



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.”**

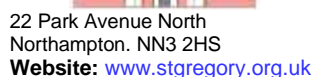
OUR
VISION

A Happy and
richly
blessed
Christmas to
all our
readers



As we look forward to 2022,
may it bring healing and health
to us all.

The birth of Jesus is Good News to us and to all mankind. May we
all help to share this Good News of Jesus Christ in our community.



25th December 2021
Christmas Day
Parish Mass Book - Year C
Page 38

Priest:
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: priest@stgregory.org.uk
Deacon:
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com
Pastoral Assistant:
Maria Heath
E-mail: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk
Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 621807

Saturday <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	12.00 am 9.00 am 11.00 am 12.00 pm	Midnight Mass Mass Mass Mass	Bishop Francis Thomas. St. Gregory's Clergy. Parish, Parishioners & Families. For Those who have asked for Christmas Masses.
Sunday <i>Holy Family</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.00 pm 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Tom Donoghoe RIP The Parish Altar Servers
Monday St. John	10.00 am	Mass	Maria Antonia de la Luz Azedo RIP
Tuesday The Holy Innocents	9.00 am	Mass	Dec's Members of the Pike Family
Wednesday St. Thomas a Becket	9.00 am	Mass	Tom & Margaret Murray RIP
Thursday 6 th Day of Christmas Octave	9-10am 7.00 pm	Holy Hour of Adoration Mass	Margaret Osborne RIP
Friday 7 th Day of Christmas Octave	9.00 am	Mass	Julie Moriarty RIP
Saturday Mary, Holy Mother of God	9.00 am	Mass	Julie Coyle RIP
Sunday <i>2nd Sunday of Christmas</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.00 pm 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Agnes McLoughlin RIP The Parish Hannah Heath

Normal opening times: Due to the relaxation in restrictions, the Church will be open every day from 8.45 am until 5.00 pm, except on Thursdays when it remains open until 7.45 pm

<u>Your Offering to the Parish:</u>	Last Sunday's collection was £281.98. Thank you!
<u>Standing Order gifts to the Parish:</u>	Each week £486 is given through standing orders.
<u>Donations through the Diocese:</u>	An average of £77 is given each week.
<u>Gift Aid benefits to the parish:</u>	The value of Gift Aid averages £88 per week
<u>Cleaners This Week:</u>	The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.

Readings for Christmas and this Sunday

*Please see the details in the readings commentary section inside the newsletter
(Readers 9am: Tony Wittich, 11am: Beth Johnson.)*

Readings for next Sunday (*Readers 9am: Joel Varghese, 11am: Kevin Santhosh*)

Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2. 8-12; Ephesians 1: 3-6. 15-18; John 1: 1-18. (Page 45)

<u>During this season</u>	Migrants & Refugees; Expectant Mothers;
<u>Of Advent,</u>	Open-ness to God's word;
<u>We are asked to pray for:</u>	The Bishop, Clergy & People of the Diocese.

Plan B: Omicron and COVID:

From last Friday, new regulations have come into force which affect 'places of worship'. The only aspect that affects us is that it is now not just a recommendation that people wear a mask in church, it is now a requirement. It is also not appropriate to consider relaxing social distancing in church. We are, however, experiencing a greater number of people at the 9am Mass on Sundays, and while this is very welcome, it does present a problem. Please note that the 12 noon Mass is still quite sparsely attended. Mask-wearing, hand sanitising & the daily cleaning of the church will continue. Somewhat surprisingly, the new regulations allow the removal of masks for singing; however, this seems to be at odds with the general recommendations and the use of hymn-books is still not recommended. The additional 12 noon Mass on Sundays continues while we keep social distancing, & good warning will be given about when this will end. The toilets can be used if necessary, but please will users apply sanitiser as necessary.

While we will continue to offer refreshments after the 9am Mass on Sundays and Wednesdays, it is understood that there will be some who would prefer not to come, and although masks should be worn as far as is possible, clearly while eating and drinking this cannot be done. However, please will everyone think of the well-being of others. **If you feel unwell, DO NOT COME!**

Please pray for the sick:

[illegible]**Anniversaries:**

May they Rest in Peace

May they Rest in Peace	
Vita Cohen	Doreen Bowers
Beatrice Bowers	Joseph Casey
Joy Tomczyszyn	Tony Haynes
Eileen Newbery	Bill Condron
Antonio Pannese	Grace Johnson
John Patton	Rainer Neilson
Patrick Pattern	Adele Cond
Josephine Mullally	Juris Dimpers
Veronica Harrison	Eugenie Lesimple
William Blundell	Bob Pike
Peter Turner	Thomas Gilnagh
Philip Bartley	Grace Jones
Doris King	Noreen O'Connor
Mary Casey	Hannah Milner
David Metcalf	Catherine Stevens
Noleen O'Connor	Mary Seaman
Irene Linnell	Josephine Morby
Frederick Nicholson	Kate Sykes
John Flynn	George Rosatti
Thomas Moran	Ellen Jubb
Mary O'Grady	Agnes Hilliard
Mary Tydings	Julie Moriarty
Patrick O'Grady Marshall	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for January 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.

