

The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



OUR VISION "A truly thriving Catholic community confidently and humbly proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ."





May Jesus bring peace at Christmas.



24th December 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent Parish Mass Book - Year B Page 32

Sunday	9.00 am	Mass	Paul Sefton RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
4th Sunday of	5.00 pm	Mass (for children, families)	Children of the Parish
Advent	11.20 pm	Carol Service	
	Midnight	Mass during the Night	Bishop Francis Thomas
		(Page 34)	RIP
Monday	9.00 am	Mass	St. Gregory's Clergy
Christmas Day	10.40 am	Carol Service	
(Page 39)	11.00 am	Mass	Parish, Parishioners
			& Families
	4.00 pm	Syro Malabar Mass	
Tuesday	10.00 am	Mass	Altar Servers
St. Stephen	2.00 pm	Ukrainian Mass	
Wednesday	9.00 am	Mass	Thanksgiving
St. John			
Thursday	9-11 am	Holy Hours of Adoration	
The Holy Innocents	7.00 pm	Mass	Paul Sefton RIP
Friday	9.00 am	Mass	Dermot Byrne
St. Thomas Becket			
Saturday	9.00 am	Mass	Maureen Clark RIP
6 th Day of	9.45 am	Confessions	
Christmas Octave			
Sunday	9.00 am	Mass	Julie Moriarty RIP
The Holy Family	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	5.00 pm	Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	

Your Offering to the Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £507.62. Thank you! Standing Order gifts to the Parish: Each week £580 is given through standing orders. <u>Donations through the Diocese:</u> An average of £90 is given each week. Gift Aid benefits to the parish: The value of Gift Aid averages £136 per week.

Cleaners This Week:

The Church is cleaned and sanitised on a regular basis. Counters this Week: CC & MB

Readings for this Sunday—see inside for details

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14-16: The kingdom of David will always stand secure before the Lord. Romans 16: 25-27: The mystery, which was kept secret for endless ages, is now made clear.

Luke 1: 26-38: Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.

Readings for next Sunday

Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3: 12-21; Genesis 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3. (Page 41)

During this season Migrants & Refugees; Open-ness to God's Word of Advent, we are The Bishop, Clergy & People of the Diocese; Asked to pray for: Expectant Mothers.

Further Heating Update

There has been a great deal of work going on to determine exactly the best way of restoring the full heating capacity - sadly heat pumps are at present not effective enough to give us sufficient heat unless we could exclude all draughts and double-glaze all the windows. However the government are seeking to move towards mixing hydrogen in the gas fuel, which has a zero-carbon emission. We are still hoping that the work can be completed within a week sometime in January. We are grateful for the loan of a space heater resembling a jet engine and powered by jet fuel which does make a difference.

In the meanwhile, please try to keep such heat as we have in and the cold out; please do not leave doors open, and come well padded-up!

A number of people have made kind offers to help pay for the new boiler; these are most appreciated. The cost will be considerable, and both specific donations and/or increased weekly giving will be gratefully received!

Paul Sefton RIP

Paul's funeral Mass will be on Wednesday January 3rd at 12.30 pm. May he rest in peace.

Priest:

Fr Andrew Behrens **2** 713015 E-mail: frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org

Deacon:

Rev Michael Fleming E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com Parish Secretary:

2 647750

Caryll Comley **2** 713015 Email: parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org

Safeguarding representative

2 07906802615 Carol McNeil

Please Pray for the Sick:

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<u> Anniversaries:</u> May they Rest in Peace

Michael O'Grady	William Coveney	
Emily Glazebrook	Brian Donnelly	
Douglas Golding	Thomas Billingham	
Louisa Percival	Irene Hearne	
Nancy Ginnelly	Neal Cramphorn	
Vita Cohen	Doreen Bowers	
Beatrice Bowers	Joseph Casey	
Alice King	Joy Tomczyszyn	
Tony Haynes	Eileen Newberry	
Bill Condron	Antonio Pannese	
Grace Johnson	John Patton	
Rainer Neilson	Patrick Pattern	
Adela Cond	Josephine Mullally	
Juris Dimpers	Veronica Harrison	
Eugenie Lesimple	William Blundell	
Bob Pike	Peter Turner	
Thomas Gilnagh	Philip Bentley	
Grace Jones	Doris King	
Noreen O'Connor	Mary Casey	
Hannah Milner	Catherine Stevens	
Mary Seaman	Patrick Marshall	
Irene Linnell	Julie Moriarty	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER:

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Notices of Interest

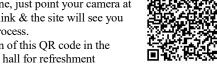
Repository: There is a display for Christmas - cards, books & items are on sale. Catholic diaries with the order of the Mass are available. PLEASE can anyone help with sales to help my loyal, small group of helpers? Anyone with a calculator can do it - all items priced! Please note that we can only accept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

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/ 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 to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:

Through Lent and Eastertide:

Ordinary Time until the end of August: Refreshment Fund

September until the Harvest collection:

After harvest until the beginning of Advent:

CAFOD

CAFOD

Gregory Care

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.

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;

Chris Oliver

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

In Memory of & Thanksgiving For:

Paul Sefton Eileen & Percy Walton
Tim, Eve & John Perkins Louie Short
The Pallett Family loja
Glara loja
Malcolm Allen Oliver Cooney
Julie Moriarty Mary Wall
Ann Ganderton George McCarron

The Brennan Family

Derek Rumsey Brendan Moen Maria Bryans Mary Cashman Barbara & Fred Jones Marion Murphy The Mulholland Family

Ann & Arthur Eyles
Kitty Traynor
The Liebe Family
Michael Moory
Geraldine Cooney
Eliah Isaac
Louise Battye

Luke 1:26-38)

Leann Hannelly
Angela McCrarren
Agnesa John
Sandra Lee
Goretti Smith
Rebecca & Shane Isaac
The McCarron Family

The Tyrell Family James Donnelly Francisc Barbara Cathy Bicknall Marion Cave Emanuel Family Margaret Shipman

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.