



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



May Jesus bring peace at Christmas.

Image generated through AI

Notices of Interest

Repository: There is a display for Christmas - cards, books & items are on sale. Catholic diaries with the order of the Mass are available. **PLEASE** can anyone help with sales to help my loyal, small group of helpers? Anyone with a calculator can do it - all items priced! Please note that we can only accept cash! *Contact Kath.healey.789@gmail.com.*

Bible Alive for January is now available - only £3.00! If you wish to purchase a copy, they are in the narthex as you come into church. December is now sold out! There are, however, several small booklets of Walk with Me available for Advent. Please see the table in the Narthex.

Donorbox

St. Gregory's has now signed up with Donorbox to enable people to make donations to the Church via a QR code (see below).

This is a safe & easy way of making a one-off donation without having to have cash on you! If you have a smartphone, just point your camera at the QR code, click the link & the site will see you through the donation process.

There is a larger version of this QR code in the Narthex area and in the hall for refreshment donations!



Thursday Holy Hour & Adoration: Holy Hour remains as Holy Two Hours, from 9am until 11am. It is important that at least two people are present throughout the time of adoration. During cold weather, Adoration will be in the Sacristy.

Cathedral Foodstore: Our continued thanks to all who donate to the toiletries for the Foodstore. Please remember that the Foodstore is open to everyone who may be experiencing hardship. Food can be purchased at substantially reduced prices (as it now operates as a food larder) All that is required is a form of ID and a genuine reason for needing to use the larder. It operates between 10:15 - 12:15 every Thursday in the St Thomas Centre (behind the Cathedral).

Church Cleaning: Helpers are needed to clean the Church on the last Saturday of every month (next - Saturday 27th January 2024), after the morning Mass. All welcome, especially younger, more energetic ones!

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group continues to pray together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Church, from 10am-11am.

Tots @ St Gregory's: St Greg's Tiny Tots runs each Tuesday in term time from 9:30-11:30 in the church hall. We charge £1 per group which includes snacks & coffee! If you have care of a pre-school child, please join us!!

Fire Safety — Important notice. Unlit candles **must not** be placed on the trays under the places for candles and candles must not be stacked one on top of another.

Bookings are open for Lux 2024. For school years 7 to 13. Our theme this year is Dive. See the website for more information and to book: <https://nymo.org/lux-dive/>. If you have any questions then please email info@nymo.org.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 8th January at 7pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2023: All sessions are on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates, times have been given to all those who are registered.

Confirmation in 2024: To be announced.

Mission Northampton: There will be a weekly Zoom course entitled "Secrets of Paul", lasting 10 weeks on Wednesdays starting on 10th January and running until 20th March (with a break for half-term on 21st February). There is a charge of £10 for the course, & visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/secrets-of-paul-online/> to register.

Refreshment Donations:

Below is the schedule for refreshment donations through the year:
From the first Sunday in Advent **The Hope Centre**
to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:
From the Second Sunday in ordinary time Gregory Care
to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:
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

Mission Prayer

Heavenly Father

it is your will that we should make disciples of all nations.

We ask you to bless the mission of our Diocese of Northampton

and guide our hearts and minds

so that your will might be done

and your kingdom be build up here on earth.

We pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit,

without which our work is in vain,

and we entrust ourselves to your beloved Son,

for we know that he is with us for all time, now and for ever.

Amen

Prayer for Peace for Ukraine and the Holy Land:

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

To say 'Thank you' to all parishioners and friends



The parish has bought a clean water supply for ten families through CAFOD World gifts. This life-saving charity gift can provide families with a steady supply of clean, safe water for drinking and cooking. Using a water pump also means families can wash in clean water, keeping everyone safe from infection.

