



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.”**

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VISION

Discipleship and Discipline

The Oxford Dictionary defines ‘disciple’ as:

a person who believes in and follows the teachings of a religious or political leader

and ‘discipline’ as:

the practice of training people to obey rules and orders and punishing them if they do not.

Modern usage would suggest that ‘disciple is good, discipline is bad’, which is odd since both words come from the same root.

The origin of the word ‘disciple’ is in the Latin ‘discipulus’ which in turn comes from the Latin ‘discere’, to learn. The word ‘disco’ is Latin for ‘I learn’, and has nothing to do with music or dancing! It is said that a school had a motto of “Audio, Video, Disco”; (I hear, I see, I learn). A better motto would have included ‘Facio’, I do, as learning is not just about acquiring knowledge but what to do with that knowledge. Here we come closer to the concept of the disciple.

“The Hebrew word for disciple is *talmid*. This word stresses the relationship between rabbi (teacher or master) and disciple (student). A talmid of Jesus’ day would give up his entire life in order to be with his teacher. The disciple didn’t only seek to know what the teacher knew, as is usually the case today. It was not enough just to know what the rabbi said, but the foremost goal of any talmid was to become like the rabbi and do what the rabbi did.”

<https://www.thatttheworldmayknow.com/define-talmid>

The Greek word used in our second reading today is ‘paideian’ (παιδείαν), meaning ‘instruction’ or ‘training’, from which we get the English word ‘pedagogy’. The suggestion that either discipleship or pedagogy involve punishment as a means of teaching is much more recent, and generally the idea that the cane is the best teaching aid has (thankfully) disappeared.

The Old Testament passage that is quoted in the second reading comes from the book of the Proverbs:

“My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline
or be weary of his reproof,
for the Lord reproves him whom he loves,
as a father the son in whom he delights.”

Proverbs 3:11-12

The translation of our passage in Hebrews has put a different slant on the proverb, and introduction to it describes it as ‘exhortation’, not ‘warning’. In fact, the word translated as ‘exhortation’ is the Greek word ‘parakleses’ (παράκλησις), from which we get the word ‘Paraclete’ meaning the Holy Spirit.

If the one who is being trained, who is learning is never corrected when mistakes are made, then no learning or training actually happens and no progress is made.

The word ‘reproves’ from the proverb becomes ‘chastises’ in our translation of Hebrews, but the Greek word ‘mastigoi’ (μαστιγοί) while it can mean to whip is also used to refer to the kneading of dough to make it ready for baking or shaping an object to fit a mould, and its Hebrew origin means a corrective agent sent by God.

We must not forget that we are disciples of Jesus; he is our teacher and his correction comes through a right understanding of the Scriptures and the teaching of the Church as well as a close relationship with Jesus through the Sacraments and prayer.

There is an important passage where Jesus speaks of learning from him:

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

In the days when ploughing was done by oxen or Shire Horses, a young animal was yoked together with an experienced one so that the novice could learn, not by being told but by being shown and by doing it himself. Taking Jesus’ yoke is to be yoked together with him so that he can show us how to live by living with him. This is what he called his disciples to do when he said “follow me”, when he said to Andrew “come and see”. (*John 1:39*)

There are many occasions in the Gospels where Jesus needs to correct the Apostles. These are important occasions, not because it shows how slow they were to learn but because the lessons they needed are precisely the same lessons that we need; exactly the same correction because human nature has not changed and we make the same mistakes that they made.

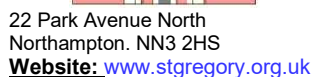
The Apostles must have felt very small when Jesus corrected them, but they knew he was right and they remained with him. (*see John 6:66-69*)

We are reminded in this Holy Year that we are a pilgrim people, and that means that we are people on the move; in particular, we are people who are growing in our faith, in our knowledge of and obedience to God.

This does mean being corrected; it means making corrections to our life. But Jesus is not a teacher with a cane, and he corrects us in love and with love.

The Old Testament frequently associates calamities with God’s punishment for sin, although the Book of Job wrestles with this way of thinking in relation to ill-fortune falling on the innocent.

The important point to remember is that God is ‘Our Father’, and he treats us with love, and corrects us with love and mercy.



