



# 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 Marist Mission



Ten years before the birth of Blessed Pauline Jaricot in Lyon, (whose beatification we celebrated on May 22<sup>nd</sup> this year) Marcellin Champagnat was born just 60 kilometres away in a village near St Etienne. His earliest years were during the turbulent times of the French Revolution, during which the Church had most of its possessions and status removed. In particular, before the Revolution the Church had run all the schools in France. When Napoleon came to power the Church regained some of her freedom, and Marcellin was able to enter the Junior Seminary. He went on to the major seminary in Lyon, where he joined Jean-Marie Vianney in formation for the Priesthood. Together with Jean-Claude Colin and others in the seminary, the idea grew of a missionary society under the patronage of Our Lady, which would focus on teaching children deprived of a Catholic education, since one of the effects of the revolution was the loss to the Church of all its schools.

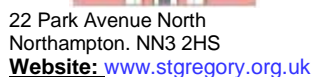
The history of France in the 19<sup>th</sup> century is complicated, but the situation of the Church in France at the beginning of the century is strikingly familiar to our own. Very many parishes had no priest, and the majority of priests were over 60 years old. In 1816 when Marcellin was ordained, a third of the parishes had no priest. But Marcellin, Jean-Marie Vianney and Jean-Claude Colin represented a new breed of priest. Before the revolution, the Church was so linked to the establishment that priesthood was seen as a route to status and wealth. This had changed completely. On the eve of the revolution all but five of the French Bishops were drawn from the wealthy sections of society; by the end of the century all but four were from humble origins. This new breed, not just of priest, but of lay Catholics was to change the face of France through the coming century.

Secular priests made a significant impact — the best known is St Jean-Marie Vianney, better known as the Curé d’Ars, but the biggest impact was probably made by the religious orders, both of men and women. In our own Diocese, we know best the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, who were founded in France before the revolution, but had to rebuild their community afterwards. We are familiar with the Society of St Vincent de Paul, founded in Paris in 1833;

The Marist Brothers began as a small school in La Valla, a tiny village in rural France. Today they work throughout the world, and we will hear a little about their work from Br John Mcallister, who is visiting us this week-end. We will have an opportunity to show support for their work in the retiring collection.

The story of the reviving of the Church in France, like that of the ‘Second Spring’ (in last week’s Newsletter) should inspire us that what God has done before can be done again. After the set-back of the French Revolution, the Church rose again; after the set-back of the reformation and the penal years, the Catholic Church in England rose again. After the set-backs of secularism and the self-inflicted wounds of the scandals or recent times, the Church will rise again. It rose before through the love, devotion and dedication of men and women committed to the Gospel and to the message of Jesus Christ.





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**Priest:**  
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015  
E-mail: frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org

**Deacon:**  
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com

**Parish Secretary:**  
Caryll Comley ☎ 713015  
Email: parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org

**Safeguarding representative**  
Carol McNeil ☎ 621807

Sunday <i>22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	The Parish Hilary Green RIP
Monday Passion of St. John the Baptist	9.00 am	Mass	Angela McRarren RIP
Tuesday Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward	9.00 am	Mass	Lyn Law RIP
Wednesday St. Aidan	9.00 am	Mass	Marian Indyk RIP
Thursday Feria	9-10 am 7.00 pm	Holy Hour of Adoration Mass	Aoiffe Fitzsimon
Friday Feria	9.00 am <b>7.00 pm</b>	Mass <b>Mass (St. Gregory the Great)</b>	Thanksgiving The Parish
Saturday St. Gregory the Great	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	Louisa & Gaetano Mansi
Sunday <i>Feast of the Dedication of the Church</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 1.30 pm 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass in Shona Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Fr. James Marks RIP The Parish

Normal opening times: Due to the relaxation in restrictions, the Church will be open every day from 8.45 am until 5.00 pm, except on Thursdays when it remains open until 7.45 pm

**Your Offering to the Parish:**

Last Sunday's collection was £239.40. Thank you!

**Standing Order gifts to the Parish:**

Each week £486 is given through standing orders.

### Donations through the Diocese:

An average of £77 is given each week.

**Gift Aid benefits to the parish:**

The value of Gift Aid averages £88 per week

**Second Collection This Week:**

Society of Mary

### Cleaners This Week:

The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.