If you wish to give a gift through CAFOD, follow this link, and you will receive a free tote bag with your order.

https://worldgifts2018.myshopify.com/a/app/referrals/referrals/4f5e4c7d-9825-403d-b25c-19cb4cfea416/referee_redemption

24th December 2023, 4th Sunday of Advent Year B

After seven years as King of Judah, David was anointed King of all the tribes of Israel. He then captured Jerusalem making it the capital of Israel. Then he increased his power by bringing into Jerusalem the Ark of the Covenant, the Lord's dwelling. But in our first reading the Lord tells David not to build a house for Him, because the Lord will himself build a house – ie a dynasty – founded on David.

The long Psalm, written during or after the exile, starts by reminding God of this promise to David, before asking God how long before He will fulfill His promise.

Paul summarises the Good News: Jesus Christ is the revelation that God intends all humanity to be brought into community with God through faith. We are not justified and saved by the Jewish Law, but

by Jesus' faith in his Father and by our faith in Jesus Christ.

Luke gives us the supreme example of faith: Mary agrees to God's invitation to be the mother of God's Son – the greatest 'Yes' in history! She does not know what might happen – except possibly death by stoning as an unmarried mother. By her faith and trust in God she becomes the first disciple. And God's promise to David is fulfilled.

Psalm Response: **I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**
(2 Sam 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Ps 88:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38)

Chris Oliver

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

In Memory of & Thanksgiving For:

Paul Sefton	Eileen & Percy Walton	Derek Rumsey	Ann & Arthur Eyles	Leann Hannelly	The Tyrell Family
Tim, Eve & John Perkins	Louie Short	Brendan Moen	Kitty Traynor	Angela McCarrren	James Donnelly
The Pallett Family	Iosif Cosmin	Maria Bryans	The Liebe Family	Agnesa John	Francisc Barbara
Glara	loja	Mary Cashman	Michael Moory	Sandra Lee	Cathy Bicknall
Malcolm Allen	Oliver Cooney	Barbara & Fred Jones	Geraldine Cooney	Goretti Smith	Marion Cave
Julie Moriarty	Mary Wall	Marion Murphy	Elijah Isaac	Rebecca & Shane Isaac	Emanuel Family
Ann Ganderton	George McCarron	The Mulholland Family	Louise Battye	The McCarron Family	Margaret Shipman
The Brennan Family					

A letter from Bishop David for the 4th Sunday of Advent 2023



On this Christmas Eve, our season of advent is nearly completed, now we are going to think about the theme of Love. We have reflected over the weeks on hope, joy and peace, and now we are going to think about love.

That single English word has so many meanings and in the Greek Language, there are many words for love. As always, with our themes during this advent, we can only begin to comprehend the meaning of Love when we think about God's love for us. That is agape love, it is the complete and perfect love that is self-giving. 'Greater love has no one', Jesus tells us, 'than that they would lay down their lives for their friends' and we must be invited into that circle of the blessed Trinity's love for all people. I love the words that we will hear at the beginning of the reading in tonight's Mass during the night.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light and those who live in the land of deep shadow a light has shone.

Love shines a light upon our world in its darkness and shadow, Love brings to birth the mystery of God's great sacrifice for us. God's

word became flesh and dwelt amongst us and we saw that light in Jesus. We are invited to undertake our own personal journey of Love into the heart of Christ. Our Love is not to be something which is limited just to a few, those we get along with, those we feel obliged to care for, and our love for ourselves. All these things are important, but above all, there should be in our hearts that great deep love for what God has done for me, for us, and for our world. There's no doubt about it, that our world is crying out parched for Love, and these days of advent we have been preparing for the birth of Love in Bethlehem.

We make our own pilgrimage in love to the King of Love, and my prayer for you and your families is that you will experience a renewed Love of what God has done for us and a renewed Love for each other. Life's too short. Let's put aside all those arguments and disagreements and resentments that we have. Let's do what we can to build a world that is built upon love.

Sincerely,
Bishop David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton. December 17, 2023

Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart

Pope Francis encourages us to look to Our Lady as an example of a prayerful person. In this passage from St Luke's Gospel we are shown how she prayerfully reflects on what is happening around her at the

birth of Jesus, and the same message is given when the boy Jesus is found in the Temple. We too should reflect prayerfully on what is happening in our world and in our life.