



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

Eastertide — the season of Mystagogia

Easter is the traditional season for Baptism and Christian initiation of adults. St Paul tells us:

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”
(Romans 6:3-4)

The symbols of Baptism speak of death and resurrection. First, there is the stone of the font. Nowadays we are used to relatively small fonts, but in earlier days, fonts were large pools cut into the ground. The picture shows the interior of the Baptistery at St John Lateran, the Pope’s Cathedral church, and was originally built in the 4th century. The small font in the centre dates from the 16th century; originally the entire sunken area would have been the Baptismal pool. Those being Baptised would have been laid down, as in the tomb; as dead. St Cyril of Jerusalem describes the ceremony:

“You were led to the holy pool of Divine Baptism, as Christ was carried from the cross to the sepulchre which is before our eyes, and each of you was asked whether he believed in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and you made that saving profession, and descended three times into the water, and ascended again, indicating by a symbol the three days burial of Christ”



(Mystagogical Catachesis, on Baptism)

Thus the burial of Baptism was in the earth, and today we show this in the symbol of the stone font.

Immediately after the third raising from the tomb, the newly Baptised person is anointed with Sacred Chrism; oil which is blessed by the Bishop each year at the Mass of Chrism on Holy Thursday. This is

the first of three actions that take place after the actual Baptism. St Cyril speaks of this:

“After you came up from the pool of the sacred streams, you were given an Unction, as Christ was anointed with the Holy Spirit, of whom Isaiah says, in the person of the Lord ‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me. He has sent me to preach glad tidings to the poor’”
(St Cyril: On Chrism)

The Christening shawl, a white garment originally was purely practical. The person who has been baptised has no clothes on and is dripping wet, and this was originally a towel. Later this acquired a

symbolic significance of “putting on Christ” *(Romans 13:14)*.

The last of the symbolic actions is the giving of the lighted candle, lit from the Easter candle, which again clearly links Baptism with the Resurrection of Jesus and new life in him.

For all of us, this season is a time of reflecting on the fact of our Baptism and what this means for us in practice. Through Eastertide our Scripture readings at Mass encourage us to do this.

Are you curious about Christianity?

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which will 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. 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

First session:	April 26th 2022:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	May 3rd 2022:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	May 10th 2022:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	May 17th 2022:	How can I be sure of my faith?
Fifth Session:	May 24th 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	June 7th 2022:	How does God guide us?
Seventh Session:	June 14th 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Away-Day:	June 16th – 17th 2022:	Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session:	June 21st 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	June 28th 2022:	Why and how should we tell others?
Tenth Session:	July 5th 2022:	What about the Church?
Eleventh Session:	July 12th 2022:	What about the rest of my life?

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for Easter 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.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Hanna Wrzalik
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for her and her family.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass and there is a display of First Communion and 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*

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham: 4th
June: A coach will leave from St. Gregory's at 8am on Saturday 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.**



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 2nd 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: Registration for confirmation preparation and for confirmation this year is now closed, no further applications can be accepted. The sessions will run on a Sunday morning from 10.15 am - 11.30 am. Please join us for 9.00 am Mass as part of this course. Confirmation Mass is on Saturday 2nd July at midday.

Deputy Director of Schools – A strategic lead for Catholic schools across the Diocese for Catholic life and Mission, RE and Collective Worship. The Diocesan Education Service is looking to recruit a Deputy Director of Schools (£45,000 - £60,000 depending on experience). For more details or an informal discussion about the role please contact Collette Curtis (Director of School) 07758057244 or email curtis@nores.org.uk. The full application pack is on the notice board or available on the website www.nores.org.uk. The closing date for this is 3rd May.

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: For those who still use envelopes, new ones will be available next week.

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.

Pro Life Chain – Saturday 30th April: On Sat. 30th April SPUC Northampton is holding a Pro-Life Chain on St Peters Way Northampton. 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 consider joining us at this important event. Last year twelve pro-life supporters stood together in order to proclaim the pro-life message. Abortion is a tragedy for babies, Mothers, Fathers, & society as whole. We have a moral duty to speak out against the horror of abortion. If you can join us or want more information, please contact William on 07393965643(text is fine) or wpcurie@btinternet.com. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

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

Choir Matters: Practices will be Thursdays May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6 then – just to cheer you up – we start intensive preparations for Christmas.

Gregory Care Update on Toiletry Donations: Thank you for the gifts of shampoo & washing up liquid over the past few weeks. Gifts of shower gel and household hygiene products would be welcome. If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from this please get in contact with Gregory Care through Fr Andrew.

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

Help for refugees from Ukraine: If you want to find out more about how you could help or be involved, please visit: <https://northamptondiocese.org/ukraine/>

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!

Courses for Readers: The Bible Timeline course on Wednesdays ends this week. This week there is a special session on the Eastertide Mass readings (see: **Celebrating Eastertide**), and in the following weeks there is the possibility of running a short course before the summer holiday season.

Mass for the Sick, 30th April, 3pm, livestream and Cathedral: Bishop David will celebrate a special Mass for the Sick on Sat. 30th April at the Cathedral. This is specially for all our housebound, & we hope that they will be able to follow it on the Cathedral livestream via the diocesan website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/live/>. There will be a downloadable Mass sheet so everyone can join in.

Inspire Younger Generations With CAFOD: Do you enjoy working with children & young people? If so, you are invited to be part of CAFOD's education programme which inspires students to act on their sense of justice. A background in education is not necessary. We are looking for people with good interpersonal skills, an interest in CAFOD's work & who can connect well with young people. You will be asked to go into Catholic schools in the locality to deliver prepared assemblies and/or workshops about once a term. All necessary training, travel expenses & resources will be provided & you will have the ongoing friendship & support of a local team. Please get in touch with Deborah to know more about this amazing role: northampton@cafod.org.uk We look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful team.

