



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

Open for Business!

With the greatest possible joy, we can announce that the church will be open between the hours of 11.00 am and 2.00 pm each day this week, and also on Thursday from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm (with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament) Please come! Confession available — please email to Fr Andrew to fix a time.

Whether Peter or Paul, you belong to Christ

The third chapter of St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians deals with divisions within the Church in Corinth, and is an early example of the passionate determination of the Church to keep its unity; faithful to the teaching of Jesus that "they may be one" (*John 17:21*).

He ends the chapter: "Whether Paul or Apollos or Peter or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all belongs to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God." (*1 Corinthians 3:22-23*) Earlier on in the chapter he uses a gardening analogy: "I planted, Apollos watered but God gave the growth" (*1 Corinthians 3:6*). Later on in the letter he writes more about this in terms of different gifts that are to be found in the Christian community: "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts." (*1 Corinthians 12:28-30*). He then continues to describe the 'higher gifts', which he calls 'a more excellent way' in the well-known chapter on the gift of love. (Chapter 13)

What Paul is describing is what in more recent times has come to be called 'collaborative ministry', in which each member of the Church, having different gifts, uses those gifts for the 'building up of the Church' (*Ephesians 4:12*)

Our twin Apostles, Peter and Paul had different ministries, and did not always agree (*see Galatians 2:11-14*), Their different missions were recognised (*Galatians 2:9*); both real, both blessed by God.

In 1988 Pope St John Paul II published an important document in which he quoted: "Through Baptism the lay faithful are made one body with Christ and are established among the People of God. They are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ. They carry out their own part in the mission of the whole Christian people with respect to the Church and the world" (*Vatican II, Lumen Gentium 31*)

Later in that document, *Christifideles Laici*, he wrote: "the lay faithful participate, for their part, in the threefold mission of Christ as Priest, Prophet and King. This aspect has never been forgotten in the living tradition of the Church, as exemplified in the explanation which St. Augustine offers for Psalm 26: "David was anointed king. In those days only a king and a priest were anointed. These two persons prefigured the one and only priest and king who was to come, Christ (the name "Christ" means "anointed"). Not only has our head been anointed but we, his body, have also been anointed ... therefore *anointing* comes to all Christians, even though in Old Testament times it belonged only to two persons. Clearly we are the Body of Christ because we are all "anointed" and in him are "christs", that is, "anointed ones", as well as Christ himself, "The Anointed One". In a certain way, then, it thus happens that with head and body the whole Christ is formed" (*Christifideles Laici, 14*)

Evangelical churches have a powerful phrase: "Every Member Ministry"; emphasising the truth that we are all called to some form of ministry within the Church, and during this recent time in which the Church has been unable to meet together for our most fundamental act of worship, we have been deprived of one form of ministry through our inability to share in the celebration of Mass and receive Holy Communion, we have a chance to think about other forms of ministry within the Church.

For each one of us, there is a vocation. God has called us, and through Baptism, has incorporated us into the life of Christ, which is realised in our sharing in the life of the Church.

When we are able to meet again for Mass, and when the pandemic is ended, we will need to re-establish how we function as a parish in whatever the 'new normal' will look like. Each one of us will have a ministry and mission. Like Peter and Paul, it will not be an identical mission and ministry — each one has their own vocation. Like Peter and Paul, we may not always agree, but each of us has a calling from the One God, and we are called to work together in the service of Christ, to whom we belong through our Baptism.

May God give us the grace and strength to fulfil that mission.

Notices of Interest

Confession: Confession will be available between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm daily, but please email first to arrange a time to ensure that Fr Andrew is free.

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 Office: Now that the Church is finally allowed to open, I am happy to see people during office hours. However, I must ask you to stay at the office doorway so that social distancing can be maintained. Thank you. *Caryll*

Out of Date Contact Details: I have been working through contact telephone numbers to make sure that as many Parishioners as possible are contacted & are not in need of anything. However, I have found that many phone numbers are unobtainable, & I should appreciate it if you would take the time to email me with your up to date phone numbers/email addresses. Rest assured that your messages will be deleted as soon as I have checked that we have your correct contact details, & our 'address book' is securely password protected. My email address is secretary@stgregory.org.uk. Many thanks *Caryll*

For Parents and Teachers. Last week, CAFOD launched a [National Assembly](#) for schools. This amazing assembly can be used both in the school setting for collective worship, as well as at home. It is all about CAFOD's 'Summer of Hope' and informs, inspires and encourages children, at a time when children may really need it. It is led by passionate youths and is a real must-watch! <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Summer-hope-assembly>

CAFOD Corona Virus online petition: Unite against the Corona Virus. We are living through the biggest Public Health Crisis in a century. Right across the UK it has been having a devastating impact on all our lives. Many people have lost loved ones. This is not a time for divisions. The world should unite in love & compassion. Out of love for our brothers & sisters please sign the online petition to our Prime Minister asking him to ensure the most vulnerable people are a priority in the UK's international efforts as well as at home. Visit <https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1> to sign the petition online.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Please contact Deacon Michael direct (01604) 647750, E-mail: myf@btinternet.com for information.

First Holy Communion — 2020: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established.

Confirmation — 3rd Preparation Session: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established. There is a provisional date for Confirmation of 20th November (Note change).

Fairtrade: Nestlé, have decided to stop using fairtrade chocolate in their KitKat chocolate bars. This has come as a great disappointment to up to 27,000 farmers in Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji and Malawi. There is a petition asking Nestlé to reverse this decision: <https://www.change.org/p/ulf-mark-schneider-nestle-global-ceo-keep-kitkat-fairtrade> (Otherwise, have a break from KitKat.)

