



# 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

## After the Joy of the Gospel

Archbishop Mark O’Toole, Chair of the Department for Evangelisation and Discipleship of the Bishops’ Conference wrote a message for last Sunday in which he said of Evangelii Gaudium Sunday:

“This is a moment in the Church in England and Wales when we recall that we are all missionary disciples called to witness to our faith and to share it with others. I’d like to share with you some of the things that the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales are doing in order to help us all undertake this invitation of the Lord. Especially over this next 18 months to two years, we will be preparing for the Jubilee Year, which takes place throughout the Church in 2025. In fact, that Jubilee year begins in Advent 2024 and is entitled Pilgrims of Hope.

Pope Francis has deliberately chosen this theme in order to remind us that we walk together in the path of faith. We will be spending time reflecting on what it means to be a Catholic community who walk together and listen to one another, in order that we can be more effective missionary disciples. But in preparation for this Jubilee year, the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, following the invitation of the Holy Father, is spending these first six months or so reflecting on the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, and especially in its four constitutional or foundation documents. Firstly, on the word of God, Dei Verbum, which asks what does it mean to listen more deeply and to experience Jesus in His Word, so that that word can be communicated to others?

Secondly, to reflect on the gift of the Liturgy of Divine Worship through the document Sacrosanctum Concilium. What does it mean for us to be able to enter more deeply into that most unique and important encounter we have with the Lord in the Sacred Liturgy? Thirdly, the document on

the nature of the Church, Lumen Gentium. It is of course Jesus Christ who is the light of the nations, and we meet and encounter Him in the mystery of our Holy Mother, the Church. What does it mean to be a member of the Church and to try and reach out to others, to invite them to be part of our walking together and so be pilgrims of hope with us, and finally Gaudium et Spes – the Church in the Modern World?

What does it mean for the Church to be open to the realities of our modern world, to engage with the disciplines of science and politics, of culture, of the arts, so that we can be a voice of hope in these arenas? The Bishops’ Conference will be sharing information on all of these and different ways in which we can engage with them. And then in the second part of this preparation for the year of the Jubilee, the Bishops’ Conference, together with the whole of the Catholic community throughout the world, will be spending time reflecting on the Our Father as the invitation to prayer. Because, of course, it’s true that we cannot offer to others what we have not experienced deeply ourselves. And so one of the most intense periods of preparation will be in those months leading up to the launch of the Year of Jubilee, when the conference will be offering, through its Department for Evangelisation and Discipleship resources, which help us to reflect on the gift of the Our Father and our relationship through Jesus Christ.

With God the Father, when we pray, through the power of the Holy Spirit. So I ask you, as you prepare to celebrate Evangelii Gaudium Sunday, to give thanks for your faith and to ask the Lord to help you be a more faithful missionary disciple. God bless.”

### Dei Verbum

Hearing the word of God with reverence and proclaiming it with faith, the sacred synod takes its direction from these words of St. John: “We announce to you the eternal life which dwelt with the Father and was made visible to us. What we have seen and heard we announce to you, so that you may have fellowship with us and our common fellowship be with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:2-3). Therefore, following in the footsteps of the Council of Trent and of the First Vatican Council, this present council wishes to set forth authentic doctrine on divine revelation and how it is handed on, so that by hearing the message of salvation the whole world may believe, by believing it may hope, and by hoping it may come to love.

### Lumen Gentium

Christ is the Light of nations. Because this is so, this Sacred Synod gathered together in the Holy Spirit eagerly desires, by proclaiming the Gospel to every creature, to bring the light of Christ to all men, a light brightly visible on the countenance of the Church. Since the Church is in Christ like a sacrament or as a sign and instrument both of a very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race, it desires now to unfold more fully to the faithful of the Church and to the whole world its own inner nature and universal mission. This it intends to do following faithfully the teaching of previous councils. The present-day conditions of the world add greater urgency to this work of the Church so that all men, joined more closely today by various social, technical and cultural ties, might also attain fuller unity in Christ.

### Sacrosanctum Concilium

We are called to fully conscious and active participation whenever we gather for the liturgy. This sacred Council has several aims in view: it desires to impart an ever increasing vigour to the Christian life of the faithful; to adapt more suitably to the needs of our own times those institutions which are subject to change; to foster whatever can promote union among all who believe in Christ; to strengthen whatever can help to call the whole of mankind into the household of the Church. The Council therefore sees particularly cogent reasons for undertaking the reform and promotion of the liturgy.

### Gaudium et Spes

The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community composed of men. United in Christ, they are led by the Holy Spirit in their journey to the Kingdom of their Father and they have welcomed the news of salvation which is meant for every man. That is why this community realizes that it is truly linked with mankind and its history by the deepest of bonds.



