



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.”**

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VISION



Marine Landscape with St Augustine: Joos de Momper (1564 – 1635), in the Museo dei Barocco, Ariccia

The Holy Trinity

The picture depicts the story of St Augustine walking by the sea-shore and trying to understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity — how God can be both one and three at the same time. As he walked he saw a small boy sitting on the sand with a sea-shell in his hand. He had dug a small hole in the sand and was using the shell to fill the hole with sea-water. Augustine asked him what he was doing, and the child replied that he was going to get all the water from the sea into the hole. “That’s impossible”, replied Augustine. “So it is”, said the child, “but I will have done that before you have understood the Holy Trinity”. Augustine turned away in amazement, but when he looked back, the child had disappeared.

We speak of the Holy Trinity as a ‘mystery’, and indeed, so it is. As such, our mortal attempts to understand it are doomed to failure. It is not God’s plan that we should fail; rather that we should see in it lessons for ourselves.

The child in the story reminds us that “from the mouths of children and babes you fashioned praise” (*Psalm 8:2, Abbey Psalm*); that children can sometimes have a greater wisdom than adults. The appropriate response to the mystery of the Trinity is one of worship, not one which seeks understanding.

As such, it is an appropriate feast to celebrate as we start the long ‘green season’ in which we will be reading the Gospel accounts of the teaching and ministry of Jesus, rather than the themes of the Advent and Christmas seasons or those of Lent and Eastertide.

Our Sunday Gospel readings will take us through St Mark’s Gospel from chapter 3:20 to 6:34, when we move to St John chapter 6 before returning to Mark for readings from chapters 7 to 13. In these readings we are not so much trying to understand the person of Jesus as to understand how he wants us to live. We want to follow his teaching because of our love for him, not because of our understanding of him. In this, we too learn from the child.

Notices of Interest

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. Cards and items for First Communion and Confirmation are available. Red Communion ties are here & cost £6. Any queries or volunteers to 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

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

Choir Notes: I have had to change several of the dates of our Saturday practices, 11-12:30. The new details are June 8; July 13; August 24; Oct 12; Nov 9, 16, 23, 30; Dec 7 and 14, then some time in February 2025 (Happy Christmas!). *Alec*

The Sheppard Singers: Many thanks to everyone who attended the recital on 11th May and a huge thank you to the singers and the string quartet! The amount raised for CAFOD to be set against the conflict in the Sudan was £291. Many thanks indeed.

Coming Events (for your diary):

Sunday 23rd June: Parish Picnic in the Park *More details nearer the time*
Friday 19th to Saturday 20th July: 40 Hours Adoration at St Gregory's

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)**

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 27th May at 7.00 pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2023/4: 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: There will be practical sessions through February & March, & then teaching sessions from April. Email to childrens.liturgy@stgregory.org.uk for further information.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham:

8th June 2023:

A coach will leave from St. Gregory's at 8am on Saturday 8th June, leaving Walsingham at about 5.00pm. **Cost £20 per person** (payable in advance). To book, please speak to Caryll in the Office, or add your details to the list in the Lobby area and see one of the Clergy to pay.



The Conflict in Sudan has created a massive crisis across the region: CAFOD's teams are working hard to support disabled and vulnerable people, by providing physical rehabilitation services, mental health support and access to humanitarian aid. Without this vital support, the huge needs in these areas are barely covered, if at all. **There will be an emergency collection today.**

CAFOD: The Big Pilgrimage: Sat. 9th July at Northampton Cathedral. There will be a short circular group pilgrimage (2-3 miles), a longer pilgrimage (5-6 miles) and tea, coffee etc. Please see the fliers for full details!

Next Alpha Sessions:

No session this week as it is school half-term.

Seventh Session: June 4th: How does God guide us?
Away-Day: June 8th: Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session: June 11th: How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session: June 18th: Why and how should I tell others?
Tenth Session: June 25th: Does God heal today?
Eleventh Session: July 2nd: What about the Church?

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!!

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Hall: 10.00 am-12.00 pm.

Picnic in the Park: If the rain holds off, Gregory Care is planning a picnic in Abington Park on Sunday 23rd June from 12.30 pm. There is no cost; just bring your own picnic and join us for a get-together and children's games.

