



# 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

## The Post-lockdown Church

Last week we looked at the way in which we would be able to continue the important Bible study courses through the autumn using Zoom; since then we have been warned that we are looking at six months of increased restrictions as the virus continues to take its toll on our life.

Last Monday Bishop David introduced a series of talks entitled “The Post-lockdown Church”, although he himself wondered how possible it is to consider Church after the pandemic when we are still in the midst of it. It is impossible to know what things will be like after it ends. There are the pessimists who speak of the Church “haemorrhaging” members, while others are speaking of people finding deeper spirituality; more people tuning in to on-line Masses and other religious websites. Only time will tell; it is reasonable to assume that there will be both gains and losses. The Bishop mentioned a new book by the Biblical scholar Tom Wright, “God and the Pandemic”, and pointed to a YouTube video of him talking about it. He warns against perceiving the pandemic as a punishment from God or a call to repent, but invites us to consider the response of the early Church to the famine reported in Acts 11:27-30, there the Church asked “who is most at risk, what needs to be done to help and who can we send”. He sees the pandemic as a call to action.

However, the action must be based on a prayerful discernment of the will of God, and not jumping to this or that. (The YouTube video is worth a look: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7lToM-hFEo>)

Bishop David suggests a three-phase reflection on the situation: attending, imagining and serving.

### Attending

This is looking at all the evidence of what is happening. That can be difficult when we ourselves can only see what is close to us or what is reported, and the media are masters of only reporting what they want us to see and failing to report what does not support the conclusions they would want us to draw. We need to enter into dialogue with those around us and find out their experience so that, as a parish, we can recognise our own local situation. The Bishop points to a number of factors: the experience (new for some families) of being the ‘Domestic Church’, experiencing Mass on line with the household gathered around a computer rather than an Altar and family prayers. Many have found a deepening of their prayer life or their depth of faith through internet sites; engaging in Bible study or prayer meetings. Many have engaged in charitable works, supporting neighbours who have been shielding, supporting food banks, making “the mystery of Christ the Servant King a reality within our communities”, as the Bishop says.

He also points out “the quiet, the calm roads, the cleaner air in the skies, the sound of the birdsong” and having time and space to enter into contemplation of creation and our own life.

### Imagining

We frequently hear the phrase: “New Normal”, and none of us knows what this might be, and there is a real possibility that the new normal will be indistinguishable from the old normal, which will show that we have learned nothing from the experience. If we have seen a more caring society during lock-down, a more grateful society, can we not imagine that this care and gratitude might be part of the ‘new normal’. Why should we not continue to experience the good things that were in lockdown when the pandemic ends?

Why can we not continue to use the on-line resources to help us to pray better, to help our understanding of the Faith, to increase our knowledge of the Bible? The benefits of Mass live-streamed or recorded and available through the internet have helped us during lockdown, but for the housebound, in effect lockdown will continue. Should this become part of our regular parish life?

Bishop David quotes Fr James Mallon: “someone once said, the Church is like an addict, she will only be open to change when the pain of remaining as she is would be greater than the pain of change.” Can we imagine a way of being Church which is faithful to the Holy Spirit, faithful to the Magisterium, faithful to the Gospel and which is appropriate to the age in which we live. Pope Francis has observed that “we are not living in an era of change but a change of era” (*Reported in the National Catholic Reporter, November 10<sup>th</sup> 2015*)

### Serving

In all three of these phases, Bishop David used the present participle; words that end in ‘-ing’. He makes the point that they are an ongoing process which is never complete. The very act of serving keeps us ‘Gospel-rooted’. He points us to the parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep, who had served other people were not aware that in so doing they were serving Christ. Their motive was simply to serve others. We know of so many ‘sheep-acts’ that have taken place during the months of lockdown.

Pope Francis has spoken of the Church as a ‘field-hospital’ and a servant-Church is very much his vision. Tom Wright speaks of this too. The sovereignty of God is shown in service, not in crushing power. If we are to be true missionary disciples, this will be realised in acts of service. Bishop David speaks of growing new fruit, and the post-lockdown Church must be a servant Church.