# Notices of Interest

**Car Park Safety:** Neither the Parish nor the Diocese are responsible for the safety of persons (adults or children), cars or their contents while in the car-park.

**Repository:** The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass wherever possible! We need more helpers prepared to stand for a few minutes after Mass - all stock is marked, so an easy task!  
Contact [Kath.healey.789@gmail.com](mailto:Kath.healey.789@gmail.com).

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

**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.

**Tots @ St Gregory's:** St Greg's Tiny Tots are starting again this Tuesday September 12th. We meet each Tuesday in term time from 9:30-11:30 in the church hall. We charge £1 per group which includes snacks and coffee! If you have care of a pre-school child, join us!!

**Choir Notes:** Next practice will be Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup>, 11am till 12:30pm. New faces with their voices welcome. *Alec*

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next session will be on Monday evening, 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. at 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

**First Holy Communion 2023:** Enrolment for 2024 will be Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. after the 11am Mass. There will be a welcome to the children who are registered & their parents at the 11am Mass on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. All sessions will be on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates and times will be available at the registration. Please see the separate article on the way the programme works.

**Confirmation in 2023:** Confirmation sessions have resumed, and those enrolled should have received an email with details.

**Food Parcels:** Please contact Gregory Care (07434 669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

**The Northampton Male Voice Choir** will be performing at Northampton Cathedral to raise funds for the Healing Garden, which provides a sanctuary for all in need of healing, with a particular focus on the needs of those hurt by abuse. 20<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30, cost £15.00.

**St Thomas Catholic School** is hoping to achieve the CAFOD 'Live Simply' award. They are planning to make their environment more beautiful and provide habitats for wildlife. They are looking for donations of bulbs\* so that every member of the school community can plant one.

**Parish Finances:** 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)**

**URGENT NOTE ON FINANCES** If you have transferred to standing orders and pay income tax please contact Fr Andrew (preferably by email) so that the Gift Aid can be linked to your donation. Claims can only be made for up to three years, so there is some urgency about this.

**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-12pm.

**Fewer Electrical Hazards:** Many thanks to Daniel and his son, Matthew for changing all the main lights in the church for LED replacements which use much less power. There is now a new board with circuit breakers for the hall, kitchen and sacristy, meeting the current requirements. There are still a few small jobs needing to be done, but mostly we have put right things that were required. Part of safeguarding is to ensure that in every respect the church is as safe as possible for all who come here.

**Missio Matters:** After this Sunday's 9am Mass Dorothy will be making an appeal for people to help with the work of Missio. At 11am it will be Alec who appeals for others to come forward to help. For declaration of interest and more information please contact Dorothy or Alec (01604 622153 or [a.unsworth@ntlworld.com](mailto:a.unsworth@ntlworld.com))

**Refreshment Donations:** From now until the Harvest collection on Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> refreshment donations after Sunday Mass and on Wednesday mornings is given to CAFOD. Below is the schedule for refreshment donations through the year:

From the first Sunday in Advent	<b>The Hope Centre</b>
to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:	
From the Second Sunday in ordinary time	<b>Gregory Care</b>
to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:	
Through Lent and Eastertide:	<b>CAFOD</b>
Ordinary Time until the end of August:	<b>Refreshment Fund</b>
<b>September until the Harvest collection:</b>	<b>CAFOD</b>
After harvest until the beginning of Advent:	<b>The Bible Society</b>

## 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 Ukraine:

Please continue to pray for an end to the war in Ukraine:

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



## The Chapel at Palazzola

This is where Fr Andrew will be offering the Masses listed for this week.

Palazzola is just outside Rome on the side of Lake Albano, and is the summer villa of the English College, but is now used as a venue for retreats, conferences or for holidays. There is normally a priest in residence so that Mass is said daily, there is opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation.

# 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Earlier in this chapter Isaiah invited us to the joyful banquet the Lord has prepared for us – "the supper of the Lamb". Today's reading urges us to "seek the Lord while he may be found": hidden and unimaginably different from us, yet he is near and wanting to give us his forgiveness.

The Psalm, a hymn of praise to God's mercy, recalls when the Israelites worshipped the golden calf: the Lord is "slow to anger and abounding in mercy".

For the next four weeks the second reading is from Paul's letter to the Philippians, probably written about 57 AD from Ephesus. Paul writes to thank the Philippians for the money they had sent him while he was in prison, and to encourage them to support each other in their pagan surroundings. Paul is very clear about his future life with Christ immediately after death. Sharing in

Christ's suffering means also sharing in the joy of the union with Christ which such suffering brings. Paul is torn between wishing to be gone and so be with Christ, or staying alive suffering in the Lord's work.

