



# 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 Bread of Life

There have been many expressions of appreciation of our time of Eucharistic Adoration from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July. Many people contributed to the organisation and to all of them our thanks are due.

Many prayers have been offered, much thanksgiving and we have had this wonderful opportunity for being close to Jesus.

From this week for the next five weeks our Sunday Mass Gospel is from St John's Gospel, chapter 6, which begins with the feeding of the 5,000 and continues with the long discourse on the Bread of Life, which is spread over three weeks.

Most of our Sunday Mass Gospel readings in the second year of the three-year cycle are from St Mark, but his Gospel is much the shortest of the four. St John, on the other hand does not get a year to himself, but is read in Lent and Eastertide. However, it is not read sequentially as the other Gospels are. Sadly, this makes it more difficult to get an overall picture of the message of St John.

Most commentators see St John's Gospel as having two main sections with a prologue and a conclusion. The prologue is familiar form being the Gospel that is read at the Mass of the Day on Christmas Day, beginning "In the beginning was the Word", and echoing the opening of the Book of Genesis: "In the beginning, God". St John goes on to say that "the Word was with God and the Word was God", while Genesis goes on to describe the creative work of God as "God said . . ." God spoke the Word — the Word was with God.

The conclusion is in two parts, and it is general understood that the original end was where John tells the reason for him writing "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name". (John 20:31) Chapter 21 appears to be a final post-script, but which contains the important story of the commissioning of Peter to 'feed my lambs', 'tend my sheep' and 'feed my sheep'. (John 21:15-19) This is how the Church is given pastoral responsibility, and particularly, how the successor of Peter has his pastoral office.



*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Saturday July 20th, 9:51 pm*

The two main sections are often described as the 'Book of Signs' and the 'Book of Glory'. The division comes at the beginning of Chapter 13. Early in the Book of Signs (at the first of the signs) Jesus says that his 'hour' has not yet come. (John 2:4), but at the beginning of Chapter 13, John tells us that "Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father". (John 13:1)

The Book of Glory is the entire Passion narrative, beginning with the Last Supper and taking us up to the Resurrection.

The Book of Signs tells of seven miraculous events: Changing water

into wine (2:1-11), curing the official's son (4:46-54), curing the paralysed man at Bethesda (5:1-15), feeding the 5,000 (6:1-15), walking on the water (6:16-21), curing a blind man (9:1-7) and raising Lazarus (11:17-44).

Typically, after a sign there is an affirmation of faith, and there are a number of 'discourses' (teaching narratives) which relate to the sign. One such is that which we will be hearing over the next few weeks. The feeding of the 5,000 leads on to the discourse on the Bread of Life

From the changing of water into wine comes the teaching on Baptism ('you must be born again') and the woman at the well in Samaria. The two healing signs lead on to a discourse on the authority of Jesus. The walking on the water is an interlude, but speaks more about the authority of Jesus. The curing of the blind man is linked to conflict with the Jewish authorities and distinction between those who are wilfully blind through unbelief and those who, through their belief are able to see.

The final sign is a clear pre-echo of the resurrection of Jesus, and therefore ends the 'Book of Signs' pointing on to the final victory of Christ at the end of the 'Book of Glory'.

The entire 'Book of Signs' is a long read, and it is inevitable that to read it at Sunday Mass, it is necessary to split it up into smaller sections. However it is worth making the time to read in one sitting if you can.