Thomas Becket Catholic School: Induction Mass for Paul McCahill, Headmaster at the Cathedral, Tues. 26th April, 6pm, followed by refreshments in the St. Thomas Centre. RSVP by 20th April to scrawford@tbc.nor.olicatschools.org

Scripture Readings 24th April 2019, 2nd Sunday of Easter, Year C

All the first readings of Eastertide are from the Acts of the Apostles describing the early years of the Church. The second readings are from the Book of Revelation, John's vision of the new life in heaven promised to all believers and in which we share at Mass. The readings from John's Gospel describe Jesus' resurrection appearances and claims of his unity with the Father. Today the risen Jesus identifies himself as the one crucified, before this Gospel's first ending.

In Acts Peter and John were arrested, then released. Then the growing Christian community lived in peace. Peter only once acted as judge of Israel, killing Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit. In today's reading the other disciples stand apart from the Apostles, apparently in awe after this display of Peter's power.

More verses from the psalm used for the Easter Masses, rejoicing at the coming of the king.

John is exiled to the island of Patmos, south-west of Ephesus, for spreading the gospel. In this first chapter of Revelation a figure appears to John in his vision, identifying himself both as the risen "Son of Man", which Jesus called himself while on earth, and as "the First and the Last" – ie God. John is commanded to write down what is now to be revealed to him.

Psalm Response: **Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.**

(Acts 5:12-16; Ps 117(118); Rev 1:9-19; John 20:19-31)

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.

HELP URGENTLY NEEDED

As we make our final preparations for the start of our next Alpha starting Tuesday 26th April, we are looking for a group of people willing to help. You are invited to share in the meal, and then join the team that would be responsible for prayer during the discussions and / or for clearing up after the meal. If you would like to join us in this ministry, or would like to know more about it, please have a word with Father Andrew or Daniel or Rayner.

Alpha starts on Tuesday, 26th April.

Not too late to sign up: please visit www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha or talk to anyone with an 'Alpha' badge on today.

Life in Christ — the life of a Baptised person

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is divided into four sections, sometimes called the four pillars. The first is called "The Profession of Faith" and covers the creeds of the Church and how we can believe in God. The second is entitled "The Celebration of Christian Ministry" and speaks of our worship, the celebration of the Sacraments and other celebrations in church. The third section is on the subject of "Life in Christ", and deals with issues around our daily and ordinary life and the fourth pillar is on prayer in the life of the Christian.

All of these are important, but if Eastertide is about reflecting on our life as a Baptised person, then the third pillar may be a good place to start.

It begins with creation, and that we are all created in the image of the unseen God, and that confers a great dignity the human being, from the moment of conception into eternity. We all carry the divine image, and our life in Christ is to make that image visible in our words and actions.

We are called to a life of blessedness and a life of virtue. God wants us to be happy, and part of that virtue involves bringing happiness into the life of others.

The Catechism then continues by considering our freedom; a freedom to do good or to do evil, and in that context, examines our responsibilities. Conscience is an important way in which we decide our particular course of action in our day-to-day life, and we should not simply be driven by a desire to avoid doing wrong, but should actively seek to do good, and so the Catechism describes virtues and shows how they are strengthened by the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. We must also be guided by the collective teachings of the Church, as prompted by the Holy Spirit down the Christian centuries.

Much of the teaching of the Scriptures revolves around how people live together in community, and the Catechism has much to say about our responsibilities to our communities and to one another.

The final chapter in this section speaks on God's plan for salvation, and the necessity of missionary witness. "By living with the mind of Christ, Christians hasten the coming of the reign of God, a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

Our life in Christ is a missionary life; our calling is to be Missionary Disciples.

Many thanks for your generosity over Easter

How Alpha Works — and Why

Alpha works because it uses the same methods that Jesus himself used. It uses personal contacts. Jesus said to Andrew: “Come and see” (*John 1:39*), and it is the same invitation that we make. Like Jesus, who so often in the Gospels is seen at a meal with others, Alpha is set in the context of a meal. It is not Mass, but could be seen as looking forward to when everyone at Alpha can share in the Eucharistic meal — what theologians call an ‘allegory’ of the Mass. St Paul speaks of ‘children in the faith’ not being ready for solid food (*1 Corinthians 3:1-2*), and Alpha is like coming to see Jesus in the person of some of his disciples. Having ‘come and seen’, people are free to make their own decision. Thankfully, many decide to get to know Jesus better. Alpha is also ideal for the Church community as it uses so many different talents and skills, and does not force people out of their ‘comfort zones’. It needs the talents of the cooking team; the team who prepare the room, the table hosts and table leaders. It needs the skill of the technicians, and of musicians. Above all, it needs the support of prayer, and it needs people to invite others to ‘come and see’.

DIocese of Northampton Liturgy Commission - Liturgical Formation



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 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 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

Recently, Revolution Zero have opened a community food larder (social supermarket) in the former UCR Church, The Headlands. Their aim is to make food accessible to everyone & reduce the amount of food going to landfill. 15 items of choice for £5. Please take a look at the link-<http://www.revolutionzero.org/> They have a Facebook page & are open Tues 1-3pm, Wed 1-4pm, Thurs 1-3pm & Sat 11-12 noon.

Thank you again for amazing contributions and please keep this initiative in your prayers.

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]*

Repainting in the church: If you can help, please can you contact Cliff Snelling at cliff.snelling@btinternet.com, indicating which weeks (when weather is warmer) you would be available to help.