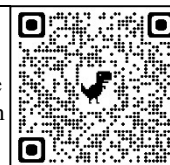
Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (**next – 29th June**), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially younger, more energetic ones!

Fire Safety: Please be careful with the votive candle stands, and especially please ensure that children are safe. 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.

Pilgrimage to Northern France You are invited to join Bishop David & Canon John Udris on pilgrimage to Northern France from 15-22 Oct. The pilgrimage will begin with 3 nights in Lisieux, the home of St Thérèse, before we travel to Chartres to the beautiful Cathedral for 1 night. Leaving Chartres we travel to Paris via Rouen. We travel home following 3 nights in the French capital. For more details visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/france/>

Thursday Holy Hour & Adoration, 19th/20th July: There will be 40 hours of continuous adoration from 7.00 am on Friday 19th July until 11.00 pm on Saturday 20th July. This is part of the Year of Prayer leading up to the Jubilee year in 2025. It is important that at least two people are present throughout the time of adoration. Plans are coming together: Mass each day at 9am, Morning & Evening Prayer each day, & other devotions as well as designated times of silent prayer. There will be a meeting on Wed. 5th June after morning Mass. If we have a few people who are willing to do a little bit each, together we'll be able to plan a successful & fruitful 40 Hours. We look forward to seeing you there. For those who aren't available during the day for the meeting but would like to help please contact Fr Andrew or Alex on 07963032175 so you can still be involved.

Wool for Stella Maris Woolly Hats Thank you so much everyone for your generosity to the Stella Maris Seafarers Charity. One Chaplain recently told me that "Giving them woolly hats not only helps keep them warm, it reminds them that someone is thinking of them." God Bless and again Thank you!
 Bob <https://stellamaris.org.uk/>



Refreshment Donations:

Below is the schedule for refreshment donations through the year:

From the first Sunday in Advent
 to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord: The Hope Centre
 From the Second Sunday in ordinary time
 to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday: Gregory Care
 Through Lent and Eastertide: CAFOD

Ordinary Time until the end of August: Refreshment Fund

September until the Harvest collection: CAFOD
 After harvest until the beginning of Advent: The Bible Society



For Sale: Small plaques of the church, gift-boxed, artist hand-made, a limited number available in the repository. £5 for Gregory Care.

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.
Amen

Sunday 26th May: The Most Holy Trinity, Year B

Deuteronomy, the second book of the Law, consolidated Israel's beliefs and rituals. A long introductory teaching by Moses emphasises the requirement for Israel to keep the Law, as its part in their covenant with God. In today's reading Moses emphasises the uniqueness of God, who has made himself known to Israel, speaking out of a fire, and who has made a covenant with them: He will be their God and they are to be his people. Moses then repeats the ten commandments, given by God.

The Psalm picks up God's omnipotence, who created even the heavens and the stars. We can rely confidently on His promises.

God's revelation in Christ fulfilled this covenant relationship: Paul tells the Romans that if we are in the Spirit we are not in the flesh. We are no longer dominated by our human tendency to turn from

God. We are now God's children, sharing in Christ's inheritance, in his suffering and in his glory.

There are only two resurrection appearances in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus appeared very briefly to two Marys. Then the Gospel ends with Jesus commissioning the eleven disciples to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". And He promises to be with his people always.

Psalm Response:

**Happy the people
the Lord has chosen as his own.**

(Deut 4: 32-34, 39-40; Psalm 32(33); Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 28: 16-20)

Chris Oliver

Called to be Peacemakers

In the modern world, an integral aspect of being a peacemaker involves working to limit the proliferation of weapons and advance the cause of global disarmament.