24th August 2025
Twentieth Sunday of the Year
CTS New Sunday Missal - Year C
Page 1045

Priest:
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Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

Sunday <i>21st Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	Andrew K. Conduah RIP The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Martin O'Toole RIP
Tuesday Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God	9.00 am	Mass	Maureen Moriarty's Intentions
Wednesday St. Monica	9.00 am	Mass	Robin Cooper RIP
Thursday St. Augustine	9.00-11.00 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Mass	Thanksgiving
Friday The Passion of St. John the Baptist	9.00 am 11:45 am	Mass Funeral Mass	Jones. S Joan Eaton RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	John Mullen RIP
Sunday <i>Anniversary of the Consecration of the church</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	Richard & Diana McDonald (65 th Wedding Anniversary) The Parish

Last Week Was £467.39. Thank you!

Donations through the Diocese: An average of £75 is given each week.

Second Collection next week: For Gregory Care.

Cleaners This Week: The Church is cleaned & sanitised on a regular basis.

Counters this Week: CC & LA (Wednesday this week).

Readings for this Sunday: — see inside for details

Isaiah 66: 18-21: *They shall bring all your brothers from all the nations.*

Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13: *The Lord disciplines the one he loves.*

Luke 13: 22-30: *People will come from east and west, and recline at table in the kingdom of heaven.*

Readings for next Sunday (CTS New Sunday Missal Page 1197)

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17; John 2: 13-22

During This Season of Human Life: Seafarers:

Ordinary Time. Summer. We Victims of Persecution or oppression:

We Are Asked to Pray For: Europe; Christian/Jewish Relations; The Environment.

More thoughts about our Parish Vision

Last week we considered how we can be both confident and humble in our proclamation of the Good News. We saw how one of the sources of confidence lies in our knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures and of our faith, and therefore the importance of on-going faith-formation for adults. Many adult Catholics have done no further study of the Faith since preparation for Confirmation apart from hearing homilies week by week.

Alpha provides an opportunity to renew study of the Faith in a very gentle environment, and the monthly Re:New run by Mission Northampton at the Cathedral is another.

Bible Alive is a help; there are also a number of good resources on the internet, but care is needed as there are also some which are not faithful the Catholic teaching and should be avoided.

Please Pray for the Sick:

[illegible]**Anniversaries:**

May they Rest in Peace

Arthur McGill	Carla Fenlon
Mary Clifford	Johanna Healy
Edwin Stenson	Ellen Jackson
Florence Percival	Michael Spittals
Agnes McLoughlin	Alfred Lack
Thomas McKinney	Mary Lawrie
Edmund Barrett	Robin Cooper
Valerie Dadley	Leonard Rush
John Barry	Evelyn Osborn
Jose Pallett	Joan Phelan
Harold McLoughlin	John Lynch
Bernard Kelly	William Marsden
Norah Coughlan	Roger Green
Joseph Lynskey	Marita Nash
Cecil Bailham	Mavis Williams
Steph Drazewska	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological.

Prayer for Peace for Ukraine, the Holy Land
and all places of strife.

Please continue to pray
for an end to wars,
and for all victims of war:

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.

— A Renewed Appeal for people to register with CASPAR —

There are many who are not yet registered with CASPAR. When Fr Christopher arrives next month he will not know who you are!

Notices of Interest

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. There is a small display of cards and items to commemorate Confirmation in September available at the Repository from this week. Any queries or volunteers please contact Kathleen on 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

Bible Alive for August is now available - only £3.00! If you wish to purchase a copy, they are in the narthex as you come into church.

Parishioners With Young Children: Please, please, do not allow your child to play with/throw around pamphlets/leaflets/booklets etc which are displayed either in the Narthex or the Foyer. They are not toys. Thank you!

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Whatsapp & telephone on the 1st Saturday of the month, in the Hall: 10 am-12pm.

Ceili Dancing: There is no dancing for the month of August. Dancing starts again on Wednesday 3rd September at 7.30pm & continues every first & third Wednesday of the month in the Parish hall. All welcome.

News From the Office: I will be on holiday from 16th August until 31st August (I know, how dare I!). If you know you are going to need something, please try to come in or phone before 15th August. Many thanks. *Caryll*

Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (**next – 30th August**), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially the younger, more energetic ones!

24-hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in honour of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Sun 7th - Mon 8th Sept. There will be the usual 9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's Shrine, Great Billing on that Sunday. This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will continue until 9am on Monday at Great Billing. Sign-up sheets for the Exposition will be available at the back of both churches.

