



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

It's a Jolly Holiday

Marking his third Sunday at the papal summer residence in the Castel Gandolfo, Pope Leo XIV presided over Mass for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time at the nearby Cathedral of Albano.

Summer vacation and God

As summer often offers more free time to reflect and spend time with others, Pope Leo challenged everyone to “make good use of this, by leaving behind the whirlwind of commitments and worries in order to savour a few moments of peace and reflection” and to visit others.

Summer can be an opportunity to care for others, get to know them, and listen to them. These are all expressions of love, the Pope explained, of which we are all in need. He argued that if we courageously try to live these out, we will be promoting a culture of peace, “helping those around us to overcome divisions and hostility and to build communion between individuals, peoples and religions.”

Recognizing that this demands effort and sacrifices, Pope Leo stressed that it is in these efforts that “something worthwhile can be built in life.” Listening to and serving others is the only way to create and strengthen genuine relationships with others.

A favourable time

How one can make the best use of his or her time off is a question that features prominently in many papal reflections, as holidays have an important role in human life.

The popes stress that this period should not be viewed simply as a time of idleness. For example, vacations can instead be an opportunity to pause and reflect on the beauty of nature, or “God’s book”, as described by Pope Paul VI.

He pointed out that during the holidays, we can rediscover the “always open, always new, always beautiful” creation. Nature with its “space, atmosphere, animals, things; the sea, mountains, plains, the sky with its dawns, its noons, its sunsets, and especially its starry nights” is “always deep and enchanting.”

For the popes, holidays are a time of rest and relaxation, but also for meditation and turning towards God.

Paul VI: Holidays are for reading, discovering and friendships

Pope Paul VI explained what he thought this period of rest should look like: “Let us ensure that this free time, which we call vacation, is not entirely spent in dissipation or selfishness. Relaxation,



refreshment, recreation (in the etymological sense), yes, but intelligent and vigilant.”

He highlighted that “holidays are a privileged time for good friendships, for getting to know places, customs, the needs of the people we do not usually approach, and for meeting new people worthy of our conversation”

John Paul II: Meetings and encounters essential to vacations

“For a vacation to be truly such and bring genuine well-being, in it a person must recover a good balance with himself, with others and with the environment.” It is this interior and exterior harmony which revitalizes the mind and reinvigorates body and spirit.

For John Paul II, “one of the values of a holiday” is meeting others and spending time “in an unselfish way, for the pleasure of friendship and for sharing quiet moments together.”

Benedict XIV: Nature, a book within reach of everyone

For Pope Benedict XIV, it is vital to immerse oneself in nature, especially for “those who dwell in cities where the often frenzied pace of life leaves little room for silence and reflection.”

Looking at “the stirring views of nature, a marvellous ‘book’ within the reach of everyone, adults or children,” people can “rediscover their proper dimension.”

Francis: Deepening one's spiritual journey through vacations

Pope Francis emphasized that holidays can be a good time to deepen one’s spiritual journey, even while traveling between tourist destinations.

He also encouraged the faithful to entrust their holidays to the Virgin Mary, so she can help them “be in harmony with the Word of God, so that Christ may become light throughout our life.”

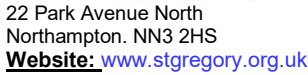
He especially urged all to entrust to her “the summer of those who cannot go on holiday due to impediments of age, to reasons of health or of work, to economic restrictions or other problems, so that it may be a time of eased tension, gladdened by the presence of friends and of happy moments.”

To quote a song from another genre:

“It’s a jolly holiday with Mary.”

With thanks to the Vatican News .

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-07/popes-holidays-rest-relaxing-vacations.html>



Seventeenth Sunday of the Year
CTS New Sunday Missal - Year C
Page 1029

Please Pray for the Sick:

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.

Notices of Interest

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. The date of the publication of the new Weekday Missal has been seriously delayed. The new date I have been given is September 27th. The reason for the delay has not been fully explained. Further news when I get it. Any queries or volunteers please contact Kathleen on 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

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

Two Missals, of Sentimental Value, were left by the side door after the 9am Mass on 6th July. If anyone has seen them, please hand them in – there are items of great sentimental value inside them. Thank you!

