



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

Pope St John XXIII and World Mission

The feast day of St Pope John XXIII was on 11 October. A former Missio National Director and the architect of the Second Vatican Council, the ‘Good Pope’ has a special place in our hearts.

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born into a family of poor farmers in Italy in 1881. He had 12 brothers and sisters.

At school he was known as a hardworking student with a strong faith. So it was no surprise when after finishing school he joined the local seminary, and was ordained a Priest in 1904, at the age of 23.

His first appointment after ordination was as secretary to his bishop in Bergamo, and he also taught history in the seminary. As a result of his own research into the history of his own diocese he developed an interest in the renewal of the Church, particularly at a local level through its pastoral activity following the Council of Trent. This was formative in his decision to convene the Second Vatican Council when many years later he was elected Pope. The outbreak of war in 1914 brought this phase of his life to an end.

At the start of the First World War, Angelo enlisted in the army, first as a field hospital assistant then a military chaplain. Fr Angelo’s time at war encouraged his pursuit of peace and unity, and after the war he was asked to become Italy’s Director of Missio; a post he stayed in for four years.

An advocate for all in need

Fr Angelo went on to be the Pope’s Nuncio, serving as a delegate in various posts across Europe. During the Second World War he used this role to save many refugees, mostly Jewish people, from the Nazis.

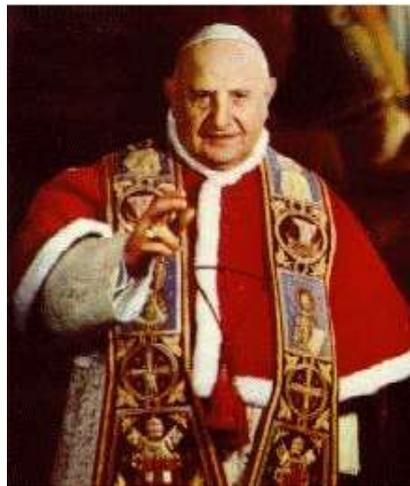
Pope Pius XII appointed him Cardinal Patriarch of Venice in 1953. But despite his successes, Cardinal Angelo continued to live a humble, simple life. He showed great love for all the people in his care, especially those living in poverty.

Making waves

Just before his 78th birthday, to everyone’s surprise, Cardinal Angelo was elected Pope. He adopted the name John XXIII.

But far from being the ‘caretaker Pope’ many expected, Pope John XXIII will be remembered as the revolutionary Holy Father who called the Second Vatican Council. He was a passionate advocate for equality, stating:

‘We were all made in God’s image, and thus, we are all Godly alike’.



Taking the Church to the ends of the Earth

Pope John was instrumental in modernising the Church, and placing pastoral care at the heart of the Church’s mission. He welcomed dialogue and collaboration with leaders of other Christian churches and other faiths, and was the first Pope to name cardinals from Africa, Japan and the Philippines. Through unity and understanding, Pope John XXIII sought to bring the world closer to the Kingdom Jesus asks us to create.

Pope John XXIII died in 1963. He was made a saint by Pope Francis in 2014 and is buried in a simple tomb in St Peter’s Basilica, Rome.

His efforts to foster world peace and his love and respect for all people means that he was admired around the world and given the nickname ‘the Good Pope’. He reminds us all that we are part of ‘a great, an immense family’, and of our mission to share the light and love of Christ with all our sisters and brothers across the world.

An unending mission

As we celebrate World Mission Sunday, we’re all reminded of our call to speak of what we have seen and heard. As we each examine our personal call to mission, we bring to mind the words of the Good Pope:

‘Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.’

Get involved

World Mission Sunday is celebrated in every Catholic community in the world. It’s a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence and oppression. Every parish, school and community is invited to join this special event, and every penny, pound and prayer you give to Missio helps missionaries everywhere continue their work.

The Mission continues

The work of Missio is supported not only by the annual special collection but also by the ‘Red Box’ appeal. You can have a red box in your own home, collecting for the work of the overseas mission of the Church. Please see Alec Unsworth or Dorothy Pallett for details. Meanwhile, please also remember the mission of the Church in this country and in this parish. Locally, the greatest need is for many more people to get involved in the missionary work that we are already undertaking, primarily through the Alpha course. Can you bring someone with you for the next one (in the spring)?

Notices of Interest

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass. We desperately need more helpers for a few minutes after Mass; all stock is marked, so an easy task! Also, help is needed for the special Christmas sale of cards, calendars & gifts, for 6 weekends. Kathleen Healey (01604) 629103

Bible Alive for October & November 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.