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# 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## Seventeenth Sunday Of the Year

### Parish Mass Book - Year B

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**Priest:**  
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015  
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**Deacon:**  
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
E-mail: [mvf@btinternet.com](mailto:mvf@btinternet.com)

**Parish Secretary:**  
Caryl Comley ☎ 713015  
Email: [parish.stgregory@northhamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.stgregory@northhamptondiocese.org)

**Safeguarding representative**  
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

Sunday <i>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish Maureen Moriarty's Intentions
	11.00 am	Mass	
	5.00 pm	Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	
	9.00 am	Mass	Bridie Walsh
Monday Ss Mary, Martha & Lazarus			
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Modester Agubuzu's Intentions
Wednesday St. Ignatius Loyola	9.00 am	Mass	Marie McAdam's Intentions
Thursday St. Alphonsus Liguori	9-11 am 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Mass	Eleanor Comley's Intentions
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Mrs Hasdell RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Mary Rumsey's Intentions
	5.00 pm	Ukrainian Mass	
Sunday <i>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Anthony Healey RIP The Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	
	1.00 pm	Mass in Shona	
	5.00 pm	Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	

#### Please Pray for the Sick:


**Your Offering to the Parish:** Last Week's collection was £372.56. Thank you!

**Standing Order gifts to the Parish:** Each week £580 is given through standing orders.

**Donations through the Diocese:** An average of £90 is given each week.

**Gift Aid benefits to the parish:** The value of Gift Aid averages £136 per week.

**Cleaners This Week:** The Church is cleaned and sanitised on a regular basis.

**Counters this Week:** CC & CP

#### Readings for this Sunday

**2 Kings 4: 42-44:** They will eat and have some left over.

**Ephesians 4: 1-6:** One Body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

**John 6: 1-15:** Jesus gave out as much as was wanted to all who were sitting ready.

#### Readings for next Sunday

Exodus 16: 2-4, 12-15; Ephesians 4: 17, 20-24; John 6: 24-35. (Page 58)

**During This Season of Ordinary Time, We are Asked to Pray For:** Human Life; Seafarers; Europe; Victims of Persecution or Oppression; Christian/Jewish Relations; The Environment.

## The Venerable Ignatius Spencer CP

Ignatius Spencer was a Passionist priest and a passionate evangelist, seeking the conversion of England. He is the great, great, great, great, great, great uncle of the Prince of Wales, and spent much of his life in the Diocese of Northampton. He also helped found the Sisters of the Cross and Passion who used to have a convent at Billing.

He has taken the first step towards being recognised as a saint, having the title of 'venerable'. The next stage of the process of canonisation requires a miracle at his intercession.

Please make this prayer for the mission of the Church in Northampton, a cause which is dear to the heart of Ignatius Spencer.

*Loving Father, your servant,  
Ignatius Spencer  
spent his entire life preaching the love  
shown for us  
in the Passion of Your Son,  
and working tirelessly  
to bring the people of this country  
to know that love.*

*Help us to follow his example,  
and show us that you are well pleased with  
his life,*

*by granting the favour we now ask through  
his intercession,  
In particular, at this time we pray  
for your blessing on the mission of the  
Church in Northampton.*

*Mary, Mother of Holy Hope,  
Pray for us.  
Amen.*

#### Anniversaries:

##### May they Rest in Peace

Malcolm Rudkin	John Condron
William McCarthy	Sean Kennedy
Anna McGinty	Doreen Curry
Joseph Madden	Michael Cahill
Joanne Duddridge	Emily Jeffs
Winifred Magog	Meta Baldwin
Thomas Linnane	Doris Burton
Anne Matthews	Elsie Carter
Patrick Ryan	John Wade
Anthony Rush	Arthur Allibone
Margaret McKernan	Marie English
Catherine King	

#### POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST:

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.

# Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church Solange De Fatima Brites Borrromeu Soares who received Christian Baptism recently. Please pray for her and her family.

**Repository:** The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. Any queries or volunteers to 01604 629103 or [Kath.healey.789@gmail.com](mailto:Kath.healey.789@gmail.com)

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

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

**Baptism Preparation:** The next session will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

**First Holy Communion 2025/6: An important date for you diaries!** If you have a child in year 3 or older who wishes to make their First Communion next Summer there will be a meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October after 11am Mass. It's a way off but very important so please save the date!

**Confirmation in 2024:** The enrolment date for the next Confirmation will be announced soon. Please keep watching this space.