At the height of the First World War, Pope Benedict XV denounced the conflict as a "useless massacre". (*Pope Benedict XV, Note to the Heads of the Belligerent Peoples, 1 August 1917*) On the centenary of its outbreak, Pope Francis spoke from amidst the graves of Italy's largest military cemetery, warning that, "Even today, after the second failure of another world war, perhaps one can speak of a third war, one fought piecemeal, with crimes, massacres, and destruction." (*Pope Francis, Homily at the Military Memorial in Redipuglia, 13 September 2014*) Since the Holy Father spoke those words, violence has continued to spread across the world including, among many other conflicts, the catastrophic war in Tigray, Russia's fullscale invasion of Ukraine, multifaceted fighting in Yemen, the military coup in Myanmar, fresh clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan, civil strife in Sudan, and the Holy Land's most deadly period for decades. Such conflicts are, in the words of Pope Francis, "driven by culpable human decisions." In his message for the 2023 World Day of Peace, he urged us to think in terms of the common good and recognise the interconnectedness of political, social and environmental challenges. Our response must be "inspired by God's infinite and merciful love" in order to build a new world of justice and peace. (*Pope Francis, Message for the 56th World Day of Peace, 1 January 2023*) In doing so, it is important to recognise that so many acts of violence blighting our world today are only possible because of the modern weaponry available to those responsible.

The repercussions of modern weapons also go far beyond their immediate use in conflict. Writing to UN Secretary General U Thant in 1966, Pope Paul VI highlighted how growing stockpiles of arms were poisoning international relations, stating that "every passing day shows more clearly that no stable peace can be established among men until there is effective, general, controlled armament reduction." (*Pope Paul VI, Letter to Secretary General of the UN, 26 May 1966*) Proceeding to highlight the simultaneous depletion of resources that could be better deployed for the common good of humanity, he explained: "every passing day also establishes more painfully and dramatically the contrast between the enormous sums invested in the production of armaments and the immense, ever increasing material distress of more than half of mankind, which is waiting to witness the satisfaction of its most elementary needs." (*Pope Paul VI, Letter to Secretary General of the UN, 26 May 1966*) As Christians, we are called by Jesus to be peacemakers (*Matthew 5:9*). In the modern world, an integral aspect of this mission involves working to limit the proliferation of weapons and advance the cause of global disarmament. These challenges are relevant to the mission of the Catholic Church in England and Wales today. The UK remains one of only a handful of states to possess nuclear weapons.

It is also one of the largest exporters of conventional weaponry and is at the forefront of developing new military technology that has the potential to reshape how wars are fought.

At the same time, the UK is a signatory to important international frameworks such as the NonProliferation Treaty and the Arms Trade Treaty, and it retains considerable diplomatic influence, not least through its permanent position on the UN Security Council. As Pope Francis, reminds us "disarmament treaties are more than just legal obligations. They are also moral commitments based on trust among States and among their representatives, rooted in the trust that citizens place in their governments, with ethical consequences for current and future generations of humanity." (*Pope Francis, Message of His Holiness Pope Francis to the First Meeting of State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon, 21 June 2022*)

Called to be Peacemakers draws upon the Catholic social teaching concerning weaponry and disarmament to set out principles for our own public witness as Christians and peacemakers. We begin by exploring the unique threat presented by nuclear weapons and the Church's commitment to global nuclear disarmament. We then turn to address conventional weapons, which are responsible for most deaths in conflict, and the concept of General and Complete Disarmament which has been largely sidelined in international discourse during recent years. Finally, we reflect upon some of the recent developments in military technology and the new challenges that these present. In engaging with such issues, there are many difficult questions which cannot be ignored, especially around the mechanisms for global disarmament, the legitimacy of providing weapons for countries to defend themselves against aggression, and the nature of new weaponry. We hope that the teaching reflected in this document will assist Catholics throughout England and Wales, as well as those of other faiths and all people of goodwill, in responding to the tragic situation of armed violence and the proliferation of weaponry. May it also serve to educate the conscience of Catholics in accordance with Church teaching and to deepen their discipleship as followers of Christ.

Above all, it is our intention that this document and the actions flowing from it, will contribute towards the wider work of the Church and Catholic organisations across the world to build a new culture of peace. We join in the words of Pope Francis as we pray to God: "Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness." (*Pope Francis, Prayer for Peace, 8 June 2014*)

Bishops Declan Lang, William Kenney and Nicholas Hudson; the introduction of a new document published by the Bishops' Conference, "Called to be Peacemakers". (Available online)