



# The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON. REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234092

# Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night divine! O night, O night divine!

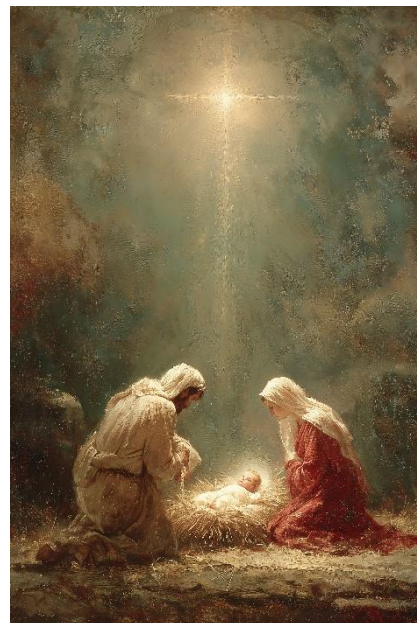
**My dear friends, HAPPY CHRISTMAS!** It might have seemed that during the season of Advent and now Christmastide that we are like the shepherds who sought the Newborn King in the stable or like the Magi who visited Him in the home of **Our Lady and St Joseph**. I say this because each Sunday we, like them, have travelled to *St Gregory's Catholic Primary School* to find the Infant Christ; that is, to hear the Lord as He speaks to each one of us through the Holy Scriptures and to participate in the sacred Eucharistic Sacrifice, as by the actions of the Priest the bread and wine offered become the very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus. We are indebted to several people who have made our weekly visit to our parish primary school possible and to those who have worked hard to ensure that our offering of worship to Almighty God was truly worthy. I therefore want to thank the staff of St Gregory's Catholic School for their hospitality, the **musicians** and **altar servers** for the joy-filled way they have assisted at Mass, the **Children's Liturgy Leaders** for their enthusiasm and above all to **Deacon Michael** for his ministry and invaluable assistance.

I also want to thank **Caryll**, our Parish Secretary, for her tireless and joy-filled efforts in 2025 and to all who volunteer in so ways whilst we remain unable to meet for Mass in St Gregory's Church. We are also blessed to be able to still enjoy the priestly ministry and loving friendship of **Fr Wayne**, **Canon Bennie** and **Fr Tony** and for that I am truly thankful.

Thank you to all of you for showing understanding as my role as **Episcopal Vicar** and **Canon** have meant

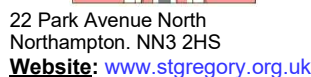
that I spend increasingly more time in meetings.

It has certainly been an eventful start to my ministry as Parish Priest! I therefore share your great hope that, following the fire, we shall very soon be able to return to St Gregory's Church for the Sunday and daily Mass. In the midst of this expectant longing we can remember that when the **Shepherds and Magi** encountered the Christ Child their lives were forever changed; let us pray that as we have encountered the Incarnate, Crucified, Risen and Glorified Christ in the weekly offering of the Sunday Mass in St Gregory's School that we too shall be forever changed. Let us thus be thankful that we have still been able to gather together as members of our **wonderful parish family**.



Deacon Michael,  
Fr Wayne,  
Canon Bennie and  
Fr Tony join me  
in joyfully saying:  
**Happy  
Christmas  
and prayers  
for a Holy New  
Year of Our  
Lord 2026!**  
**Fr Christopher**

*Artwork by  
SilentFaithArt  
(etsy store)*



**28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
**The Holy Family of Jesus,**  
**Mary and Joseph**  
**CTS New Sunday Missal**  
**Year A, Page 99**

**Parish Priest:**  
Canon Christopher Perry ☎ 713015  
E-mail: frchristopher.perry@northamptondiocese.org

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

**Priest in Residence:**  
Fr Wayne Coughlin ☎ 713015  
frwayne.coughlin@northamptondiocese.org

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

**Safeguarding Representative**  
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

**Please Pray for the Sick:**

<p><b>Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> December</b></p> <p><i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph (page 111)</i></p>	<p>Saint Gregory's Catholic School</p>	<p><b>HOLY MASS</b></p>	<p><b>INTENTIONS:</b> <b>9.00 am</b> <b>The Pike Family's Intentions</b></p> <p><b>11.00 am</b> <b>The Parish</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> January</b></p> <p><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Nativity (Page 116)</i></p>	<p>Saint Gregory's Catholic School</p>	<p><b>HOLY MASS</b></p>	<p><b>INTENTIONS:</b> <b>9.00 am</b> <b>Sarah &amp; Ana Holloway's Intentions</b></p> <p><b>11.00 am</b> <b>The Parish</b></p>

**Supporting Your Parish:** 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; this is much simpler if you give by standing order.

