



The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234091



“A truly thriving Catholic community, confidently and humbly proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.”



The Sunday of the Word of God, instituted by Pope Francis and to be held every year on the third Sunday of Ordinary Time, reminds us, pastors and faithful alike, of the importance and value of Sacred Scripture for the Christian life, as well as the relationship between the word of God and the liturgy: “As Christians, we are one people, making our pilgrim way through history, sustained by the Lord, present in our midst, who speaks to us and nourishes us. A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the Risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers. For this reason, we need to develop a closer relationship with Sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, inflicted as we are by so many forms of blindness”.

Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments 2020

Bishop David Oakley will preside over a Bible Service to mark this occasion at 3.00 pm on Sunday 24 January 2021 which will be live-streamed from Northampton Cathedral. <https://northamptoncathedral.org/live/>



The *Logo of the Sunday from the Word of God* is inspired by the gospel passage about the disciples of Emmaus (cf. *Lk 24:13-33*) and highlights the theme of the relationship between the travellers, expressed in looks, gestures and words. Jesus appears as the one who “came near and went with” humanity (*Luke 24:15*), “standing among them” (*John 1:14*). In him “there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (*Galatians 3:28*).

Walking among his own, he reinvigorates their steps, pointing to the horizons of evangelization, depicted in the logo by the star: “He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all

his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice” (*John 10: 3-4*).

His words are one with those contained in the scroll he holds in his hands: “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals” (*Rev 5: 2*). If the two disciples are lost, in the face of the mysteries of history, they are immediately reassured: “Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals” (*Apocalypse 5:5*). “Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures” (*Luke 24:27*).

Familiarity with the *Word of God* arises from the relationship, from the search for the face of God in the Sacred pages. Scripture does not offer us concepts, but experiences; it does not immerse us only in a text, but also opens us to the encounter with the Word of life, “useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work” (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*).

In the background there is a great light: there are those who only see one at sunset, evoking *Luke 24:29*; we like to welcome the “rising sun” (*Luke 1:78*) and which, in the Risen One, announces the dawn of a new mission destined for all peoples: “Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation” (*Mark 16:15*).

“The time has come” - the Lord says in the Gospel. Do not wait another moment; do not put off to tomorrow the possibility of encountering God in His Word! “Repent and believe in the Gospel” means change your lifestyle and welcome the good news, the Word sent to us by God the Father. Only in this way can you know the love of God, who in His incarnate Son has revealed to us the true face of the merciful Father. Today the Church throughout the world is celebrating the *Sunday of the Word of God*. We want to open our hearts to the divine presence in the Holy Scriptures, and rediscover the meaning in our time.

Enthroning the Book of the Gospels on the Sunday of the Word of God



Notices of Interest

LUX.VALOUR Weekend: On Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st January 2021, we can all come together online for LUX.Valour! During our LUX.Valour weekend, we will be exploring what it means to be a young person of great bravery. How we can walk into the unknown of this New Year, confident that we are “not given a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power.” 2 Timothy 1:7.
<https://nymo.org/lux-valour/>

Repository: Despite the difficulties this year we have managed to donate some funds to our charities, the Hope Centre and our own Parish help for those in need. The amounts have had to be reduced, but perhaps conditions will improve in 2021. Once again a great vote of thanks to our customers and especially to the small but loyal band of helpers. Anyone wishes to volunteer help after services when normality returns would be very welcome. At the moment, goods can be looked at with the help of the stewards as before. Kathleen Healey

COVID-19 Precautions We are in lockdown, & as responsible members of our community, we obey the Government Regulations in solidarity with so many others on whom are being imposed restrictions which impact severely on their lives & livelihoods. Now that we can return to Mass, we must continue to try to suppress the spread of the virus & support those who remain vulnerable.

Face masks: Wearing face masks is compulsory in churches & you should wear one if you can. Stewards are not responsible for policing this, but may remind you that this is the law.

Bible Alive for January 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.

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School. If you have a child due to start primary school in September 2021, St Gregory's are welcoming parents to visit the school and see it in action. Contact 01604 403511 to arrange a visit. Closing date for place applications is 15th January 2021 at 5pm.