Repository: Another successful year! Thanks to the regular help from my staff & the generous support from the Parish we have been able to make substantial contributions to our Parish charities which makes the effort well worthwhile. We will now revert to normal so if there is no-one available to help you please put payments into the safe wall box to the right of the sacristy door. I would still welcome offers of help for Sunday Masses. Contact Kath.healey.789@ gmail.com

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next preparation will be in the Sacristy on Mon. 10th Jan, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: There will be six 'in-person' sessions preparing for first Reconciliation, both at Sacred Heart church, Weston Favell from 3.00 pm until 5.00 pm on Saturdays, 4th and 11th December before the Christmas break. Those preparing on-line will receive emails with what they need. After Christmas there will be sessions on January 15th, 22nd and 29th and on February 5th.

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)

Choir Matters: To avoid travelling in the dark on Thursday's, choir members have asked for practices, up to Dec 17, to be moved to Fridays every week: 2-3:15. *Alec*

Courses for Readers: The Bible Timeline course has broken for the Christmas break, but will resume on January 5th, starting at 7.30 pm. on Zoom. We will be starting with the Book of Judges and moving on the Books of the Kings. Please email to Fr Andrew for further details. New people are welcome to join!

LUX.Pilgrimage: A fun residential weekend for young Catholics aged 11 (Year 7) -18 years from 4th-6th February 2022 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk (transportation included from Luton & Northampton). Please contact Fiona at fiona@nymo.org or visit www.nymo.org/lux for more information and to book your place

Grateful Thanks: Your generosity both to the Hope Centre and in toiletries for the Cathedral Foodstore has been magnificent and is greatly appreciated. Through the winter the need continues, and we give the Crib donations and refreshment donations to the Hope Centre. This continues until the end of Christmastide on January 9th. It is a reproach on our 'civilisation' that there is a need for foodbanks and that there is homelessness, but while this continues, we must seek to help those who are in need. Please keep them in your prayers.

Food Parcels: Please get in touch with Gregory Care (07434669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

An act of Spiritual Communion

I prostrate myself at your feet, O my Jesus, and I offer you the repentance of my heart, which abases itself in its nothingness and in your Holy Presence.

I adore You in the Sacrament of your Love;

I desire to receive You in the poor abode

that my heart offers You.

While awaiting the happiness of Sacramental Communion, I wish to possess you in spirit.

Come to me, O my Jesus, that I may come to You. May your Love inflame my whole being in life and in death.

Jesus, I believe in You, I hope in You,

I love You. Amen. *Pope Francis [20 March 2020]*

We Now Have Heating Again! Please, please, please can we all help to keep the heat in by closing the outside doors, and not leaving them open.

Tots @ St Gregory's: TINY TOTS will finish for Christmas this Tuesday (14th December) and re start on Tuesday 11th January. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year, if you have charge of a pre school child, from 9:30- 11:30 on a Tuesday morning!

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

The Net Charismatic Prayer Group. A new prayer group will commence meeting on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 7.30pm to 9pm in the prayer room of The Sacred Heart Church Hall, Weston Favell. The Net will meet every first and third Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome!

After Christmas and into the New Year: It is not at all clear what restrictions might be in place in the New Year, but there are plans. On Tuesday mornings after Mass the Acts course will begin in the Sacristy, assuming that this is allowed. If it is not, alternative plans will be announced. On Monday evenings, starting on 3rd January, there will be a series of Zoom sessions on "The Pivotal Players"; a video course led by Bishop Robert Barron in which he focusses on people who have been significant in the life of the Church over the centuries. St Francis of Assisi, St Catherine of Siena, St Thomas Aquinas, and St John Henry Newman are among the saints; Michelangelo the artist and G. K. Chesterton the author are also featured. On Tuesday evenings, starting on 4th January, there will be training for Alpha leaders and on Wednesday evenings the Zoom Bible Timeline will resume. Please email Fr Andrew for the Zoom links.

