faith. One fruit of this is that the diocesan department for catechesis has been moved from NORES to the new department for Mission. To help those engaged in Sacramental preparation, there will be an on line course over 5 consecutive Thursday evenings, starting 17<sup>th</sup> June 7.30 pm (ending at 8.45 pm) on Zoom. If anyone would like to take part, please let Fr Andrew know (by email, please), and the parish will make the booking.

**Gregory Care Toiletries appeal update:** Thank you for your continued support. Due to a new incentive from Morrisons we will no longer require sanitary products: Now anyone requiring such items can go to Morrisons supermarket and ask at the customer service desk for – 'The package Sandy has left for them.' They will be discreetly be given what they need free of charge! However please continue to give anything you can of other toiletries. Also we are appealing for any surplus carrier bags you may have that would be suitable to pack fruit and veg in. (Let's recycle; please don't buy any specifically for this as they may only be used once.) Many thanks again for your generosity-We will keep you updated!

## **Pru Hill RIP**

The funeral for Pru Hill will be by invitation only, to comply with Covid restrictions, but we welcome all who would like to pray for her on the day of her funeral, to a Mass at St. Gregory's dedicated to the repose of Pru's soul at 9am 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

There will also be a memory post-box in church from that day – Pru's family would love you to contribute your memories of Pru and messages there. It is also possible to share your memories online on her obituary page at [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

The link to view the live-stream of Pru's funeral can also be found on this page.

Chris would like to thank the very many parishioners who have sent cards, love and support, and shared their experiences of Pru and how much she meant to them. It means a great deal to him and his family, and has been a source of much solace to him at this very difficult time.

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

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

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** will not meet during this time.

**The Summer webinar series** This Monday we have our final session! We will be discussing Chapter 7: *The Essential Role of Leadership*, a fresh look at the role of leadership in the church, including "10 things you can do when you're not in charge". As the Executive Director of Divine Renovation UK, Hannah Vaughan-Spruce has coached cohorts of priests through the Divine Renovation kick-starter programme. She is an expert in the role of leadership in church, and helping parishes move from a theoretical understanding of *Divine Renovation* to actual next steps on the ground. Bishop David will also be with us to share his hope for our diocese and encourage us as we step out in faith. You can find out more and register here: [https://readalong\\_divine\\_renovation.eventbrite.co.uk](https://readalong_divine_renovation.eventbrite.co.uk).

**CAFOD:** As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support to poor communities. Already £200,000 has been pledged. This helps to distribute PPE kits to health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, & set up safely run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give). Please pray for the people of India & all those affected by the pandemic.

**Lifeteen Summer Camp 2021:** From Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July, 3pm to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August till 2pm. Cost £225.00 for camping (provide own tent), £275.00 for dormitory, £50.00 for online camp. You will be required to pay a £50.00 non-refundable deposit when booking, final payment due by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. Alton Castle, Staffordshire (transport will NOT be provided). Summer Camp is 5 days of fun and activities where young Catholics gain formation and friendships. Included in the price is accommodation, all food, daily Mass and Reconciliation, all activities including a day at Alton Towers Theme Park, biking, trekking, climbing, archery, campfires and much more. For more information and to go to the bookings page visit <https://nymo.org/summercamp/>

**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.

**Parish Finances:** Thank you to everyone who has been so very generous during this lockdown. Our parish finances are reasonably stable. Your generosity is much appreciated!

**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)**

**Pro Life Chain – Saturday 29th May 2021:** Sat. 29th May SPUC Northampton holding Pro Life Chain St Peters Way. This act of silent witness is to remember the millions of lives lost to abortion since the Abortion Act 1967. It will take place between 11am & 1pm. Please join us at this important event. Last year twelve pro-life supporters stood together in order to proclaim the pro-life message. It is not easy to take part in a public display in relation to such a controversial subject, but it is so important that we speak up for the unborn. If you can join us or want more information then please contact William on 07393965643 or [wpcurrie@btinternet.com](mailto:wpcurrie@btinternet.com) Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.



# Scripture Readings 23rd May 2021, Pentecost, Year B

Pentecost, 50 days after Passover, was one of the three Jewish pilgrimage feasts. Nomadic Hebrews sacrificed lambs in the spring to ensure adequate water for their flocks through the dry season. Settled into agriculture, they celebrated the barley harvest a few days later. These two linked feasts became associated with the Passover in Egypt: the plague "passed over" houses with doorposts marked with the blood of a lamb.

The Dead Sea Scrolls associated Pentecost with God giving the Covenant on Sinai, and they enrolled new community members at this feast. Pentecost therefore fits neatly with the formal birth of the Christian Church and the commitment and strengthening of the Christian community for its task.