### Counters this Week:

CC &amp; PS

**Readings for this Sunday** (*Readers 9am: Tony Wittich; 11am: Marcelle Brown*)

**Ecclesiasticus 3: 17-20, 28-29**— see inside for details: *Behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord.*

**Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24:**

*You have come to Mount Zion and the city of the living God.*

**Luke 14: 1. 7-14:**

*Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled.*

**Readings for next Sunday** (*Readers 9am: Richard Heron & Lorna Heron, 11am: Frances Nyaley*)

**Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3: 9-11, 16-17; John 2: 13-22. (Page 126)**

During this season

Human Life; Seafarers; The Environment;

Of Ordinary Time, Summer.

Victims of Persecution or Oppression;

We are asked to pray for:

Europe; Christian/Jewish Relations.

## COVID numbers seem to be reducing

The available data is suggesting that the rate of infection locally is falling, but with no free testing, it is impossible to be sure of accurate information. **However, on the basis of safety, we ask that everyone continues to be cautious.** Refreshments will be offered after both Masses, but please remain cautious. Please, everyone, think of the well-being of others. Please remember that if you are ill or caring for an infant or someone who is ill, there is no obligation to do what is impossible! Please pray for all who are suffering with Covid.

**If you feel unwell, DO NOT COME**

**Elizabeth Steer:** Sadly, Elizabeth Steer, who used to be a Parishioner here at St. Gregory's, died on 27<sup>th</sup> July. Her funeral will be at the Cathedral on 31<sup>st</sup> August at 9.30am.

**Please Pray for the Sick:**

[illegible]

**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

Way they Rest in Peace	
Leonard Rush	John Barry
Evelyn Osborn	Jose Pallett
Joan Phelan	Harold McLoughlin
John Lynch	Bernard Kelly
William Marsden	Norah Coughlan
Roger Green	Joseph Lynskey
Marita Nash	Cecil Bailham
Mavis Williams	Grace Horsley
Patrick Loughran	Eunice Williams
Ian Kennedy	Lawrence O'Toole
Leslie Coelho	Mary O'Donoghue
Matthew Boulos	Loretta Newby
Mary Williams	Bridget Hanrahan
Florence Thompson	Louise Battaye
Robert Snelling	Maria Fennessy

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS**  
**FOR SEPTEMBER:**

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country

## Toiletries Collection — Urgent appeal

Studies have shown that when poverty strikes, hygiene is one of the first areas in which people stop buying.

Thank you for your continuing generous response last week — please keep it up!



# Notices of Interest

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



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Sebastian Togher,  
Anna-Rose and Cora-Lily Sleight  
who received Christian Baptism recently.  
Please pray for him and his family.

**Children's liturgy:** The children's liturgy group at 9.00 am are looking for a support helper to the person that is leading each week. This person does not need to lead the sessions, only help with the children once they start their activity. Please email [childrens.liturgy@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:childrens.liturgy@stgregory.org.uk) for more information. We are flexible with how many Sundays you can help.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** Next date to be advertised here shortly. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

**First Holy Communion 2023:** Please watch this space for information. The programme will take a similar form to last year, in which a parent/carer will take a primary position in the teaching. The feedback from this system has been very encouraging.

**Confirmation in 2023:** Please watch this space for information.

**Refreshments after Mass:** We also need more people to join the rota for refreshments after the Sunday Masses, especially after 11 am. More people are needed for this important ministry!

**Tots @ St Gregory's:** We have had a great year and our last session will be on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July and we re-start on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September!!

**Our Top Priority:** "The Church exists to evangelise". This is the message from Pope St Paul VI, and has been reaffirmed by every Pope since. This applies to every parish, & our main parish evangelistic work is through Alpha. Our next Alpha will be needing help in various departments: you may be specifically asked! Please remember that both Pope Francis & Bishop David are telling us that we must be 'Missionary Disciples' & that we must be 'permanently in a state of Mission'. Your parish needs you; your Diocese needs you; your Church needs you.

**Our Lady's Birthday (Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September):** There will be the usual 9.30am Mass at the Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be an additional Mass at 10.30am at Our Lady's Shrine, Great Billing on that Wednesday. This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will continue until the 9.30am Mass at Great Billing on the Thursday. Sign-up sheets for the Exposition will be available at the back of both Churches.