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Website: [www.stgregory.org.uk](http://www.stgregory.org.uk)

**27<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year**  
**Parish Mass Book - Year A**  
**Page 77**

**Priest:**  
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015  
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**Deacons:**  
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
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**Pastoral Assistant:**  
Maria Heath  
E-mail: [maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk)

**Each day, Mass will be celebrated in church at 9am (except Thursdays which will be at 7pm), and with numbers limited. Mass will continue to be available on the Parish website, and on the parish Facebook page (StGregsNorthampton).**

<b>Sunday</b> <i>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Dante Davighi RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday St. Wenceslaus	9.00 am	Mass	Betty Lane RIP
Tuesday SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	9.00 am	Mass	Cecilia Pereira RIP
Wednesday St. Jerome	9.00 am	Mass	Agnes McLoughlin's Intentions
Thursday St. Therese of the Child Jesus	9.00 am to 12 noon 7.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Mass	Holy Souls
Friday Holy Guardian Angels	9.00 am	Mass	Philip Ndekwe RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Patrick Connor RIP
<b>Sunday</b> <i>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	Stephen Healy RIP

**Your Offering To The Parish:**

**Special Collection this week:**

**Special Collection next week**

**Standing Order gifts to the Parish:**

**Gift Aid benefits to the parish:**

**Cleaners This Week:**

**Counters This Week:**

Last Sunday's collection was £1012.45. Thank you!  
Holy Places (Transferred from Good Friday)  
CAFOD Harvest collection  
Each week £551 is given through standing orders.  
The value of Gift Aid averages £133 per week.  
There is no Church cleaning at the moment.  
C.C & P.S.

**Readings for this Sunday**

*When the sinner renounces sin, he shall certainly live.*

*In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*

*He thought better of it and went.*

**Readings for next Sunday**

**Isaiah 5: 1-7; Philippians 4: 6-9; Matthew 21: 33-43. (Page 80)**

**During this season**

**of Ordinary Time, Autumn.**

**We are Asked to pray for**

Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest;  
The Spread of the Gospel; Victims of War;  
Prisoners & Their Families; Young People.

Are you new to the Parish? You are welcome! Please introduce yourself to the Clergy
In hospital? Let the Chaplaincy know on 01604 714556
If you are in need, please ring Gregory Care on 07982 235379. Someone will respond as soon as possible. Please be patient.

**New Instructions for places of worship.**

"From Monday 14 September, you must not meet with people from other households socially in groups of more than 6. This will apply indoors and outdoors, including in private homes. This change will simplify and clarify the rules on social gatherings, so they are easier to understand and easier for the police to enforce. There will be a limited number of exemptions. COVID-19 Secure venues, such as places of worship, restaurants & hospitality venues, can still host larger numbers in total but groups of up to 6 must not mix or form larger groups. This rule will not apply to individual households or support bubbles of more than 6 who will still be able to gather together. Education & work settings are unaffected, & organised team sports will still be able to proceed, as will weddings & funerals up to 30. From Monday, this limit will be enforceable in law." (From the Cabinet Office, HM Government, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020).

We are pleased to be able to attend Mass; this is central to our practice of the Faith. Pope Francis is often pointing this out: we live in an inter-connected world, in which we all have a responsibility towards our neighbor, to protect other people from the virus; not just to protect ourselves. Please note the part of the regulations about gatherings 'indoors or outdoors', & be careful after leaving the church & in the car-park.

**Please pray for the sick:**

Debbie	Jean O'Neill
Fr Philip Swingler	Khanh Phan
Michael Spowart	Matt Murphy
Owen	Deacon Rory
Fr Ed Worthy	Martin Moore
Margaret Farragher	Paul Greaves
May Murtagh	Sr. Margaret
Richard Redmond	Teresa Redmond
Catherine Stratten	Mary Morgan
Leo Bell	Maureen Bell
Michael Rowback	Margaret M
Marion Gilbert	Bridget Devane
May Cramphorn	Mick McCabe
David Pick	Liam Murphy
Agnes McLoughlin	Aileen Hasdell
Andrew Stewart	

**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

Rudolf Wloczyw	Keith Jones
William Valentine	George Lewi9s
Frederick Boswell	Rita Quigley
Richard White	Anne Brammigan
Bernard Fossey	Margaret Murphy
Roland Williams	Richard Walker
Mark Collins	Christopher Doyle
Jack Quigley	Patrick Coleman
Maria Crake	Elizabeth Allan
William Charles Currie	Frances Keegan
Wladislaw Idczak	Margaret Garvey
Gertrude Culverhouse	Dorothy Marriott
Valerie Curran	Henry Thompson
Dorothy Dorman	Zdzislaw Xwicien
Kathleen Neeson	Daniel Aneke
Mary O'Carroll	Martin Marcano

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS**

**FOR OCTOBER**

**That by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.**

**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]*

# Notices of Interest

**Confession:** Confession will be available between 9.30 am and 12.00 noon daily, but please email first to arrange a time to ensure that Fr Andrew is free.