Parishioners With Young Children: Please, please, do not allow your child to play with/throw around pamphlets/leaflets/booklets etc which are displayed either in the Narthex or the Foyer. They are not toys. Thank you!

Ceili Dancing: There is no dancing for the month of August. Dancing starts again on Wednesday 3rd September at 7.30pm & continues every first & third Wednesday of the month in the Parish hall. All welcome.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We are holding our last session this year in Abington Park (near the cafe) from 9:30.

We start again on Tuesday 9th September!! If you have care of a pre-school child on a Tuesday morning we would be delighted to welcome you. Looking forward to seeing you!

Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (next – 30th August), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially the younger, more energetic ones!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be in the Sacristy, 7pm, on Monday 28th July. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2025/6: First Holy Communion 2026 Registration will be on Sunday 19th October after the 11.00 Mass. If you know that you cannot come on that date, there is an alternative after the 10.30 Mass at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on Sunday 12th October. Whichever day you register, it is for the same course, and makes no difference to where First Holy Communion is received.

Confirmation in 2025: The Confirmation will be in the afternoon of Sunday September 7th 2025.

Christians Together Cherishing Creation: Everyone is invited to the event in Abington Park on Sun 27th July, from 2 to 4pm. Over the past few years people from St Gregory's have worked together with people from Abington Avenue URC, St Peter's Weston Favell, the Quaker community & other Christian congregations to encourage care for God's creation. Please support this event.



Parking: Our car-park is small, & many have to park on the road. We are in a residential district, & our neighbours also like to park. Please be considerate, & remember that there are laws regarding where you may park. It is illegal to block a drive to a house where there is a dropped kerb or where a white line is painted indicating the needs of a disabled driver. It is also illegal to park at a road junction. There is usually space on Wellingborough Road at the side of Abington Park opposite the bottom of Lime Avenue.

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Whatsapp & telephone on the 1st Saturday of the month, in the Hall: 10 am-12pm.

Choir Notes: next practices are from 11-12 on the 2nd Saturday of the month: Aug 9, Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8. *Alec*

Pilgrimage to Walsingham: Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life Sat. 2nd August. Coach departs from Cathedral at 7.15am prompt. £25 Adults, £15 children & unwaged. Bring packed lunch & drinks. To book call Bernadette 07488261065. More info: www.prolifepilgrimage.org

Supporting Your Parish: 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)**
Please remember that if you pay income tax, the Church can reclaim this on your giving, (£2.50 for every £10 given) and this is much simpler if you give by standing order.

Gregory Care: Forthcoming events for your diary:
20th September African Unity in Diversity Event. We are looking for someone to help organise this day, so if you are African and would like to showcase your culture please get in touch with us.
15th November Indian Unity in Diversity Event.
Our first Event hosted by our Romanian and Polish communities was a great success and has set a very high bar which was matched by the Irish event (not that it's a competition!)

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

Alpha in the Autumn — Dates and Subjects

First session:	September 16 th	Is there more to life than this?	Alpha is a basic introduction to faith in God, in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is not a complete teaching scheme for the entire Christian faith. We need to recruit more helpers; if you are able to help in any way, please contact Daniel Davighi or speak to Fr Andrew. For more information and to book please see: https://stgregory.org.uk/alpha
Second Session	September 23 rd	Who is Jesus?	
Third Session	October 7 th	Why did Jesus die?	
Fourth Session	October 14 th	How can I have faith?	
Fifth Session	October 21 st	Why and how do I pray?	
Sixth Session:	November 4 th	Why and how should I read the Bible?	
Seventh Session	November 11 th	How does God guide us?	
Eighth Session	November 18 th	Does God heal today?	
Alpha Away-Day	November 22 nd (Saturday)	Who is The Holy Spirit?	
Ninth Session	November 25 th	How can I resist evil?	
Tenth Session	December 2 nd	Why and how should I tell others?	
Eleventh Session	December 3 rd	What about the Church?	