**Choir Matters:** Our new Mass, Teresa Brown's Pilgrimage Mass, is proving a success thanks to your joining in so well. From September I plan to use it just once a month along with each of our other usual Masses, two of them by Teresa: Masses of St Luke & St Gregory. Choir Practices take place on Thursdays after evening Mass till 9 pm sharp: 1 Sep, 6 Oct.  
*Alec*

**Alpha in the Autumn:** There are a good number of people wanting to attend the Autumn Alpha: however, there is a serious shortage of 'backroom helpers'. Many of the encounters with Jesus recorded in the Gospels took place over meals, and the meal is a vital and constituent part of the Alpha evening. This cannot happen without help. Even an offer to help occasionally would be welcome. Please speak to one of the 'Alpha' team or to Fr Andrew if you are able to help, even on only one evening in the autumn.

**Repository:** The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass. We need more helpers prepared to stand for a few minutes after Mass – all stock is marked, so an easy task!

Contact [Kath.healey.789@gmail.com](mailto:Kath.healey.789@gmail.com)

**Vocations to Priesthood:** Vocations weekends are planned three times a year. These are weekends for men who are discerning don't worry - you don't have to sign anything! You can take your time & meet priests who can share more about this incredible life. Priesthood is a gift to our diocese, & we would love to connect with you as you continue your journey with God. At any point you can contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Andy Richardson – (01582 502400) or [vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org).

**Food Parcels:** Please contact Gregory Care (07434669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

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

**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)**

**Money Matters:** The diocese has asked every parish to set a budget for the year & to live within it so that the overall finances of the diocese can recover from the financial impact of the lockdown and the closing of churches. We have managed to keep within our budget for the first quarter of the financial year, but the increase in gas & electricity costs will be a challenge for us, and we must try to control our expenditure. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, & if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

**Thomas Becket Catholic School** is happy to invite prospective parents/students to their open evening on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 22 from 5pm. Talks will take place in the auditorium at 5.30pm and 6.30pm. Please see the invitation cards at the back of the Church to book your place.

**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:	<b>The Hope Centre</b>
From the Second Sunday in ordinary time to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:	<b>Gregory Care</b>
Through Lent and Eastertide:	<b>CAFOD</b>
Ordinary Time until the end of August:	<b>Refreshment Fund</b>
September until the Harvest collection:	<b>CAFOD</b>
After harvest until the beginning of Advent:	<b>The Bible Society</b>

**Prayers for Ukraine:** Please continue to pray for an end to the war in Ukraine:

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



# Scripture Readings 28th August 2022, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Part of Wisdom literature, the Book of Sirach, or Ecclesiasticus, was written by Ben Sira about 200 BC. Based on deep experience, it is full of traditional Jewish and worldly wisdom and morals. After describing our duties towards God and our parents, today's reading emphasises the need for humility in face of God's greatness and the wisdom that comes from listening carefully. The omitted verses advise us not to seek what is beyond our power nor tasks beyond what has been assigned to us.

This triumphal Psalm celebrating God's goodness was sung as David danced leading the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem.

Our final reading from Hebrews describes the exciting delights of the heavenly city we have now entered, after our baptism. Instead of fearsome Sinai, Zion – the new "Temple Mount" where God resides – is full of angels in tumultuous joyful festival, with

believers and saints made perfect being welcomed by Jesus and our God. What a welcome! But God is still judge: as we have been given the privilege of Jesus as covenant-mediator, we have the responsibility of offering thanksgiving to God

In Luke's gospel we hear about Jesus having dinner with a Pharisee. Two parables illustrate the themes from the first reading of humility and not giving ourselves airs.

Psalm Response: **In your goodness, O God,  
you prepared a home for the poor.**

(Sir 3:17-20, 28-29; Ps 67(68):4-11; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24; Lk 14:1, 7-14)

Chris Oliver

## Responsorial Psalm 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – C - 28 August 2022

### RESPONDING TO THE PSALMS

**A project of the Spirituality Committee of the  
Bishops' Conference of England and Wales**

*"What is a psalm but a musical instrument to give expression to all the virtues? The psalmist of old used it, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to make earth re-echo the music of heaven. He used the dead gut of strings to create harmony from a variety of notes, in order to send up to heaven the song of God's praise. In doing so he taught us that we must first die to sin, and then create in our lives on earth a harmony through virtuous deeds, if the grace of our devotion is to reach up to the Lord."*

*from The Explanations of the Psalms by Saint Ambrose - 1*

Take an idea or phrase from the Sunday psalm for your focus for a day or two, for yourself or share with others. There is space for you to note your own thoughts as a possible personal journal.