Choir Matters: Choir Practices in preparation for Christmastide will be after evening Mass every Thursday starting 4 November, 7:45-9 pm. Alec

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next preparation will be in the Sacristy on Mon. 22nd November, 7pm. Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: The information and registration meeting is **this Sunday 17th October** after the 12:00 Mass. If you have a child, or children, who would like to make their First Holy Communion next Summer it is essential that you and your child attend this meeting. We look forward to meeting you.

Confirmation in 2022: The next Confirmation programme will be announced soon, but there will be a time of reflection before any definite plans are made. Please keep looking at this space where information will appear.

Parish Finances: Continued thanks for the wonderful generosity that you are showing to the parish.

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)

SPUC- Silent Prayer Vigil: The Northampton branch of SPUC has started a weekly silent prayer vigil in St Giles Terrace, Northampton. The members will stand in silent prayer to give public witness to the 2000 babies killed by abortion at the local branch of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, situated in Albion House, St Giles Terrace. Abortion is a dreadful crime against women and babies. As Christians we all have a duty before Christ to actively stop it. Please join us. For further details please contact William Currie on wpcurie@btinternet.com or 07393965643

SPUC - Tiny Feet Coffee Morning: You are invited to our SPUC 'Tiny Feet' coffee morning, 10am-12pm, Sat. 13th Nov, in the Parish Hall. Please come & give your support to our Pro Life event. Money raised will go towards the work of the SPUC. Every little thing we do, with God's grace, will make the world Pro Life & reject the horror of abortion. Thank you.

Job Vacancies: The Diocese is currently recruiting for a Cleaning Supervisor to provide cleaning support and supervision to the cleaning team working at the St Thomas Centre, Bishop's House, Café 1850 & the Marion Suite. The role will be for 25 hours per week: Monday – Friday 7.00 am - 12 noon; also for a cleaner to perform daily cleaning tasks within the St Thomas Centre & Café 1850. The role will be for 6 hours per week, working pattern: Friday – Sunday 7am-9am See <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/> or via email hadmin@northamptondiocese.com

News from the Foodstore! We as a parish continue to support the Cathedral Foodstore by supplying toiletries to add to food bags. The Cathedral supply these provisions each week to families in need from around Northampton. Please donate what you can, & continue to pray for this work. Remember that as the weather gets colder, the need becomes greater. Many Thanks, Gregory Care.

All Soul's Day & Praying for our Departed: The Feast of All Saints is transferred to Sunday, but All Souls falls on Tuesday, 2nd November, & there will be Mass at 7pm for the departed of the parish and those whose funerals have taken place in St Gregory's in the past two years. Due to the continuing need for social distancing, we have not issued invitations this year, but there will be opportunity for anyone to ask for particular people to be mentioned by name in the Bidding Prayers. There will also be refreshments offered afterwards.

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.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We will be in the hall from 9:30-11:30 each school week Tuesday! If you have care of a baby or pre-school child Tuesday mornings why not join our very friendly & fun group? We only charge £1 for an adult & however many children they bring & this includes snack & all activities!

Courses for Readers: The Bible Timeline course has started on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7.30 pm. on 13th October. All are welcome, but those who proclaim the Scriptures at Mass are particularly encouraged to take part. Please email to Fr Andrew for further details. It is not too late to join!

Up-cyclers: We have a few metal-framed chairs which have been in the Sacristy for some time, but whose upholstery is damaged, & no longer comply with health & safety regulations, but could be up-cycled to make garden chairs. Maybe a winter project to be ready for next summer! This must be a better fate for them than to be taken to the tip. Free to a good home, or a suitable donation accepted!

This Sunday is World Mission Sunday & is being celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world! It supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries like Sister Veronica build peace in Nigeria & share the love of Christ with those most in need. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world & give what you can to this collection which will sustain the future of our Church. Please call **020 7821 9755** (office hours) or visit Missio's website to give a single gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation, if possible: missio.org.uk

Climate Change Conference, COP26: The destruction of our land, oceans and forests is threatening people's homes and their ability to earn a living. From October 31st to November 12th, governments from across the world meet to discuss how to tackle the climate emergency at COP26. It's vital for the Catholic community to demand that our leaders act now to protect our common home. Join CAFOD on Tuesday 9th November at 7.00 pm to hear live from Glasgow. Neil Thorns, Head of Advocacy, Communication and Education and a Vatican representative from the Vatican delegation will present a webinar on the progress made at the COP26. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and listen to the latest discussions at the global United Nations summit about climate change and how countries are planning to tackle it. To register and for more information, visit: <https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/COP26-update>. The webinar will be recorded, and can be watched later.