Scripture Readings: 17th Sunday of the Year, 27th July 2025

After promising Abraham a son next year, God hesitates before revealing his plans for Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham urges God to be just to the threatened towns, where his nephew Lot lives. Later Lot defends his angelic guests from the depraved demands of the men of Sodom, and escapes before Sodom is destroyed.

The Psalm expresses heartfelt thanks to the Lord for his justice and love, confident in his continual help.

Paul urges the Colossians, whom he has never visited, to be confident in their understanding of "God's mystery", Christ. As Gentiles they were seen as sinners, outside the Jewish Law. But now the Law is overridden, so, "buried with Christ", they should follow only Christ. For Paul, the list of our debts, owed to God for failing to carry out our duties under the covenant, is graphically nailed to the Cross and so destroyed.

Luke's version of the Our Father is shorter and more abrupt than Matthew's. Both versions look to the end days, especially "Do not put us to the test". "Daily bread" may refer to the Eucharist. Or it may mean "tomorrow's bread" – the heavenly banquet, like the double portion of manna collected in the desert before the Sabbath. God promises to respond to all our requests, as he did to Abraham.

Psalm Response: **On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.**

(Gen 18:20-32; Ps 137(138):1-8; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13)

Chris Oliver

Please pray for the soul of Chris Oliver who died on 22nd June. May he rest in peace and may God reward him for all the good he has done.

Always open, Always new, Always beautiful creation

Pope Paul VI made this observation about creation in the last millennium, but it remains true today. Whether observed with the naked eye, or through a telescope, or through a microscope, God's creation is a thing of wonder.

The Spacious Firmament on high,
With all the blue Ethereal Sky,
And spangled Heav'ns, a Shining Frame,
Their great Original proclaim:
Th' unwearied Sun, from day to day,
Does his Creator's Pow'r display,
And publishes to every Land
The Work of an Almighty Hand.

Soon as the Evening Shades prevail,
The Moon takes up the wondrous Tale,
And nightly to the list'ning Earth
Repeats the Story of her Birth:
Whilst all the Stars that round her burn,
And all the Planets, in their turn,
Confirm the Tidings as they rowl,
And spread the Truth from Pole to Pole.

What though, in solemn Silence, all
Move round the dark terrestrial Ball?
What tho' nor real Voice nor Sound
Amid their radiant Orbs be found?
In Reason's Ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious Voice,
For ever singing, as they shine,
The Hand that made us is Divine.

Joseph Addison (1672-1719), written in 1712

Christians Together Cherishing Creation:

This-afternoon (Sunday) between 2.00 and 4.00 there is a showcase of some of the work of Christians from various churches who care about the environment and are concerned about what mankind is doing to it. We recognise it as God's handiwork, entrusted to us, but not ours to despoil or abuse.

It is ours to hand on to our children, and for them to hand on to theirs in due time, and in the meanwhile, it is ours to enjoy, to cherish and to protect.

We are so blessed to have in our parish so many open spaces; Abington Park, Eastfield Park, Bradlaugh Fields, Abington Vale Park and the banks of the river at the bottom of Rushmere. There are also many other small areas of green all over the parish, and in the town we have Becket's Park, Midsummer Meadow, the Racecourse and many other open places

Sadly, many abuse these places of beauty. The show 'At the drop of another hat' by Flanders and Swann produced in 1964 included the song 'The Bedstead Men' which ended with the verse:

"Oh the lily ponds of Suffolk,
And the mill-ponds of the West,
Are part of Britain's heritage,
The part we love the best;
Her river banks and sea-shores
Have a beauty all can share,
Provided there's a boot...
Provided there's a boot...
Provided there's at least one boot,
Three treadless tyres,
A half-eaten pork pie,
Some oil drums,
An old felt hat,
A lorry load of tar blocks
And a broken bedstead there!"

Please come to Abington Park and show solidarity with other Christians seeking to celebrate God's wonderful creation. It is his gift to us; it is free, but needs our protection.