Christmas Flowers Donations:

In Memory of:

Mark Cooke; Rebecca Holt; Louise Whalley; Jack & Betty Smith; Denis Ryan; Kerry Barber; Fred Jones; Malcolm Allen; Eileen & Percy Walton; Mary Cashman; Michael Moore; Mick McCabe; Annie & Arthur Eyles; Leann Hannelly; Ann Ganderton; George McCarron; Margaret Shipman; Louise Battye; Mr & Mrs McHaugh; Derek Rumsey; Louie Short; Kitty Traynor; Brendan Moen; James Donnelly; Louie; Derek Hodgkinson; Tim & Eve Perkins; John Perkins; Lesley Thompson; Joan Palmer; Jeremiah Cahalane; Mary Maurommatis; Mary Hannah; John & Julie Cahalane, Italia and Ben Jacobs, Antoinette Riseley, Stephen Goddard.

In Thanksgiving:

Mary Bonner; Harry; Anonymous Donors

Christmas – The Nativity of the Lord (Night/Dawn/Day)

Around 720 BC Judah was threatened by many enemies. Isaiah advised the kings to stand firm, because the Lord would give a sign: “the maiden shall be with child”. The birth of a helpless baby gives hope for the future. But this future must be founded on justice and integrity. Early Christians celebrated the birth of Jesus with these words.

The Psalms call all mankind, and all creation, to celebrate the glories of the Lord, King and judge.

Sixty years after Jesus’ birth, Paul gives Titus this summary of the gospel: our compassionate God chose to offer all humanity the free gift of being “at one” with him. But God’s revelation of salvation in Christ demands we transform our lives and “give up everything that does not lead to God”. The reading from Hebrews tells us that God has spoken to us through his son, who is “the perfect copy of his nature”.

Luke places the birth of the Christ firmly in time and space. Jesus was a man born miraculously to a virgin in Bethlehem in Judea. The peace and quiet of the undercroft, where animals gave warmth, must have been a welcome relief for Mary, after the noise and bustle of the inn. The simplicity of Jesus’ birth is important: God comes as a vulnerable baby to draw us into a relationship with him. The royal birth announcement was sent not to royalty, but to poor shepherds, outcasts excluded from Temple worship by their occupation. Joseph, of the house of David, named Jesus as his son. Jesus lived in history, growing up in Nazareth in Galilee.

By the time John’s gospel was written, Christians had come to realise that Jesus had existed as the Word of God before time began. So John’s prologue seeks to describe the complexity of the creator becoming part of his own creation.

Midnight

Isaiah 9:1-7

Today a Saviour has been born to us;
he is Christ the Lord.

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2: 1-14

Dawn (9.00 am)

Isaiah 62:11-12

This day new light will shine upon the earth:
the Lord is born for us.

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:15-20

Day (11.00 am and Midday)

Isaiah 52:7-10

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

Scripture Readings 30th December 2018, Holy Family, Year C

Hannah was constantly tormented for her barrenness by Elkanah's other wife. Every year, they went on pilgrimage to Shiloh, where the Ark of the Covenant resided. One year Hannah prayed for a long time, promising the Lord that if he granted her request for a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord. The priest Eli added his prayers to hers. After Samuel was born, Hannah took him to Shiloh and left him with Eli, dedicated to the Lord, where later he was called as a prophet.

The psalm expresses intense longing to experience the Lord's presence in his Temple.

The first letter of John was written near the end of the first century against false ideas that were being spread, especially that Jesus was not truly man. Jesus – “what we have seen” “and touched with our hands” – was true man, the greatest gift of the

Father. And the Father has made us his children. We will know in truth that we belong to him if we keep his commandments. Knowledge of God and love for one another are inseparable.

Luke's story of the boy Jesus in the Temple poses the question: did the human child Jesus show divine knowledge and powers before his baptism, when God proclaimed him as his Son and he started his ministry?

Psalm Response: **They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.**

(1 Sam 1:20-22,24-28; Psalm 83(84); 1 John 3:1-2,21-24; Luke 2:41-52)

Chris Oliver



To thank all those who support the parish in any way, with their time, with their money and with their prayers, we have bought 10 solar lamps through CAFOD World Gifts

“I never dreamt of having solar lamps in my house. I am thankful to CAFOD as this has brought a great change to me.”

Oum, Sudan

Shine a light into homes and give families a brighter future with this thoughtful charity gift. These solar-powered lamps replace smoky, polluting fossil fuel lamps with clean, renewable energy. When night arrives, light is a luxury for vulnerable families in remote, hard-to-reach places. Solar lamps mean life can continue after dark! Children can carry on with homework; mum and dad can read and relax following a hard day’s work. Everyone is safer with a little bit of light.

This wonderful gift has been bought on your behalf and will contribute directly to CAFOD’s Education Fund.

