



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



ALPHA

begins this week

Tuesday evenings, 7.30 – 9.45 pm
from 30th April – 16th July, (except 28th May)
BEGINS THIS TUESDAY, 30th APRIL
plus Friday evening to Saturday 21st to 22nd June
Not too late to sign up!



March 25th 2020

England will be re-consecrated as the Dowry of Mary. This is not just resurrecting a mediaeval devotion; it is invoking our Lady's prayers for the re-conversion of this land.

To help us better understand the true place of Our Lady in God's plan of salvation, come to the "Biblical Walk with Mary" on Monday afternoons at Great Billing, starting on May 13th.

Scripture Readings 28th April 2019, 2nd Sunday of Easter, Year C

All the first readings of Eastertide are from the Acts of the Apostles describing the early years of the Church. The second readings are from the Book of Revelation, John's vision of the new life in heaven promised to all believers. The readings from John's Gospel describe Jesus' resurrection appearances and claims of his unity with the Father. Today the risen Jesus identifies himself as the one crucified, before this Gospel's first ending.

In Acts Peter and John were arrested, then released. Then the growing Christian community lived in peace. Peter only once acted as judge of Israel, killing Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit. In today's reading the other disciples stand apart from the Apostles, apparently in awe after this display of Peter's power.

More verses from the psalm used for the Easter Masses, rejoicing at the coming of the king.

John is exiled to the island of Patmos, south-west of Ephesus, for spreading the gospel. In this first chapter of Revelation a figure appears to John in his vision, identifying himself both as the risen "Son of Man", which Jesus called himself while on earth, and as "the First and the Last" – ie God. John is commanded to write down what is now to be revealed to him.

Psalm Response: **Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.**

(Acts 5:12-16; Ps 117(118); Rev 1:9-19; John 20:19-31)

Chris Oliver

It's that time of the year again!

As the end of April comes, those who use the planned giving envelopes realise that they are running out. Never fear! New ones are now available. They are in the hall — please collect them after Mass. For any who wish, you can transfer to a Bank Standing Order; in these days when we use cash less and less, this may well be a more convenient way to make your gift to the Church.

Also inside this newsletter is a brief explanation of the financial

state of the parish. This is a time for saying "Thank-you". First of all, a big thank-you to everyone who supports the parish financially and in so many other ways. Thank-you also for your continued generous support for CAFOD, the Hope Centre, the Life House and the other causes for which we have additional collections. A special "thank-you" from Fr Andrew for your generosity in the Easter collection. This is indeed a wonderful parish!



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS
Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 28th April 2019

Second Sunday of Easter

Parish Mass Book - Year C

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Priest:
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: priest@stgregory.org.uk
Deacons:
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com
Rev Rory Stewart (ret) ☎ 408407
Pastoral Assistant:
Maria Heath ☎ 07952 040830
E-mail: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	The Choir's Intentions
Monday St. Catherine of Siena	9.00 am	Mass	Teresa Bonner RIP
	5.15 pm	Reception of the Body of Peter Redmond RIP	
Tuesday St. George	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Gwynneth Ducrow
	11.30 am	Funeral Mass	Peter Redmond RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Nancy Ginnelley RIP Caterina Gutilla RIP
	11.00 am	Requiem Mass	
Thursday St. Athanasius	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion Benediction Mass	Bridget Harding RIP
	6.45 pm		
	7.00 pm		
Friday SS Philip & James	9.00 am	Mass	Angela Azedo
Saturday Martyrs of England & Wales	9.00 am	Mass Confessions	Peter Redmond RIP
	9.30 am		
Sunday <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Edmund & Mary Moan
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish: Last Sunday's collection was your offering to Fr. Andrew. Thank you!

Standing Order gifts to the Parish: Each week £380 is given through standing orders.

Gift Aid benefits to the parish: The value of Gift Aid averages £133 per week.

Ongoing Lent Collection for CAFOD: £1,421.21 has been given during Lent

Good Friday Collection: Holy Places £325.34. Thank you!

Counters This Week: M. Murtagh, L. Allen, Anna Smith.

Cleaners This Week: Maureen & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

Acts 10: 34, 37-43.

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection.

Colossians 3: 1-4.

You must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

John 20: 1-9.

He must rise from the dead.