**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)**

**Choir Notes:** Next Practices are 11-12 on Saturdays: Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> and Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> *Alec*

**Pilgrimage to Walsingham in Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life:** Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug, led by Bishop David, commencing with Mass at 12pm in the Chapel of Reconciliation. Coach seats available from various pick-up points - see poster for full details, or go to [prolifepilgrimage.org](http://prolifepilgrimage.org) to book online.

**Tots @ St Gregory's:** We had our last session before the summer holidays on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July from 9:30 - 11:30 and we will start again on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

**Nazareth House Summer Fair:** This will be on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August, from 2.00 to 4.30 pm. Entrance is free, with many attractions. Nazareth House is on Harlestone Road, just after the Bants Lane roundabout, on the right as you leave town. (Postcode NN5 6AD)

**Divine Music Day:** Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. 11am to 3.30pm. Holy Ghost, Westbourne Road, Luton, LU48JD. When the Church Sings, She Comes Alive! A day of song & prayer with Chris Walker. "Come for practical ways to enliven our parish music & help our musicians prepare for the Year of Prayer & Jubilee." Christopher Walker is an inspirational Composer & Conductor of Church Music. Adults £10, children free but accompanied by an adult. Booking details to follow. For Group bookings please email [music@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:music@northamptondiocese.org)

**Youth Worker Vacancy:** The Diocese is currently recruiting for a Youth Worker to join the Youth Ministry Office, 35 hours pw & will include evening & weekend work. Full info for the position, including how to apply, visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/>

**Fire Safety:** Please be careful with the votive candle stands, and especially please ensure that children are safe. Unlit candles must not be placed on the trays under the places for candles and candles must not be stacked one on top of another.

**Diocesan Mass for Marriage:** The annual Mass for Marriage & Family Life will be celebrated by Bishop David on 7 Sept at Northampton Cathedral. Gathering will be from 11:30am followed by Mass at 12pm. Bishop David will give his pastoral blessing to those couples celebrating significant milestones in their marriage i.e. 1, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 years etc. If this is a special anniversary year for you please contact Sam Canning (MFL Co-ordinator) via email [mfl@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:mfl@northamptondiocese.org) by 25<sup>th</sup> August. Everyone welcome to attend & there will be refreshments after Mass in the Cathedral Centre.

**Abington Avenue URC** Friday Lunch - enjoy a hot lunch and pudding for £6 every Friday! Refreshments from 10.30am, lunch 12pm (**pre-booking required**). For more info please email [office.aaurc@gmail.com](mailto:office.aaurc@gmail.com) or visit [www.aaurc.co.uk](http://www.aaurc.co.uk)

**Church Cleaning:** Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (**next – 31<sup>st</sup> August**), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially younger, more energetic ones!

**Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group** prays together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Hall: 10.00 am-12.00 pm.

**March For Life UK** happens in London on Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> September. This year's theme is "Abortion isn't Healthcare". Join thousands at this family-friendly event. Find out more at [marchforlife.co.uk](http://marchforlife.co.uk)

**Pilgrimage to Northern France** You are invited to join Bishop David & Canon John Udris on pilgrimage to Northern France from 15-22 Oct. For more details visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/france/>

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

## **Gregory Care**

Please contact Gregory Care (07434669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel, or is in material need.

## **Prayer for Peace for Ukraine and the Holy Land**

Please continue to pray for an end to wars, and for all victims of war:

**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 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024, 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Six books, Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings, tell Israel's story from the death of Moses until the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC and the exile to Babylon. While individuals strived for political control, prophets criticised the worshipping of other gods.

Elijah had given his mantle to Elisha, who has been establishing his authority with several miracles for both Jews and Gentiles. As well as the feeding miracle we hear about today, Elisha also restored the Shunammite's son back to life and cured Naaman's leprosy.

The Psalm praises God's lordship over all creatures and his generous responses to all our requests.

After emotionally praying that the Ephesians may be strengthened by Christ dwelling in their hearts, Paul now urges them to follow Christ in the way they live.