Gregory Care - Next dates for your diary:

**28<sup>th</sup> February:** Table-Top Sale  
**9<sup>th</sup> May:** Fun Day (Headlands celebration)  
**6<sup>th</sup> June:** Picnic in the Park

**We hope as many people as possible will join us at these fun-filled events!**

**The 'Fire Fund':** Thank you to everyone who supported this with donations of any size.

**The Giving Tree:** Thank you for your very generous support of this important project.

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of:** Margaret Farragher, RIP whose funeral takes place on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 at 11am in the Cathedral.

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of:** Bridie Walsh, RIP.

**St Michael the Archangel**, defend us in this day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust down into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

### The Parish Litany:

Our Lady of Walsingham: **Pray for us!**  
 St Joseph: **Pray for us!**  
 Pope St Gregory the Great: **Pray for us!**  
 St Thomas of Canterbury: **Pray for us!**  
 All saints and angels of God: **Pray for us!**

### The Divine Assistance Prayer:

**May the divine assistance remain with us always,  
and may the souls of the faithful departed, +  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen**

**Some Joyful News:** Whilst our focus is ensuring that we can return to St Gregory's Church as soon as possible, two smaller projects remain underway! These are covering the sanctuary platform and ambo in new carpet called: "Gilded Chalice" and the creation of a tabernacle veil, ambo fall and lectern falls in "All Seasons" fabric:



“The birds have a symbolic significance; they are the mediators between Heaven and Earth and in early Christian art they signified

saved souls. The elegantly decorated urn, a container for oils and perfumes, signifies Mary Magdalene, one of the most popular of Christian saints and consequently much depicted in Christian art. Amongst the many flowers in the design, it is possible to distinguish the Blue Iris, a floral symbol of the Virgin Mary and the Thistle, a symbol of the Passion of Jesus Christ and the sufferings of the Christian martyrs. Finally, the grapevine symbolises abundant life and the grapes, the Eucharist.”

*Please contact Fr Wayne for more details.*

**Right To Life UK:** 2025 has been one of the most challenging and busiest years ever for the UK pro-life movement. Thanks to your support there has been a strong response in Parliament, the media and the public. Visit [righttolife.org.uk/2025](http://righttolife.org.uk/2025) for details.

### **Bambinelli Sunday:**

Well done to all those who brought the Baby Jesus image from their Nativity Crib to Mass last Sunday for it to be blessed and thank you for the numerous positive comments that we have received about this.

### **The Prayer of the Faithful:**

After each intention that is vocalised by the Deacon in the Intercessions at Mass there is a short pause while the faithful pray. Therefore, the Deacon leads us in the Intercessions, but we do the praying!

### **POPE'S OFFICIAL PRAYER:**

#### **For all the children of the world.**

“Dear children, as you stand before your Nativity scenes, please pray to Jesus for the Pope's intentions as well. In particular, let us pray together that all the world's children may live in peace. I thank you from the bottom of my heart!”

*Pope Leo XIV, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025*



Over the coming months look out for details regarding the founding of the '**Confraternity of the Holy House, Corby**' in our parish. Life Membership is just £5 to cover the cost of the lovely enamel badge and prayer card.

**Thank you!** Fr Christopher and Fr Wayne offer their sincere appreciation for the great generosity that was shown to them via the Christmas Eve/Day collections and extend their gratitude for the cards and gifts they received in honour of Jesus' Nativity.

**Blessed chalk** will be available after Holy Mass on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> January so that you might bless your home in the then New Year of Our Lord 2026. The blessed chalk is used to mark the year (20 - 26) and the initials of the three Magi (C - M - B), whose names are Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, plus the Lord's Cross (+) over the main door of your home as a blessing, i.e. **20 + C + M + B + 26**. The initials of the Magi represent, in Latin, the blessing:

***Christus mansionem benedicat***

**Christ bless this house.**

This is a beautiful act of Faith and very often it will encourage questions from visitors to our homes.

**Thank you** to all who in any way contributed to our beautiful Masses on Christmas Eve and Day.

**New Year's Eve/Day Indulgence** - To obtain the indulgence the following criteria must be met:

1. Reception of Confession and Holy Communion within a brief time (that is, about twenty days).
2. Perform the prescribed good work, that is, offer the: *Te Deum* on New Year's Eve and the *Veni Creator Spiritus* on New Year's Day.
3. Pray for the Pope: 1 x Our Father / 1 x Hail Mary.
4. Be detached from sin, even venial sin.

As an example for us to follow, **the Holy Family** can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more “dramatic” events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today's Gospel reminds us there were also the so-called “hidden years” - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. Our celebration of this feast announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

*The Office for Liturgy, Diocese of Salford*



Marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Second Vatican Council's** decree on the Priesthood, the Holy Father's new Apostolic Letter (“A fidelity that generates the future”) aims for **a more profound understanding of the training, ministry and role of Priests.** Please pray for all Priests at this especially busy time of the year. ***Ad multos annos!***



*For our young people to colour-in  
as we celebrate Jesus' Nativity!*



**THE TRUE LIGHT HAS  
COME INTO THE WORLD  
JOHN 1:9**

*Let us recall the Pope's desire that we pray that all the children of the world will live in peace.*