Readings for Next Sunday

Acts 5: 12-6; Apocalypse 1: 9-13, 17-19; John 20: 19-31. (Page 128)

During this season of Easter, we are asked to pray for:
New Members of the Church;
Human Work; Priestly Vocations;
Right Use of the Media; The Church.

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.

**Are you new to the parish? You are welcome!
Please introduce yourself to one of the clergy**

Live Video streaming from the Cathedral: <https://www.churchservices.tv/northamptoncathedral>

An important message for any who sometimes attend Mass at the Cathedral: The Cathedral will no longer send envelopes from other Parishes back, so if you occasionally attend Sunday Mass there, please do not put St. Gregory's Envelopes into the collection, but save them until you are next here, or consider setting up a standing order (see Fr. Andrew)

With sorrow we record the death of Phyllis Albon. She has been in a care home for some years, but used to be a faithful attender at the Saturday evening Mass. Funeral arrangements are not yet known. May she rest in peace.

Please pray for the sick

Sylvia Marlow	Kelly-Ann
Cecilia Pereira	Robert Fleming
Fr Philip Swingler	Joan McAllister
Michael Spowart	Jean O'Neill
Dominic Nicholls	Clara Korejwo
Alf Shipman	Ziadi Family
Owen	Khanh Phan
Kath Seamark	Robert Moore
Fr Ed Worthy	Sarah Dunster
Liam Murphy	Kim Do
Margaret Farragher	Sr. Margaret
Dulcie Miranda	Sylvia Clark
Joan Healy	Lily Butler
Jayne Miller	Rachel
Baby Lorenzo Diccico	Eileen Howell
Maurice Murphy	Doris Old
Sylvester Dauksta	Rita
Lorraine Woolard	Erica Campbell
Dolores Behan	Vera Curly
Richard Redmond	Chau
Teresa Redmond	Damien Darkko
Maire West	Michael Graney
Paul Mandel	Fr. John O'Brien
Kathleen Healey	Candy Docherty
Leo Bell	Elaine Donnelly
Jennifer Ogbata	May Eamons
Stephen Aneke	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	Mary Rumsey
Paul Greaves	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Catherine Stratten	

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

John Coley	Catherine Tuvey
Antonio Canino	Jean Witty
Eamon O'Sullivan	Bernard Pickerill
Catherine MacDonnell	Raymond Hadley
John Kennedy	Eugene Smyth
Henry Shields	Anna Callinan
Lawrence Connors	John Finegan
William Middleton	Dorothy Steed
Arthur Cuthbert	James Reid
Violet Gibson	William Miller
Anne Dooley	Rose McQuade
Catherine Whatton	Vincent Kelly
Herbert Ainge	Reginald Neale
Rose Cosgrove	Margaret Costello
Catherine Bullock	Bernie Kavanagh
Margaret Meacher	Alfred Byrne
Jean Walsh	Carmela Gutilla
Dudley Cary-Elwes, Bishop	

POPE'S PRAYER

INTENTIONS FOR MAY

That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

Notices of Interest

The Repository: The Repository is open after both Sunday Masses. Easter cards are now available & 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation cards will be on sale from this week.
Kathleen Healey

Bible Alive for Easter is now available in the lobby area. Please try this publication - it has daily readings & good articles - all for only £2:50! **Please remember to put money in the box marked 'Books & Papers' in the entrance lobby.**

Pilgrimage to Aylesford Friary, Kent: Saturday 4th May. A coach will leave St. Gregory's at 8am and return at about 8pm. Cost £13 per person. Please bring a picnic lunch. For details and to book a seat, please contact Maureen Salter (01604) 315112

May Rosary: During the month of May the Legion of Mary recites the Rosary in the homes of parishioners. There is a list in the porch - please write your name & address on it if you would like us to come and pray with you. Please also write a contact number, and a date and time that you would like us to visit.

Ecumenical Prayer Walk: The date has been set for Friday 7th June, 6.45 for a 7.00 pm start. Gather at Park Avenue Methodist Church where we will have a short time of prayer together before going out in twos and threes to pray for the local area. There will be some guidance before we set off and each group will have a designated area to cover. We will gather back at Park Avenue Methodist Church for light refreshments and some feedback at 8.00 pm.