Choir Notes: next practices are from 11-12 on the 2nd Saturday of the month: Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8. *Alec*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be in the Sacristy, 7pm, on Monday 1st September. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2025/6: First Holy Communion 2026 Registration will be on Sunday 19th October after the 11.00 Mass. If you know that you cannot come on that date, there is an alternative after the 10.30 Mass at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on Sunday 12th October. Whichever day you register, it is for the same course, and makes no difference to where First Holy Communion is received.

Confirmation in 2025: The Confirmation will be in the afternoon of Sunday September 7th 2025.

Supporting Your Parish: 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)**
Please remember that if you pay income tax, the Church can reclaim this on your giving, (£2.50 for every £10 given) and this is much simpler if you give by standing order.

Parking: Our car-park is small, & many have to park on the road. We are in a residential district, & our neighbours also like to park. Please be considerate, & remember that there are laws regarding where you may park. It is illegal to block a drive to a house where there is a dropped kerb or where a white line is painted indicating the needs of a disabled driver. It is also illegal to park at a road junction. There is usually space on Wellingborough Road at the side of Abington Park opposite the bottom of Lime Avenue.

Gregory Care: there is a second collection for Gregory Care next weekend, we are the parish based charity serving those in need within the Parish of St Gregory and the wider community of all faiths and none. It aims to alleviate hardship and provides signposting and support. Please be generous.

Bargains!

There will be a sale of new clothes and books after both Masses this Sunday in aid of the Cathedral Foodstore; come along and have a look, everything is at very reasonable prices.

Prayers

Please remember Smitha Robin and her family who are in Lourdes this week, travelling on the Across bus, she has taken with her your intentions and will be lighting a candle in the Grotto of Our Lady for this Parish and all our intentions. Smitha is sponsored as a nurse for this pilgrimage by Gregory Care. *Across is a charity created specifically to provide transport and support to enable those with special care needs to go on pilgrimages to Lourdes.*

Dates for your diary:-

20th September 11-3pm African Unity in Diversity Event.

15th November (time to be confirmed) Indian Unity in Diversity Event
On both days the host community will be sharing their culture through food and entertainment.

11th October Parish Quiz and Supper Evening.

28th February Table top Sale.

9 March St Gregory's Fun Day as part of Headlands celebration.

6th June Picnic in the Park.

We hope as many people as possible can join us at these events.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We start again on Tuesday 9th September!! If you have care of a pre-school child on a Tuesday morning we would be delighted to welcome you. Looking forward to seeing you!

Cathedral Hub Business Manager: We are currently recruiting for a full-time, two-year fixed-term position to support the smooth running of the Cathedral Hub, covering three local parish sites. The role involves managing financial and operational tasks, overseeing contracts, SLAs, and facilities, and ensuring strong financial controls. Ideal for someone proactive, reliable, and ready to be a key part of the team. For full info visit; <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs>. All candidates should complete a Diocesan application form & email it to: hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org. Closing date 1st September 9am.

Refreshment Donations: Below is the schedule for refreshment donations through the year:

From the first Sunday in Advent
to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord: The Hope Centre

From the Second Sunday in ordinary time
to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday: Gregory Care
Through Lent and Eastertide: CAFOD

Ordinary Time until the end of August: Refreshment Fund

September until the Harvest collection: CAFOD

After harvest until the beginning of Advent: The Bible Society

The Season of Creation begins on September 1st

Pope Leo XIV has authorised a new Mass for the Care of Creation, to be among the Masses for 'Various Needs and Occasions'. These texts will be used on September 1st as the Season of Creation begins.

Writing to French guides and scouts partaking in the "Clameurs" Rally in Jambville earlier this year, The Pope said: "in the face of pollution and climate change, the loss of biodiversity, the deterioration of life and social degradation, global inequalities, the lack of drinking water and access to

energy for many populations, an ecological education is essential for everyone to reverse the order of things."

"You are young, you are full of ideas and enthusiasm. You want to conquer the world not to subdue it, but to serve the life that comes from God,"

"Only an inner conversion makes possible the change of habits and mentality that leads to a new way of living in communion with the environment," Pope Leo affirmed. (24th July 2025)

Scripture Readings: 20th Sunday of the Year, 24th August 2025

After lamenting the disasters God has sent on the Israelites because of their sins, third Isaiah sees hope in God's renewal of his covenant promise and in the "new heavens and the new earth" which God is creating. Jerusalem will prosper and all nations will be invited to God's holy mountain in Jerusalem. God's glory will be seen by all, and all nations will worship him.

This shortest of all the Psalms calls on all mankind to praise the Lord for his kindness to us and for his faithfulness to his promises.