This magnificent Psalm praises God for his creative wisdom and power. God takes joy in his creation.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit not only enabled the disciples to speak in foreign languages: it gave them the courage to travel throughout the countries listed in the first reading, fearlessly proclaiming "the marvels of God". The Holy Spirit gives each person the skills they need.

In John's Gospel, near the end of his long discourse at the Last Supper, Jesus promises the Advocate will come to strengthen and guide the Apostles in their work, clarifying Christ's teaching through the Church.

Psalm Response: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord  
and renew the face of the earth

(Acts 2: 1-11; Psalm 103(104); Gal 5: 16-25; John 15: 26-27, 16: 12-15)

*Chris Oliver*

## Kitchen Makeover

Work to enlarge and bring the kitchen up to modern standards is well under way. Improvements include hygienic stainless steel worktops and food preparation areas, a dedicated hand wash basin, a new professional standards cooker, a new double sink and eventually a dishwasher. We are now approaching the time when the walls will have to be plastered and if you know of anyone who is competent at plastering please let me know. As ever we have a very limited budget and if the plastering could be done on a voluntary or "mates rates" basis it would be marvellous.

The extra space for the enlarged kitchen has been taken from the store room. Stuff that was in there that hadn't seen the light of day for

years has been disposed of but of course taking the space for the kitchen means reduced storage space. In store were a number of sturdy tables and we propose to use some of these to replace the odd collection of tables in the display area, however they will need cleaning and the legs repainting before we can use them, so if you are able to help with this please let me know.

There will be other jobs to do in the kitchen and I will let you know what is needed in due course, so in the meantime please don't run away.

*Cliff Snelling*

## Mission Northampton

The Diocese of Northampton is excited to announce the introduction of a new agency, [Mission Northampton](#). Mission Northampton serves the whole diocese across the counties of Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire as well as Slough in Berkshire. Incorporating catechesis and school chaplaincy, Mission Northampton will also strategically support local evangelistic approaches and programs.

Since his ordination in March 2020, Bishop David has sent a clear message for the need to reach out to those outside of our church walls, sharing the Gospel with those in our local communities; Mission Northampton is one key part of this vision.

The Mission Northampton team will be led by the Director, Fr Simon Penhalagan. Fr Simon has many years of experience in evangelisation

through parishes, schools and mission focussed communities. He was the president of the Sion Community, a charismatic Catholic community with a charism centred on evangelisation. In this role he led the community in mission outreach projects through primary and secondary school missions, parish renewal missions and formation programs and retreats, teaching apologetics.

Fr Simon said "My prayer is that all of us as disciples of Jesus are ever more open to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to our hearts, asking us to respond to Jesus' call and commission to be the missionary disciples that he made us and baptised us to be".

The Mission Northampton team will be based at our new St Thomas Centre at Northampton Cathedral.

## Eucharistic Adoration for Corpus Christi

There will be 24 hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Diocesan Shrine at Great Billing, starting with the Saturday 9.30 am Mass on June 5th and finishing with the Sunday 9.15 am Mass on the

6th. Although COVID restrictions mean that people must book for the Masses, they can just turn up at any time in between for Adoration.

## Holy Hour on Corpus Christi for Ministers of the Eucharist

Bishop David invites all who have served as Lay Ministers of the Eucharist to pray a Holy Hour with him on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, 6 June 2021 at 3.00 pm.

Come to the Cathedral or join by Live Stream. This is a chance to pray and give thanks for all who share Eucharistic Ministry. CoVid

and Lockdown has severely restricted the service of lay ministers of the Eucharist during Mass and in taking Communion to the Sick and Housebound. As the situation opens up we have a chance to thank God for what has been possible. The Order of Service will be made available on the diocesan website – [www.northamptondiocese.org](http://www.northamptondiocese.org)

## Rosary for the end of the Pandemic

on **Saturday, 29th May at 3.00 pm in the Cathedral**, Bishop David will lead us in the reciting of the rosary, which will conclude with Benediction. As we draw to a close the Holy Father's invitation to pray the rosary for an end to the pandemic throughout May, and the

national rosary rally for this month taking place at the same time, this is a beautiful way of coming together from across the Diocese, be it through following the live-streaming, or in person at the Cathedral.

## SECOND COLLECTIONS 2021



<b>28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>CAFOD (Lenten Fast Day 26<sup>th</sup> Feb)</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>Good Friday Collection for the Holy Places</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Diocesan Priests' Training Fund</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Mass Media</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Day for Life</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Peter's Pence</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Apostleship of the Sea</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Home Mission Sunday</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<b>CAFOD (Harvest Fast Day 1<sup>st</sup> October)</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Mission Sunday</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Bishop's Maintenance Fund</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Sick &amp; Retired Priests' Fund</b>