Sacred Heart Church are holding an International Rosary in May, as they did last year & warmly invite you! The dates are: Wed. 8th - Joyful Mysteries; Frid. 17th - Mysteries of Light; Wed. 22nd - Sorrowful Mysteries; Frid. 30th - Glorious Mysteries. All at 7pm. Each session is followed by refreshments in the hall - please come & bring refreshments - we hope to have items from as many cultures as possible as we celebrate our unity & diversity! Each evening will involve saying decades in English & at least one other language - if you could volunteer a language that would be great.
Contact Jean 07980866516 merrimans@hotmail.com

Mass for victims and survivors of abuse, their families and supporters at St Mary's in Woburn Sands at 12 noon on 12 October 2019. All victims and survivors of abuse, their families and supporters are invited to this Mass. The focus will be on healing, reconciliation and the forming of compassionate links with the Church. There will be light refreshments after the Mass.

Individual Meetings for Victims and Survivors, with Bishop Peter. Bishop Peter is offering to meet with victims & survivors, families & supporters from May 2019 & continuing on a bimonthly basis. For more details or to book a meeting with the Bishop, contact the safeguarding office on: 01604 723514.

Head Teacher Opportunity at St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School. Please see poster & booklet for full details.

The Prayer Group meets every Thursday in the Sacristy from 2pm until 3.30pm for Praise, reading of Scripture and Intercession. We are a small group, and would warmly welcome newcomers!

Blessed Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group continues monthly on 1st Saturday of each month in the Sacristy at 10am. (Next meeting is May 4th) All welcome.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. Next meeting 8th May. All welcome.

Ceili Dancing: Wednesday evenings, starts 8pm. Learn Ceili Dancing in a friendly atmosphere at St Gregory's Hall from 8pm - 9.15pm. All ages welcome! Ceád Mile Failte. For further info please phone Pat Franks on 07710624921

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Please remember this important spiritual powerhouse of the parish. Exposition begins after the morning liturgy of Word and Communion on Thursdays and continues until 6.45 pm.

Fitness & Pilates for Mid Life & Beyond! Classes Wed, 10.30am in the Church Hall with Theresa, who is fully qualified & insured. For further info, please contact Theresa on 07773577804

Tots @St Gregory's: Tots @ St. Gregory's: Tuesdays during school term-time from 9.30 - 11.30. Refreshments provided. 50p per family. All welcome!

Piano Concert by Margaret Fingerhut Wednesday 1st May, 7pm, at Northampton School for Girls in aid of Northampton Town of Sanctuary. Tickets £12.50. See poster for details.

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), Fr Andrew or Maria Heath.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be at 7.00 pm, Monday 29th April 2019, in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion — 2019 Next session will be 5th May. The session starts at 2.00 pm, and parents are asked to stay until about 2.45 pm. Remember also to be at Mass each Sunday and get your stickers each week.

If any parent is willing to become a helper, please contact Stella or Jean for details. No special prior qualifications or experience required, but DBS clearance will need to be obtained.

Confirmation Preparation: 27th April at Sacred Heart.

Facebook page: St Gregory's has a page on Facebook, and frequently carries news before it gets into the newsletter as well as reminders for events.
Address:

277 <https://www.facebook.com/StGregsNorthampton>

Catholic Basics Course: Part Three: The Moral Life 16 May, **Part Four: Prayer** 13 June. Join us for another day of engaging teaching with interaction & discussion. £25 per person per day (£10 for the unwaged), includes lunch. No qualifications needed - just interest, good will & a sense of humour! To book, contact admin@nores.org.uk or phone Jackie on 01582 723312.

St John writes: "This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one bearing witness because the Spirit is truth. There are three witnesses, the Spirit, water and blood, and these three agree." (1 John 5:6-8)

We pray that we may "rightly understand" the meaning of these three; water, Spirit and blood.

God of everlasting mercy,
who, in the very recurrence of the paschal feast
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,
that all may grasp and rightly understand
in what font they have been washed,
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
by whose blood they have been redeemed.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Through the first week of Easter a recurring theme in our prayer is for the newly Baptised and for new Catholics, but there is no distinction between those recently entered into the Church and those of long-standing.

A word connected with Eastertide is *Mystagogia*, which is the recognition of the mysteries of our faith. The use of the word "grasp" implies that that a mental understanding is not enough. The mystery of our faith is more than that!