Psalm 67(68):4-7,10-11

*In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.*

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,  
they shall exult and dance for joy.

O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;  
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence.

*How do you rejoice, exult, even dance for joy (!) — because you can be in the presence of God in so many different ways?*

*Pray for all who share their gifts of music with us enriching our prayer and liturgy*

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,  
such is God in his holy place.

God gives the lonely a home to live in;  
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom:

*How can we share in God's care for the orphan, the widow, and all who have lost loved ones?*

*Pray for the lonely, the prisoner and all who feel neglected by others.*

You poured down, O God, a generous rain:  
when your people were starved you gave them new life.  
It was there that your people found a home,  
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor.

*Thank God for the care he takes of us in our daily lives, how he renews us each morning*

*Thank God that we have homes and roofs over our heads.  
Pray for the homeless, refugees and asylum seekers.*

## Alpha in the Autumn

Each time we run the Alpha Course there are more people who speak of how much they have enjoyed it, and how it has deepened their faith and understanding of what life in Christ actually means. Please think about coming on the next one!

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which is in the hall and in person. It is highly recommended for everyone, and is very enjoyable. Each session starts with a good meal (a proper evening meal, not just a snack), then we watch a film together about our faith. After the film we have a conversation around our table about what we have seen and heard. Please come, and if you can, bring a friend. There is no charge, but donations are cheerfully accepted. For catering purposes, please register at [www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha](http://www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha)

Many people have found this valuable for themselves, but this is also an easy way for anyone to fulfil the wish of Pope Francis that we all become Missionary Disciples. Just come and bring a friend!

<b>First session:</b>	<b>September 20<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	Is there more to life than this?
<b>Second Session:</b>	<b>September 27<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	Who is Jesus?
<b>Third Session:</b>	<b>October 4<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	Why did Jesus die?
<b>Fourth Session:</b>	<b>October 11<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	How can I have faith?
<b>Fifth Session:</b>	<b>October 18<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	Why and how do I pray?
<b>Sixth Session:</b>	<b>October 25<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	Why and how should I read the Bible?
<b>Seventh Session:</b>	<b>November 8<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	How does God guide us?
<b>Away-Day:</b>	<b>November 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
<b>Eighth Session:</b>	<b>November 15<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	How can I resist evil?
<b>Ninth Session:</b>	<b>November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022:</b>	Why and how should I tell others?
<b>Tenth Session:</b>	<b>November 29<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	Does God heal today?
<b>Eleventh Session:</b>	<b>December 6<sup>th</sup> 2022:</b>	What about the Church?

## The Feast of St Gregory, our Patron

We will celebrate our Patron on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September with Mass at 7.00 pm followed by a social gathering in the hall.

There are lists to sign up to for the provision of food for the occasion.



# Adult Faith Formation - Autumn

There has been some interest already shown in resuming face-to-face courses in the autumn; anyone with particular requests is asked to email to Fr Andrew to indicate what they would like to study.

There are a number of courses that are available on video for us, but we can also devise courses to meet local needs. One of the requests that came from the Synod conversations was that there should be more opportunity for people to grow in their faith.

If the autumn allows us to resume face-to-face sessions, it would be good to offer opportunity for study in any area of the Faith that people want. Anyone who has a particular request, please send an email to Fr Andrew as soon as possible.

One which has been suggested is a Timeline of Church History, with particular reference to the saints whose days we celebrate through

the year, and connecting them to the era in which they lived and the historical circumstances of their life.

We also have an excellent course on the Mass, as well as several from Bishop Robert Barron.

Among the blessings that flow from these courses is the building up of confidence in the faith. Many who would like to be able to speak of their faith to others are reluctant, thinking that they don't know enough and might say something wrong. But in addition to this, most people enjoy the experience, and make new friends, building up the social life of the Church.

Details of what will be planned will appear soon, but NOW is your chance to influence what will be on offer.