



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

Thinking about food!

With the work on the kitchen making progress, thoughts turn to what comes out of kitchens, and this was further encouraged by the final words of the Gospel for this Sunday: he “told them to give her something to eat” (*Mark 5:43*)

It is important first to recognise that the entire place; church, hall, sacristy, presbytery, garden and the kitchen all exist first of all for one purpose; for the greater glory of God. They are not primarily for our benefit, but for God’s, and what we receive comes to us as a divine blessing.

Everything we do in the church and in the hall is following the command and example of Jesus. The Bible offers three statements about the ‘Son of Man’ coming to us. Each of these sayings is instructive.

- 📖 “The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost” (*Luke 19:10*)
- 📖 “The Son of Man has come eating and drinking” (*Luke 7:34*)
- 📖 “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (*Mark 10:45*)

Then first of these statements speaks of the purpose of the mission of Jesus, and therefore of the purpose and mission of the Church — to seek out and save the lost. The second and third speaks of how he preached and accomplished his mission, and of how we should continue that mission.

Over and over again in the Gospels we find mention of food, meals, eating and drinking. Supreme among those meals is the one we call the ‘Last Supper’, but we should not forget the words from the cross: “I thirst”, which is seen as actually part of the Last Supper, the fourth cup of wine of the Passover Meal. “When Jesus had received the wine, he said ‘It is finished’. Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” (*John 19:30*) [For a fuller explanation of this, see *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist* by Brant Pitre.]

St Luke tells of a number of occasions where Jesus is a guest at meals. The first is after the call of Matthew (Levi), who gives a banquet, at which were also invited a great number of other tax collectors and others who were described as ‘sinners’ by the ‘Pharisees’. This encounter provides Jesus with the occasion for teaching about fasting, about the need for spiritual healing and forgiveness, and tells the parables of the new cloth and the new wine. We will see that meals provide occasions for some of the most important teaching of Jesus.

For the Pharisee, and for strict Jews, eating with sinners was firmly forbidden. One of the issues of the early Church was to do with obedience to Jewish laws by non-Jewish converts, and St Paul speaks of this in his letter to the Galatians (*Galatians 2:11-14*).

However, in spite of the company that Jesus himself kept, he was invited to meals in the homes of Pharisees on at least three occasions. The first is in the home of one called Simon, where a ‘sinful woman’, who was presumably a gate-crasher comes in and anoints Jesus’ feet, and dries them with her hair. (*Luke 7:36-50*) This is the occasions for Jesus’ teaching about forgiveness and love.

At another dinner with an unnamed Pharisee, Jesus warns of the danger of hypocrisy, speaking of the folly of washing only the outside of the dish while leaving the inside filthy, and warns too of the danger of making difficult disciplines for others and failing to help them to observe them. (*Luke 11:37-52*)

The third meal is in the house of ‘a leader of the Pharisees’, and this was on a Sabbath day, and Jesus asks the people whether he was allowed to cure people on the Sabbath: they were unable to answer. It was at this meal that he warned against seeking the most honoured place at the table, and then told the parable of the wedding feast where the invited guests did not come, so the host invites everyone off the streets. (*Luke 14:1-24*)

Meals are opportunities to make new friendships, to deepen existing ones and to enjoy company and conversation. The most important meal that Jesus had was the Last Supper, which we bring to life at every Mass as we ‘do this in memory of him’. However, the way in which we celebrate Mass has become formalised into a ‘service’ of the Church. That has come about under the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit (*John 16:12*), but we are still encouraged to engage in hospitality.

Our new kitchen gives us the opportunity to offer hospitality on a bigger scale, and one way in which we have already found fruit is through the Alpha course, which begins with a meal. Over this meal friendships are created and grow, and in a totally non-confrontational way there is conversation which flows from the video which is shown.

To invite someone to come to Mass may be a bit intimidating, but to invite someone to come to a meal is an act of generous hospitality. There are no hidden agendas, no one is pressured or coerced, but many find in this human hospitality a welcome from Jesus. The next Alpha, starts on Tuesday September 21st?

Notices of Interest

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

Repository: A display of cards and items for First Communion has been added now that we know the dates. If you wish to buy anything, please come to the Church between 9 and 10am & speak to a Steward who will show you what to do & where to go.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Jayden Lutendo Adjei Nyaror,
Isaac Robert Cosmo Harris
And Alexandra Belle Harris
who received Christian Baptism last weekend. Please
pray for them and their families.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place. The next preparation will be Monday 5th July, 7pm, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion 2021: The programme is running through 'Loom', an on line platform used by many schools. Parents need to 'home-school' children. The programme is called "Growing Up Catholic", and there are 6 sessions preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by six sessions preparing for First Holy Communion.