Although this is the year of Mark, his gospel is short, so for five weeks we now read from chapter six of John's gospel. John has no institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. Instead Jesus washes the disciples' feet, and his teaching on the Eucharist is given earlier, after the feeding miracle described today. We will see the range of reactions his teaching prompted, with some ceasing to follow him.

Psalm Response: **You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.**

(2 Kings 4: 42-44; Ps 144(145); Ephesians 4: 1-6; John 6: 1-15)

*Chris Oliver*

## Alpha in the Autumn — Dates and Subjects

First session:	September 17th	Is there more to life than this?	Alpha is a basic introduction to faith in God, in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is not a complete teaching scheme for the entire Christian faith. We plan to run Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism' course in the autumn for those who have completed Alpha.
Second Session	September 24th	Who is Jesus?	
Third Session	October 1st	Why did Jesus die?	
Fourth Session	October 8th	How can I have faith?	
Fifth Session	October 15th	Why and how do I pray?	
Sixth Session:	October 22nd	Why and how should I read the Bible?	
Seventh Session	November 5th	How does God guide us?	
Eighth Session	November 12th	Does God heal today?	
Alpha Away-Day	November 16 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday)	Who is The Holy Spirit?	
Ninth Session	November 19th	How can I resist evil?	
Tenth Session	November 26th	Why and how should I tell others?	
Eleventh Session	December 3rd	What about the Church?	

We need to recruit more helpers; if you are able to help in any way, please contact Daniel Davighi or speak to

Fr Andrew. For more information and to book please see: <https://stgregory.org.uk/alpha>

# The Sanctity of Life

God, the loving creator gave the gift of life; microbial, plant and animal, and in a special way to humanity, with a corresponding duty for the care of all creation. Very early on in human existence that responsibility was abused when Cain killed his brother. Since then, humanity has found new ways of killing and new excuses for trying to justify what God has forbidden and evade our responsibility.

On Friday of last week a bill to allow 'assisted dying' was introduced into the House of Lords — this is being written and printed before any debate takes place — but much of the clamour for this comes from the scare stories which arise from poor (or even bad) end-of-life care or from before the provision of palliative care in hospices. It is a scandal that Cynthia Spencer Hospice has to raise funds in order that people in the last days of their life should have dignity and care which out of love for our neighbour is our human responsibility. The scandal is made worse if we seek to evade that responsibility by killing the patient. There is a clear moral argument as to why this is wrong. There are also practical arguments. The proposed legislation would allow assisted suicide for people within 6 months of natural death due to a terminal illness, but the measuring of life expectancy, even in such illness is not an exact science. Many people surprise doctors by surviving much longer than predicted, and others who die much sooner. Then there is the worry of possible coercion, and the desire 'not to be a burden' which is a common concern to the elderly.

This bill does not satisfy the ardent supporters of euthanasia, who would like to see complete freedom to end the life of anyone judged to be in 'unbearable pain'. This is something waiting 'in the wings'. There are many pressure-groups seeking to change the law in other areas of life that are equally an evasion of our human responsibility; removing all time-limits on abortion, for example.

With a new Parliament, and an enormous number of new members of the House of Commons, it is certain that there will be attempts to introduce private members bills to change the law in ways which conflict with the traditional teaching of the Church, and we cannot expect those who have no belief in God to be swayed by biblical or theological arguments. That is another reason why the mission of the Church is so important! (See the Alpha notice above)

Just as prayer is a vital underpinning for mission, so it is for the protection of life. The national pilgrimage to Walsingham in reparation and prayer for the sanctity of life which will be led by Bishop David on 3<sup>rd</sup> August is one way in which we can be active in our responsibility for the stewardship of God's creation. It is not only our environment that is in need of protection, and it is not only plant and animal life that is under threat by human rapacious greed, it is the very gift of human life itself.

It is not only the unborn whose life is at risk; the disabled, the sick, the elderly — caring, not killing is our responsibility.