Hebrews quotes from the Book of Proverbs that a son should expect to be disciplined by his Father. So we should not be discouraged when God disciplines us: rather we should rejoice that God shows in this way that we are his beloved sons. We must persevere, enduring our sufferings, turning away from sin and accepting the works God calls us to do.

Chapter 13 of Luke's gospel emphasises the need to repent, to change our mind-set about God. After Jesus healed a crippled woman on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler was outraged to be told his understanding of the Sabbath was hypocrisy. But we also have great difficulty in accepting God's ways. Today's reading insists that entering the kingdom is difficult.

Psalm Response: Go out to the whole world and proclaim the good news.

(Is 66:18-21; Ps 116(117); Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30)

Chris Oliver

Please pray for the soul of Chris Oliver who died on 22nd June. May he rest in peace and may God reward him for all the good he has done.

Alpha in the Autumn 2025 — Dates and Subjects

First session:	September 16 th	Is there more to life than this?	Alpha is a basic introduction to faith in God, in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is not a complete teaching scheme for the entire Christian faith. We need to recruit more helpers; if you are able to help in any way, please contact Daniel Davighi or speak to Fr Andrew. For more information and to book please see: https://stgregory.org.uk/alpha
Second Session	September 23 rd	Who is Jesus?	
Third Session	October 7 th	Why did Jesus die?	
Fourth Session	October 14 th	How can I have faith?	
Fifth Session	October 21 st	Why and how do I pray?	
Sixth Session:	November 4 th	Why and how should I read the Bible?	
Seventh Session	November 11 th	How does God guide us?	
Eighth Session	November 18 th	Does God heal today?	
Alpha Away-Day	November 22 nd (Saturday)	Who is The Holy Spirit?	
Ninth Session	November 25 th	How can I resist evil?	
Tenth Session	December 2 nd	Why and how should I tell others?	
Eleventh Session	December 3 rd	What about the Church?	

Coming Up

Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church and the Feast of St Gregory

Sunday 31st August

Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church

Mass at 9.00 and 11.00 am

Wednesday 3rd September

Feast of St Gregory

Mass at 9.00 am and 7.00 pm

Sunday 7th September

Bishop's Visitation

Mass at 9.00 and 11.00 am

Confirmation Mass at 3.00 pm

Saturday 20th September

African Cultural Experience

Sunday 28th September

Season of Creation Event

5.00 pm, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Tuesday 30th September

"Vale et Salve"

(Farewell and Welcome)

Farewell to Fr Andrew;

welcome to Fr Christopher

Mass at 7.00 pm

Reports of Growth in the Church in Europe

Some weeks ago there was a report based on a survey commissioned by the Bible Society and conducted by YouGov which showed a significant increase in Church attendance, particularly among the age group 18-24 (Gen-Z), but in most age groups. The only group to show a decline was those aged 45-64.

Some have challenged the methodology of this survey; chiefly those who dislike its findings, and the secular media has largely ignored it.

However, last week the BBC aired a programme on Radio 4, previously aired on the BBC World Service in the 'Heart and Soul' series entitled 'France's new Christians', which began with these words:

"France is so secular that eight out of ten people say that they have no religion, yet this Easter 10,000 adults lined up to be Baptised. It's a 45% increase this year, and that follows a similarly steep rise last year. The numbers far from outweigh the decline in infant Baptism, but still, there is something going on, especially when you listen to some of the stories these new Christians have to tell"

The programme also highlighted a similar trend in the United States, Austria, Belgium and in England. Something is indeed going on.

First of all, the Holy Spirit is working. Of that, there can be no doubt. The Spirit is working through the Church — that is to say, through the people who *are* the Church.

The most obvious manifestation of this change is that more and more parishes and dioceses are putting mission at the top of their agenda. Rather than trying to manage the *result of decline*, the Spirit is asking us to counter the *cause of decline*.

All too often, the cause of decline has been an unwillingness to obey one of Christ's commands: to proclaim the Good News. (Mark 16:15)

Another manifestation of the growth in numbers is the increase in Alpha courses. Last year saw the greatest number of Alpha courses run since it started in 1977.

Here at St Gregory's we may not be seeing the spectacular numbers that are being seen in some places, but we are not in decline. There are many ways in which mission is done in a parish, and our main method has been through Alpha but our Alpha team is small, and is always looking to expand. Can you help?

Information drawn from the Bible Society and BBC. Sources of data can be checked online.