Exploring the Post-Lockdown Church: The webinar series has been wonderful, and thank you to all who promoted it and came along throughout the series. We have had over 3,000 views! This is definitely something we will be looking to do again in the future. If you want to catch up with any you missed, all the videos are here: <http://formationpathways.co.uk/exploring-the-post-lockdown-church-webinar-series/>

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

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Second Collections 2021: Please see the poster in the porch for next year's second collections.

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.

Financial Support for Self-Isolation: Please see the following article regarding financial help available for those who are self-isolating;

<https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/health/coronavirus/how-apply-self-isolation-financial-support-now-available-across-northamptonshire-3004756>

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: If you have a child who wishes to make their 1st Holy Communion next year & are in school years 3-6, please email Stella at swatts49@outlook.com, who will note your name & the name & age of your child. This is still very much a first step as we are still unsure of how we can prepare the children at the moment; please be patient &, as soon as we possibly can, we'll give you more info about our programme & timings at which stage you can decide whether or not you wish to proceed.

Confirmation: Yet again we are thrown into confusion! We await more information. This continues to be difficult!

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

The Big Church Read: Each year we mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with a joint Bible Study. With the current regulations in force, our normal event cannot take place, but in its place, there is an interesting opportunity which is being organized by Broadmead Baptist Church. The Big Church Read which encourages churches to form book clubs and read a book together with videos and group questions put together by the author – all completely free. All a person has to do is buy the book and even that can be discounted. Starting at the beginning of February, Churches, small group, book clubs, huddles and individuals across Northampton are coming together to read Pete Hughes bestselling book 'All Things New'. Starting in Genesis and working through the Scriptures, The Big Northampton Church Read through All Things New will take you on a journey into the very heart of God and His relentless passion to redeem lives, heal the nations, rewire the culture, and bring renewal to all of creation. This book sits beside the Bible Timeline, and should prove to be interesting and worthwhile. If you are interested, then please check out the website <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/allthingsnew/>, where you can order the book and sign up to receive more information. The author will be providing a weekly video as well as group questions and as a huge bonus will also be doing a live virtual Q&A.

To Catholic Universe and Catholic Times readers in the parish:- at the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, post-free. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you.
SPECIAL OFFER - 3 months: £25.00 — 12 Months: £99.00
Digital copy: 12 Months: £55.00

Parish Finances: As colder weather is here & have the heating on, our finances will come under a bit of strain. We have kept solvent through the lockdown; great thanks to all who have been so generous.

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)

On this Sunday of the Word of God those who read at Mass are re-commissioned. This will be both in person and through the videos of the Mass, and will also be done by the Bishop at the Cathedral on Sunday afternoon.

Scripture Readings 24th January 2021, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

In the short book of Jonah, God sent a great fish to force Jonah back to the mission God had given him, to warn Nineveh that it was to be destroyed. But, after the fish had spewed Jonah back on to dry land, Jonah was still angry that God relented. He had run away to avoid drawing God's mercy on the hated city, believing only Jews were worthy of God's mercy.

After praying for pardon, the Psalm meditates on God's goodness towards the just.

Responding to questions from the Corinthians about married life, Paul gives detailed advice – but against the background of expecting Jesus to return in glory virtually any minute. There may also have been a famine when he was writing. They should not be alarmed by

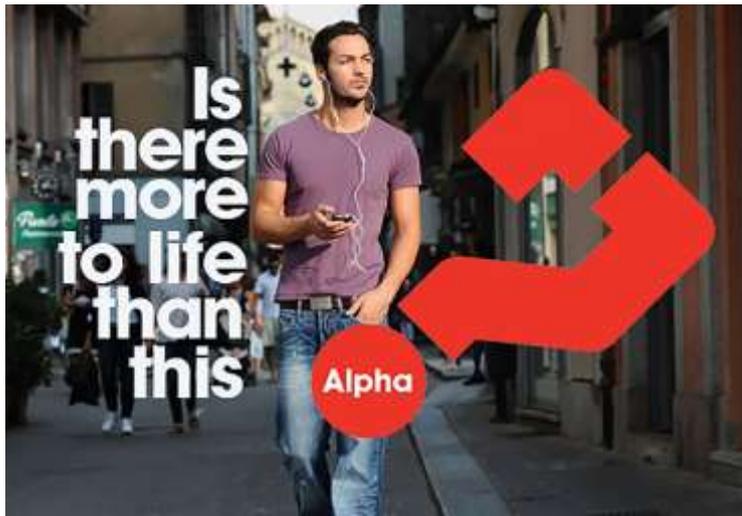
any current world crisis, even if normal activities are interrupted for a time. But one day the world will end. What will matter then is their faithfulness to the Lord, whatever their social circumstances.