Bible Alive for July is now available. The cost is £3.00. If you want to purchase a copy, they are on a table outside the fire door to the foyer during the daytime, with a box of (out of date) green envelopes. You can put the payment in an envelope and post it through the presbytery door. Please help yourself to a copy of The Crusader.

Notice from the Diocese

Online Donation: The Diocese has an online donation facility on the main Diocesan website through Virgin Money Giving (link below). If you use this option we ask that you please indicate in the notes section **which parish, including the parish name and area (St Gregory's, Northampton)** that you would like your donation to be attributed to. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donation <https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/>

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)**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: The regular Thursday adoration is not taking place during this present emergency.

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

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.

Forthcoming Alpha Course: The next Alpha Course was due to start on Tuesday April 21st. In view of the current projections for the Coronavirus pandemic, we have to postpone this course. However, those who have registered will be kept informed about any change of date. Much the easiest way to enrol is through the web-site at <http://stgregory.org.uk/alpha/>.

Tots @St Gregory's: As with other meetings, Tots has been cancelled until further notice.

Online Prayer resources during this time

Live-streamed Mass from the Cathedral
<http://northamptoncathedral.org/live/>

Live-streamed Mass from Walsingham
<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

EWTN
<https://www.ewtn.com/tv>

Sacred Space guided prayer
<https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Please pray for the soul of Clare O'Rourke who died last Sunday; Amelia Woolmore who died on Saturday, and for Cecilia Pereira whose funeral rites will take place on Monday. May they rest in peace.

Saints Peter and Paul, 29th June Year A

This chapter of Acts is the last about the Jerusalem church before Paul's missionary journeys. Peter's third arrest was by Herod, the grandson of the Herod when Jesus was born. The story of Peter being freed is so lovingly told that the parallels with Jesus' arrest may be missed. Like Jesus, Peter was arrested during the Passover, and was also taken for a ghost, here by the maid, Rhoda, who shuts the door in his face. The angel who proclaimed Jesus to be risen, and who frees Peter, goes on to strike Herod dead.

The psalm glorifies and praises God in thanks for rescue from danger. Therefore we should keep his commandments.

A rather lonely Paul, abandoned in prison in Rome, writes these encouraging words to Timothy. Paul has solemnly commissioned Timothy to take over his ministry, and Paul urges him to keep on

preaching the true Christian message in its entirety. But this will inevitably lead to similar suffering and Timothy will need always to rely on the Lord's strength.

Today's gospel is Matthew's version of Jesus asking who people say he is. It is similar to Luke's version. But Matthew inserts the well-known commissioning of Peter to be the rock of the Church, the only reference in all the gospels to the whole Church, and probably added later.

Psalm Response: **From all my terrors the Lord set me free.**

(Acts 12:1-11; Ps 33(34); 2 Tim 4:6-8; 17-18; Matt 16:13-19)

Chris Oliver

The Season of Creation

Tip No. 73: Living Sustainably with creation: All lives Matter, Cafod Covid 19 Appeal cares for all; especially the Poor.

Tip No. 74: Solidarity with the poor: Check out these fairtrade clothing suppliers and 'love your neighbour', who make our clothes. www.nomadsclothing.com; www.bibico.co.uk/pages/fair-trade-clothing/; www.peopletree.co.uk/

Actions to LiveSimply : Communication regularly (telephone) with of our , 'family in faith,' can cheer our predicament, or with eye contact using WhatApp, Messenger or Skype.

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

Resumption of Collective Worship

Extract from a letter to all Catholics from the Archbishops of England

"With the easing of restrictions on worship with congregations, we tread carefully along the path that lies ahead. Our lives have been changed by the experience of the pandemic and it is clear that we cannot simply return to how things were before lockdown. We remain centred on the Lord Jesus and His command at the Last Supper to "do this in memory of me." We must now rebuild what it means to be Eucharistic communities, holding fast to all that we hold dear, while at the same time exploring creative ways to meet changed circumstances.

It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. A significant number of churches may remain closed as they are unable to meet the requirements for opening for individual prayer. Fulfilling these requirements is a precondition for any church opening after the 4th July for the celebration of Mass with a congregation.

Please be aware that there will be a limit on the number of people who can attend Mass in our churches. This will be determined locally in accordance with social distancing requirements. We therefore need to reflect carefully on how and when we might be able to attend Mass. We cannot return immediately to our customary practices. This next step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going 'back to normal'.

We ask every Catholic to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Our priests may need to consider whether it is possible to celebrate additional Masses at the weekends. Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of

attending Mass on a weekday. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people.

Moving forward, there will still be many people who cannot attend Mass in person. We therefore ask parishes, wherever possible, to continue live-streaming Sunday Mass, both for those who remain shielding and vulnerable, and also for those unable to leave home because of advanced age or illness.

When we return to Mass there will be some differences in how the celebration takes place. For the time being, there will be no congregational singing and Mass will be shorter than usual. None of this detracts from the centrality of our encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist. We ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance that will be issued and the instructions in each church.

"As I have loved you," said the Lord Jesus, "so you must love each other." (John 13:34) The lockdown has brought forth remarkable acts of charity, of loving kindness, from Catholics across our communities as they have cared for the needy and vulnerable.

We have seen love in action through charitable works, and through the service of many front-line keyworkers who are members of our Church. Now we can begin to return to the source of that charity, Christ himself, present for us sacramentally, body, blood, soul and divinity, in Holy Communion. As we prepare to gather again to worship, let us, respectful of each other, come together in thanksgiving to God for the immense gift of the Holy Eucharist."



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