Confirmation: At last we have a date: 1st October; feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux! The Confirmation will be at St Gregory's.

Readers at Mass: If anyone wishes to become a reader at Mass (Sundays and Weekdays), please contact Deacon Michael, which will enable us to prepare rotas for when some sort of normality returns!

Gregory Care Toiletries appeal update: Thank you for your continued support. Many thanks again for your generosity. We will keep you updated!

Bishop David has produced a series of short talks focussed on 'The Church'. These videos can be viewed on the Northampton Diocese YouTube channel. Simply type 'Northampton Diocese' into the search bar on YouTube and click on 'The Church' playlist. All the videos in this series so far will be displayed.

Mission Northampton: Mission Northampton will be based at the new St Thomas Centre at Northampton Cathedral, but be a town-wide project involving all the parishes & Catholic schools in the town. It is being led by Fr David Donaghue, & there will be a variety of initiatives to seek to proclaim the Gospel, & make us all better missionary disciples. Please keep praying for it, & for our own parish, that we may become all that God wishes us to be, & that, like the first Christians, we may be devoted to the teaching of the apostles, to the fellowship, to the Breaking of Bread & to the prayers. May we all be truly missionary disciples, & this a missionary parish.

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

Tots @St Gregory's: As with other meetings, Tots has been cancelled until further notice.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Track and Trace: The government have now released their app to support track & trace & we have a QR code which can be scanned to record your presence at church. This is not obligatory, but should help in the important task of controlling the spread of the virus. As responsible members of society, we should comply with this request.

Re-Envisioning Catechesis: The Church has recently produced a new version of the "Directory for Catechesis", which makes clear the link between evangelisation & the teaching of the Faith. One fruit of this is that the diocesan department for catechesis has been moved from NORES to the new department for Mission. To help those engaged in Sacramental preparation, there will be an on line course over 5 consecutive Thursday evenings, starting 17th June 7.30 pm (ending at 8.45 pm) on Zoom. If anyone would like to take part, please let Fr Andrew know (by email, please), and the parish will make the booking. NORES provides various opportunities for Adult Education; the course for catechists started last week, and there will be a webinar on "Mark and John and the Word of Life — The Church draws her life from the Eucharist" on Tuesday 13th July 2021, 7.30 pm – 8.30. To register please email admin@nores.org.uk.

CAFOD: As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with Caritas India to provide vital support to poor communities. Already £200,000 has been pledged. This helps to distribute PPE kits to health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, & set up safely run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: cafod.org.uk/give. Please pray for the people of India & all those affected by the pandemic.

Parish Finances: We have received the return from the Diocese showing our parish account in full. There has not been time to prepare a full statement of accounts yet, but we have benefitted from a substantial legacy from Violette Caillebotte, which will go a long way to pay for the building of the parish office when the diocese eventually gives permission for this. This must wait until the diocesan finances have recovered from COVID. St Gregory's has weathered this storm thanks to your wonderful generosity. The diocesan office does not have a parish to support it, but its essential work has to continue in supporting the parishes, schools and chaplaincies.

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)**

Stella Maris — The Apostleship of the Sea: For many years Tony Bull has been our parish representative for the Apostleship of the Sea (now named Stella Maris), but now feels that someone younger could take this on. We have a volunteer and hope that this can be formally announced soon.

The Catholicism Course: Following on from the Alpha course which has just finished, the "Catholicism" course will be run on Tuesday evenings through the summer, starting at 7.30. While it does form a continuous course, each session does stand alone, so if you have to miss one or more, you can dip in to those you can. It will run on Zoom to start with, and depending on changes to regulations and if the participants would prefer, could change to 'face to face' later. There are ten sessions:

- 1 July 6th The revelation of God become Man
- 2 July 20th The Teaching of Jesus
- 3 July 27th God, than whom nothing greater can be thought
- 4 August 3rd Mary, Mother of God
- 5 August 10th Peter and Paul; the first Missions
- 6 August 17th Christ and the Church
- 7 August 24th The Eucharist
- 8 August 31st The Communion of Saints
- 9 September 7th Prayer and the Life of the Spirit
- 10 September 14th The Last Things

Please email to Fr Andrew to request the Zoom link.

Scripture Readings 27th June 2021, 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

The Book of Wisdom, written in the century before Christ, starts by exhorting us to "love righteousness ... and seek the Lord with sincerity of heart". God made man in his own image: not immortal, for only God is immortal, but God made man "imperishable". Death is not the end.

The Psalm gives thanks for deliverance from death: prayers during sickness were answered by God, triumphing over death.

The reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians might have been written today: we should share the earth's resources with other peoples currently in need. We may need help some time! Paul was collecting financial aid for the Church in Jerusalem, since many towns in the rest of the empire had greater resources. Paul's approach is supremely practical: he praises the Corinthians and then challenges them to give generously. But they should always keep a balance, not beggar themselves.

We resume our Sunday readings from Mark's gospel. During his journey to heal Jairus' daughter, Jesus is interrupted by a woman seeking a cure for her continuous haemorrhage. Jesus tells her her faith has restored her to health. As with the child raised from the dead, God's kingdom breaks through, to help us understand what God has planned for us in his new creation.

Psalm Response:

**I will praise you, Lord,
you have rescued me.**

(Wisdom 1: 13-15, 2:23-24; Psalm 29(30); 2 Cor 89: 7-15; Mark: 5: 21-43)

Chris Oliver

Kitchen Makeover Update

The new smart flooring has been installed and the kitchen space is looking bright, spacious and refreshing and we are now fitting out the kitchen. The donated stainless steel professional worktops have been deep cleaned, thanks to the hard work of some of our volunteers and have been put provisionally in place along with the cooker so we can now get an idea of how the finished job may look. Currently the new double sink unit is being plumbed in and connected to the existing main drain. The storage units and fridge freezer are in place freeing up much space in the Church Hall. Our cunning plan to get the cooker in through a space smaller than the kitchen door has worked so now the new enlarged space is taking

on the look of a kitchen. There is still a lot of work and jobs to do but the work is progressing well and soon we will have a kitchen to be proud of. There are all sorts of jobs that need to be done so if you are willing to help please let me know. Many thanks to all those who have helped in so many ways. No matter how big or small your contribution is it all goes to help.

Many thanks again to all the painters and everyone who has helped and contributed in so many ways with this extensive project

Cliff Snelling

Congratulations to those receiving Holy Communion for the first time today

First Holy Communion preparation through the lockdown has been difficult, and great thanks must go to the team who have managed this; to Jean, Catherine and Stella, but also to the parents who have had to 'home-school' their children. Many parents have actually spoken of how much they have both enjoyed the experience and benefitted from it in terms of gaining a deeper understanding of their own faith. It may well be that next year we include some on-line sessions as well as the face-to-face ones.

During lockdown, and for those still shielding, one of the biggest deprivations for us has been the inability to receive Holy Communion, and although it has been possible to attend Mass through television or the internet, it is not possible to receive Holy Communion on-line. Scripture teaches us that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament; St Paul warns us that "all who eat and drink without discerning the Lord's body eat and drink judgement against themselves." (*1 Corinthians 11:29*) This is surely a wonderful gift. God who created us and gave us the gift of life continues to gift us with his presence: "I am

with you always, to the end of time" (*Matthew 28:20*), with the gift of the Holy Spirit: "he will give you another advocate to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth." (*John 14:16-17*).

He taught us to pray for this gift: "Give us this day our daily bread" (*Matthew 6:11*) — a prayer which is not only for our physical but also our spiritual sustenance. Day by day and week by week we are seeing more people returning to Mass 'in person' as opposed to 'on line', and we hope that restrictions will be lifted on 19th July, ending the social distancing rules, although with the current infection levels, there must still be a risk that some restrictions will remain.

For those receiving Holy Communion for the first time this Sunday, and for those returning after a time away, may this be an occasions which begins a new phase in the pilgrimage towards heaven. Holy Communion is indeed a foretaste of the "heavenly banquet, in which Christ is received, the memory of his Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given us" (*O Sacrum Convivium; St Thomas Aquinas*)

*Adrian
Mila
Brianna
Kevinas
Aron
Grace
Aaron*



Pregnancy Matters –

for confidential counselling, helpline: 0808 802 5433 or text Pregnancy Matters on: 07860 077 339.

Online and Text-to-Talk services can also be found via the [Life website](#).

Life: has been speaking out against abortion and offering a positive alternative to it since 1970.

[Using the Life website](#) you can find information and advice on: pregnancy-related problems; unexpected pregnancies; housing support; help and healing after abortion; pregnancy loss; helping someone else; resources and research; their campaigns; testimonials and blogs.

SECOND COLLECTIONS 2021



28th February	CAFOD (Lenten Fast Day 26th Feb)
2nd April	Good Friday Collection for the Holy Places
25th April	Diocesan Priests' Training Fund
16th May	Mass Media
20th June	Day for Life
27th June	Peter's Pence
11th July	Apostleship of the Sea
19th September	Home Mission Sunday
3rd October	CAFOD (Harvest Fast Day 1st October)
24th October	Mission Sunday
7th November	Bishop's Maintenance Fund
14th November	Sick & Retired Priests' Fund