Last week we heard from the Gospel of John about Jesus calling the first disciples. Our year B readings from the Gospel of Mark now resume until Lent, then continuing after Trinity Sunday. Mark describes Jesus beginning his ministry by first proclaiming the Good News, and then also calling the first disciples.

Psalm Response: **Lord, make me know your ways.**

(Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; Psalm 24(25): 4-9; 1 Cor 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20)

Chris Oliver



Alpha on Line

Do you have questions about life? Do you want to grow in your faith in this difficult time? Do you want to connect with others?

Why not try Alpha online?

Or maybe you know someone who has questions? Maybe they wouldn't want to come to Church but they may feel comfortable joining an online course?

We really encourage you to invite them to Alpha online! Alpha is an 11 week course where people can explore the big questions of life.

We are beginning our first Alpha online this term on Tuesday evenings starting on 16th February at 7.30pm.

If you have never done Alpha or have been unable to join us because of, for example, childcare commitments in the evenings, this may be the perfect opportunity for you.

Dates:

16th and 23rd February, 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th April, 4th May.

Retreat day: Sat 10th April, 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

To receive the zoom code please sign up online (<https://stgregory.org.uk/alpha>) or email Maria Heath: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk

The God Who Speaks- Our Liturgy of the Word

The recording of last week's presentation on "The importance of God's Word for Christian Identity & Everyday Living" is available at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Eag9t18caC2LntVL076dadwRYOA8R2uImYrX1B9qgFQ8JmqLAB-OiMkz8E-nlFhU.16iQmwbpj7BU5tnh> (Access Passcode: 4%se?3#Y)

Tuesday 16 February 2021, 7.30-8.30 pm: 'Many more began to believe in him because of his Word' (John 4:41) John's Gospel & The Season of Lent. Led by Mgr Kevin McGinnell, Chair of the Diocesan

Liturgy Commission and Alex Heath, Adviser for Adult Faith Formation

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 Once your booking is received you will be sent details of how to join the online Zoom sessions.

Next Sunday

Next Sunday is designated as "Racial Justice Sunday". Ethnic minorities have suffered disproportionately from the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating a systemic problem with racial injustice in our society.

This was dramatically brought home with the brutal killing of George Floyd and the reaction it provoked. As Pope Francis reflects: *"instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think."*

Dismantle structures of injustice

These shameful reminders of racism demand meaningful action to confront and dismantle sinful structures of injustice. Our brother Bishops in the USA remind us that: *"all of us are in need of personal, ongoing conversion. Our churches and our civic and social institutions are in need of ongoing reform. If racism is confronted by*

addressing its causes and the injustice it produces, then healing can occur."

Racism is a sin and a violation of human dignity in which we are all complicit. As Catholics we need to acknowledge and confront our own failings, as individuals and as a Church.

Every single one of our parishes, schools and organisations has a responsibility to actively practise anti-racism in all aspects of our mission.

A Time to Act

It is not enough to simply denounce racism. This is a time to act. In the words of the Holy Father: *"This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities — what we value, what we want, what we seek — and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of. God asks us to dare to create something new."*

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), of which CAFOD is an active member has launched a nationwide appeal for funds. Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal> or use a CAFOD envelope and give through the parish.



SECOND COLLECTIONS 2021

10th January	Hope Centre
17th January	Life House
31st January	Home Missions
28th February	CAFOD (Lenten Fast Day 26th Feb)
2nd April	Good Friday Collection for the Holy Places
25th April	Diocesan Priests' Training Fund
16th May	Mass Media
20th June	Day for Life
27th June	Peter's Pence
11th July	Apostleship of the Sea
19th September	Home Mission Sunday
3rd October	CAFOD (Harvest Fast Day 1st October)
24th October	Mission Sunday
7th November	Bishop's Maintenance Fund
14th November	Sick & Retired Priests' Fund