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Aisa-Victoria Zahogeanu  
who received Christian Baptism last week.  
Please pray for her and her family.

**Repository - First communion and Confirmation:** I have put a small display of cards & mementoes on a rack & table in the Foyer. People can help themselves whenever the Church is open & put payment in the wall box on the right of the Sacristy door. For any problems, a member of staff will be present after both Sunday Masses. **Please remember to observe the regulations on masks & spacing. Please only touch items you intend to buy. I will clean & replenish items regularly as needed. Stay Safe.**

### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**

From 9.00 am to 12 noon on Thursdays, and then following Mass in the evening, until 8.30 pm.

**Bible Alive** for October is now available. The cost is £3.00. If you want to purchase a copy, they are near the hand-sanitiser in the narthex as you come into church. Please help yourself to a copy of The Crusader.

**Supporting CAFOD and the Hope Centre:** Please see the respective websites to make donations for CAFOD and / or the Hope Centre:

<https://cafod.org.uk/>

<https://northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

**The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC),** of which CAFOD is an active member has launched a nationwide appeal for funds. CAFOD is working in the most deprived areas of the world, helping local communities stricken by coronavirus to survive by:

- Delivering food to where it is needed most.
- Improving hygiene, handwashing and sanitation at the community and household level.
- Producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention.
- Training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns.

Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal> or use a CAFOD envelope and give through the parish. There will be an opportunity to give to the appeal this Sunday.

**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.

**Bishop David kicked off Autumn webinar series:** On 5<sup>th</sup> August Pope Francis called on the Church to reflect on our current situation. In response, the diocesan Pastoral Ministry Office is hosting a series of online webinars on Monday evenings through the autumn. We began last Monday with Bishop David reflecting on the last six months, and posing some key questions as we go forward. This Monday Brendan Thompson from Catholic Voices speaks about 'Mission in a Digital Age' For more information and to register, please go to <https://postlockdownchurch.eventbrite.co.uk>.

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

**Track and Trace:** The government have now (at last) released their smartphone app to support track and trace, and 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. For the time being we are asked to continue to fill in a paper form, but this may change when the electronic system has bedded in.

**A 'Virtual' Pilgrimage of Reparation to Walsingham** will take place today, led by Bishop Marcus Stock of Leeds. We are having to adapt to Covid-19 guidelines and so it is a 'Virtual Pilgrimage'. Bishop Marcus will be in Walsingham, God willing, but Covid-19 limitations result in the Shrine discouraging visits at weekends. Therefore we are not running any coaches this year. Instead we will be offering an online participation which presents us with an opportunity to reach many more people than in previous years. We are also hopeful that the Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be present in Walsingham. Online participation is through <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/> or <https://www.youtube.com/WalsinghamCatholicTV>

### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

**Baptism Preparation:** The next Baptism Preparation will be on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October, at 7pm in the Sacristy. **Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend to book your place.**

**First Holy Communion 2020:** We are happy to announce that enrolment for next year's programme for any child wishing to make their First Holy Communion who is in school year 3, 4, 5 or 6 will take place soon. The enrolment will be on line in December, so watch this space! At the moment we can't give any more details of how or when the preparation will take place but rest assured, it will!

**Confirmation - 3<sup>rd</sup> Preparation Session:** The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established. There is a provisional date for Confirmation of 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7.00 pm (Apologies for yet another change — this has been difficult!).

### **PARISH FINANCES**

As we increase our activities, and as colder weather approaches so that we need to turn the heating on, our finances will come under a bit of strain. We have managed to keep solvent through the lockdown; great thanks to all who have been so generous.

**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)**

**Holy Communion and face masks:** Please note that wearing face masks is compulsory in churches, & you should wear one if you are not exempt. Stewards are not responsible for policing this, but may remind you that this is now the law. However, you clearly cannot have your mouth covered while receiving Holy Communion! The Church's rule is that you consume the Host before you move away from the minister. Please remove your mask before being given the Host. Priest and Deacon wear face-coverings for your protection.

**Becoming a Catholic:** For adults interested in becoming a Catholic, the parish runs Journey in Faith process (RCIA). Also offered for adults who are Catholic, but have not received all the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist. Please speak to Alex Heath (07963032175) or Fr Andrew.

# Scripture Readings 27th September 2020, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The priest Ezekiel appears to have been among the first Israelites taken to Babylon in captivity in 598 BC. He had strongly urged Israel's leaders to be faithful to God and his covenant, instead of resisting their enemies. But in vain: Israel's further rebellion led to the final destruction of Jerusalem in 586. Ezekiel insists that children are not punished for the sins of their fathers. Each generation and each person must accept responsibility for their own behaviour. Why choose sin and death: "I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God, so turn, and live"

The psalm is a personal prayer for guidance and pardon, while meditating on God's goodness to the just.