In Matthew's gospel even those rejected by others are swept up into the Lord's vineyard. Justice to those hired first is balanced by mercy to the latecomers.

Psalm Response: **The Lord is close to all who call him.**

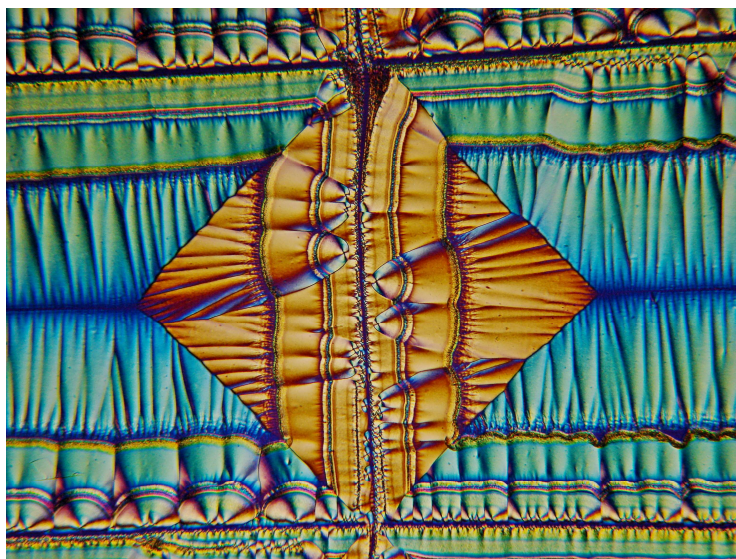
Isa 55:6-9; Ps 144(146):2-3. 8-9. 17-18 r.18; Phil 1:20-24, 27; Matt 20:1-16a

*Chris Oliver*

## The Season of Creation

The 'Season of Creation' began on 1<sup>st</sup> September, and continues until the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Each week through the 'Season of Creation' there will be a microscope photograph in the newsletter taken by Mike Gibson, together with a description of the subject. We are blessed with wonderful nature programmes on television and Mike's pictures are offered to show a different view of God's wonderful work of creation. There is a beauty in these tiny pieces of creation; there is also a reason for their existence; they form part of our ecosystem, with a vital function in some way supporting the world we can see with the naked eye.



Ascorbic acid, more commonly known as Vitamin C, is a water-soluble organic chemical compound found in a wide variety of fruits and vegetables that is an essential dietary requirement for our health and well-being. Lack of vitamin C in your diet can lead to a host of health problems including swollen, bleeding gums, immune deficiencies, skin disease, general malaise and scurvy.

In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century scurvy was a common disease suffered by sailors on long sea journeys but at the time no one knew either the cause or cure. It was James Lind, a Royal Naval Surgeon, who after numerous experimental trials, found that scurvy could be both treated and prevented by including citrus fruit in the sailors' diet. However, it was not until 1912 that vitamin C was identified, then later isolated in 1928, and, finally, in 1933, the first vitamin to be chemically produced as a separate food supplement.

The photograph shown here is that of purified ascorbic acid in crystal form prepared for microscopic examination using polarised light. I must point out however, that these rather beautiful patterns were created artificially on the glass slide by making fine lines with a scalpel prior to complete re-crystallisation!

*Mike Gibson FRMS*

## Our Lady of Walsingham

Most countries have their national shrine to Our Lady; Pakistan has Mariamabad, Romania has Şumuleu Ciuc, South Africa has Ngome, Mexico has Guadalupe, Japan has Akita, Ireland has Knock, Kerala has Vallarpadam, France has Lourdes, Cuba has Regla, China has Donglu to name but a few. England has Walsingham; one of the oldest shrines of Our Lady in the world.

The shrine dates back to 1061, when Richeldis, widow of a local nobleman had a vision of Our Lady in which she was asked to build a replica of the house in which the Holy Family had lived in Nazareth, which she had shown Richeldis in the vision.

It was the house that was the focus of devotion, there is no evidence of the image of Our Lady until 1246. The then King of England gave the original gold crown.



In 1538, as part of King Henry VIII's split from the Catholic Church, the image was destroyed — or maybe it was a replica that was destroyed! In the Victoria and Albert museum in London there is a 13<sup>th</sup> century carved image of Our Lady which bears a remarkable likeness to the statue of Our Lady at Walsingham. Maybe this is the original, now found.

However, we should not forget that it was the house, not the image that was the destination of the pilgrimage, and the focus of the shrine. The area around Walsingham was known as 'England's Nazareth, and the pilgrimage to this day is a visit to the home of Our Lady.

She continues to welcome visitors to her home, and as a Diocese, we go every year in June.