Our Parish Finances

The headline figures are that we received a total of £81,159.59 through our bank account and a further £27,400.87 paid directly to the Diocese, making a total of £108,560.46. We have paid out £58,378.94 through our bank account, and the Diocese has paid £36,366.76 on our behalf, making a total of £94,745.70. This shows a surplus of £13,814.76, which is added to our fund for the new office.

The total given by Standing Order has increased during the year, and this is a better way of giving than through envelopes or simply by putting money in the collection; it enables the parish to budget better and plan our expenditure. Just over half of our total income came from direct giving (52%), and nearly 11% has been given to other causes such as CAFOD. It is good to see that the parish itself is tithing! Other major sources of income are Mass stipends, votive candles, hall rents and the chaplaincy at St Andrew's Hospital, which is undertaken by Deacon Michael Fleming.

Our biggest single cost is energy at over £10,500, and of course it is not just because of the cost of this but also in terms of climate change, we need to reduce our carbon footprint and our dependence on fossil fuels as well as saving money! (Mostly, our energy is sourced from green suppliers.) We did investigate the possibility of installing solar panels on the roof, but unfortunately the economics of this did not work out.

The new office project is on hold at present while the moratorium on new building projects continues. This is so that a thorough survey of the roofs of all the buildings of the Diocese can be carried out, and necessary repairs done. It is impossible to say when this will be completed, so, as they say, "Don't hold your breath!"

As has been said elsewhere in the newsletter, many thanks to all who support the parish financially and in so many other ways.

Pope Francis and Climate Change

According to a recent report in the American online newspaper "Buzzfeed News", most Catholics in the United States are ignoring Pope Francis' call for greater care for the environment. Surveys suggest that although most US Catholics acknowledge that climate change is real, they massively vote for politicians who support Donald Trump and regard climate change as "fake news".

"There will be a tipping point on climate change," Bron Taylor, (a University of Florida scholar of religion and the environment) said, "most likely as extreme weather forecasted by climate scientists gets worse. But it won't be religious people leading the charge."

Four years ago, Pope Francis published his encyclical "Laudato Si" on the environment. It was well received in many places, although Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma was typical of many climate-change deniers in saying: "The Pope ought to stay with his job". There is a common attitude among some politicians that the Church's business is caring for individual people, not 'meddling' in politics. However, those who are ministering in Mozambique, as yet another cyclone devastates more of that country, may see things differently. As Dom Helder Camara famously observed, "When I give food to the poor they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist". Bron Taylor commented: "That's why we have more priests than prophets. Being a prophet sucks, frankly. People yell at you, and don't believe you."

However, Pope Francis is calling the Church to a prophetic ministry, "The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth." (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* #21). Our beautiful earth has changed – we have plundered the earth unthinkingly. We have forgotten that creation is God's gift to us, for

us to treat with respect. We are seeing this played out, right now. From floods to forest fires, we see the effects of climate change even here in the UK. We might enjoy the warmer winters and hotter summers, but some of these changes to the climate already pose severe threats – to our health, our homes, our heritage and our beautiful landscapes. At the same time, our sisters and brothers overseas face far more extreme challenges. Along with droughts and floods, climate change will multiply hunger, migration and conflict. Many of our global neighbours on the frontlines of climate change are already living in poverty. But our faith is one of hope and calls us to action. It calls us to refresh our relationships with God, creation and one another. We can find hope in the fact that we've started to make huge progress. The UK Government passed the Climate Change Act in 2008 which commits us to cut emissions. And In 2015, world leaders signed a global climate treaty called the Paris Agreement.

More individuals are making changes in their lives, eating less meat, or giving meat up all together, switching to clean energy suppliers, recycling – the list goes on. We should celebrate how far we have come together. But there is still a long way to go. It is only by working together, as families, parishes, countries and globally, that real change will come. We need political and personal responses to this urgent threat we face.

Later in the year, we will be celebrating a "Mass for Creation", and there will be more information nearer the time. In the meanwhile, please keep praying for those places like Mozambique which are victims of adverse climate, and each of us can try to make even a small impact on climate change; maybe using a car less, reducing

energy usage, avoiding waste, and campaigning for a greater respect for God's wonderful creation.