Paul urges the Gentile Christians in Philippi to strive for unity, putting their own interests behind those of the Christian community.

The hymn glorifies the way the already existing Christ obediently humbled himself to become man so that "every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord" – the basic definition of a Christian.

In Matthew's gospel Jesus has entered Jerusalem and cleansed the Temple. Now, challenged by the Jewish leaders, Jesus asks which is better – to refuse a command and then do it, or to say 'yes' but disobey? Israel frequently broke their Covenant with God, so sinners will enter God's kingdom before the Jews.

Psalm Response:

**Remember your mercy, Lord.**

Ezek 18:25-28; Ps 24(25); Phil 2:1-11; Matt 21:28-32

Chris Oliver

# The Season of Creation

**Tip No. 100:** *Living sustainably with creation: organic farming reduces nitrous oxide ( 300 times as bad as CO2 ) being released into the atmosphere by non organic farming. Buy organic foods as much as you can to halt climate change.*

**Tip No. 99:** *Living sustainably with creation: prevent waste caused by packaging. Buy loose food and non food products whenever possible, carrying them home in your own bags. Parishioner tip.....thank you.*

Many thanks to Harry and Helen Charles who have offered to co-ordinate our parish's work towards the "Living Simply Award". Anyone who is interested is being involved in this, please contact them, or speak to Fr Andrew



## Bible Study Programme resumes.



The foundation course is the "Bible Timeline", and this will run on Wednesday evenings, from 7.00 to 9.00. On Monday at 1.00 pm the course on Hebrews will run, on Tuesday at 10.00 we hope to run the course on the Gospel of Matthew, on Tuesday evening at 7.30 the course on Our Lady will run. We are still exploring the facilities of Zoom, and invite everyone to join.

The 'Bible Timeline' is the place to start. This course will take you through the entire Bible, but concentrating on fourteen books which cover the events leading up to the time of Jesus' earthly life, and then how the Church grew from Pentecost. The books covered are: Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 Maccabees, Luke and Acts. These books tell the narrative story of salvation. The other books of the Bible fit into the narrative story and shed more light onto it, but it is these fourteen books that give us a framework so that we can place where the different prophets in the Old Testament or the different letters in the New Testament fit in.

Understanding this framework will greatly enhance understanding in particular of the first readings at Sunday Mass, but even more than

that, will help us to understand the wonderful plan of salvation that God has for the world, and for each one of us. The time of conversation in the study sessions helps us to grow in community, and as we talk about our faith with those who share it, we gain confidence as well as understanding, and so our faith is deepened.

All these will start this week, but the first session is introductory. You will need to download the (free) Zoom app onto your chosen device. Tablets are probably the easiest; smart-phones seem to be less satisfactory, particularly if there are many participants, but lap-top and notebook computers are fine. Desktop computers need to have a webcam attached. This is not difficult, they plug in to a USB socket.

To 'come to' a Zoom Bible Study, please email to Fr Andrew ([priest@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:priest@stgregory.org.uk)) for the link. When you have the link, and a few minutes before the start time (or any time during the party), click the link and follow the instructions to join the meeting. Before this, it is a good idea to have made yourself a drink; tea, coffee or whatever takes your fancy and a plate of your favourite nibbles. Sometimes technology can appear frightening, but please give it a go!

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

Most second collections were missed during the year, so on these dates below there will be opportunity to give to these concerns.

27 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Places
4 <sup>th</sup> October	CAFOD
11 <sup>th</sup> October	Peter's Pence
18 <sup>th</sup> October	World Mission
15 <sup>th</sup> November	World Communications
29 <sup>th</sup> November	Day for Life
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Home Mission
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Sea Sunday



The cocoa harvest in Cote d'Ivoire starts on 1<sup>st</sup> October and that's the same day that the first KitKats without the Fairtrade mark roll off the production line in York.

So that's the day we hand in the Keep KitKat Fairtrade petition with almost 300,000 signatures to Nestle.

Obviously the social distancing laws and guidelines limit the number of people who can take part in person, but you can still get involved from the comfort of your own home. We're asking campaigners to download the poster and put it in their window on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October. (Poster is downloadable from [www.fairtradeyorkshire.org.uk](http://www.fairtradeyorkshire.org.uk))

**During this time of restricted public worship, please keep reading the Bible. The September “Bible Alive” is now available — see the note elsewhere in this newsletter.**