Scripture Readings 24th October 2021, 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Jeremiah has promised that Israel will return from their exile in Babylon. This new exodus will be on a smooth path with ample water, not like the first wanderings in the desert. God has redeemed his people, and will make a new unbreakable covenant with Israel, writing his law on people's hearts, instead of on breakable stone. Jesus made this new covenant at the Last Supper.

The Psalm exults in the imagined joy of this restoration, so intense as to seem like dream.

The extended extract from Hebrews read over the last 2 weeks, concludes by showing how Christ's humanity enables him to understand our weaknesses. As the high priest forever, appointed by God at his baptism, Christ is therefore supremely fitted to mediate between us and God. But Hebrews goes on to say that

Christ had to learn the depths of the human condition through his suffering.

Today we hear the last of Jesus' teachings during his journey up to Jerusalem. Though blind, Bartimeus calls Jesus "Son of David". He can see who Jesus is more clearly than the disciples following Jesus. He then calls Jesus "Master", the only person in the first three gospels to do so before the resurrection. Able to see, Bartimeus now follows as a disciple.

Psalm Response: **What Marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.**

(Jeremiah 31: 7-9; Psalm 125(126); Hebrews 5: 1-6; Mark 10: 46-52)

Chris Oliver

A WEEKEND JOURNEY TO EMMAUS *Hosted by Mission Northampton* **A heart warming journey with Jesus as he explains the Scriptures.**

Saturday 27th November, 10.00 am–8.00 pm and

Sunday 28th November 10.00 am–4.00 pm:

a commitment to the whole weekend is essential.

Venue:

**St. Thomas Centre, Northampton Cathedral, Primrose Hill,
Kingsthorpe Rd, Northampton, NN2, 6AG.**

Details of how to register & pay coming soon.

**Please email your interest to: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk
to reserve your place.**

New Ardour this week:

"Catholicism — The New Evangelisation"

**Monday 25th October, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
and running for 5 weeks on Mondays at 2.00 pm**

"The Catholic Faith is not about myths or legends, symbols or literary devices. It's about an encounter so overwhelming that you want to tell the whole world. It's an encounter with Jesus Christ. Throughout history the call of Christ has sent people to the corners of the earth with a message of great joy - a message that has built civilisations, inspired cultures & even sent some believers to prison & others to their graves.

We have the same call. That is evangelisation

A course by Bishop Robert Barron, delivered by Zoom!

Last week's session considered the call to the New Evangelisation, and the need for it. When first spoken of, it was called 'New in ardour, new in methods and new in expressions'.

The theme for this week is 'New in Ardour'. This must spring from the personal faith of each one of us. No one can burn with ardour for evangelisation without burning with love of Jesus; without the flame of the Holy Spirit burning brightly in their own life and soul.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for this month is 'that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel'. Each one of us can pray the words of the hymn: "O thou who camest from above, thy pure celestial fire to impart; kindle a flame of sacred love on the mean altar of my heart."

It will help us to become better disciples ourselves.

Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

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

The Synod: (Journeying Together)

Today the Synodal process has its launch in parishes, but between November 8th and December 13th there will be opportunities for small meetings for local listening and individual conversations. There will be more information next week.

Bishop David has written:

"Over the next few weeks there will be all kinds of groups and conversations springing up around the diocese. I ask as many of you as possible to take up these opportunities, both as participants and as local listeners. We will need your eyes and ears to reach those on the margins, a particular concern of Pope Francis. There will be

resources and training to help make this happen. The diocesan website is a good place to find out more.

I am asking us all to get involved in our diocesan synod process. This is not a parliamentary system in which there are winners and losers. Instead, this is about graceful listening and graceful speaking, in which each person's contribution is valued. Each one of us has the opportunity to speak and be listened to; but also to seek out those who do not usually speak, and those whose voices are not usually heard. The conversations we have together will inform the future direction of our diocese."

St Gregory's next Alpha:

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which we are hoping will be able to 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. It is good to have established believers as well as potential converts and those who simply want to know more about our faith. 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:	21st September 2021: Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	28th September 2021 Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	5th October 2021 Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session	12th October 2021 How can I be sure of my faith?
Fifth Session	19th October 2021 Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session	9th November 2021 How does God guide us?
Seventh Session	16th November 2021 Why and how should I read the Bible?
Away-Day	19th -20th November 2021 Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session	23rd November 2021 How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session	30th November 2021 Why and how should we tell others?
Tenth Session	7th December 2021 What about the Church?
Eleventh Session	14th December 2021 What about the rest of my life?