



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

Grace be with you

The second reading this Sunday brings us to the end of our passages from the first letter to Timothy; next Sunday we begin reading from the second letter to Timothy.

The final words of the letter, not included in our reading are the words entitling this piece: “Grace be with you”. This is a fitting prayer for a priest to end twenty-three years in a parish. St Paul’s final advice to Timothy seem to be suitable words for a priest’s final Sunday in a parish.

The passage we read today is a continuation of the previous section in which St Paul warns Timothy about false teachers; people he describes with a list of six failings:

- Puffed up with conceit and understands nothing
- An unhealthy craving for controversy
- Produces envy
- Produces dissention
- Produces slander
- Produces evil suspicions.

This list, written nearly two thousand years ago does not seem to be out-of-date, but is reflected in contemporary society, with the ‘false teachers’ being the pedlars of ‘fake news’.

Our passage today begins with Paul’s advice to Timothy to ‘flee from these things’; in other words, to have nothing to do with them at all. Rather, he gives an alternative list of virtuous things:

- Righteousness
- Godliness
- Faith
- Love
- Steadfastness
- Gentleness.

He uses active, indeed energetic verbs to describe how this should be done. **Flee.** Evil, **Pursue** goodness. **Fight** the good fight of the faith. **Take hold** of the eternal life to which you were called.

In St Paul’s writings there are many lists; some have become enshrined in Christian understanding, such as the ‘Fruits of the Spirit’ in his letter to the Galatians:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

There is a useful list of things to think about to avoid a mental vacuum which can lead to unhelpful, or even sinful thoughts:

- Whatever is true
- Whatever is honourable
- Whatever is just
- Whatever is pure
- Whatever is lovely
- Whatever is commendable
- If there is any excellence
- If there is anything worthy of praise. (*Philippians 4:8*)

There was a time when the practice of teaching was underpinned by the learning of lists — colours of the rainbow, days of the week, months of the year with their number of days, vowels, for example. Christian catechesis used the same technique; deadly sins, beatitudes, commandments and so on. This has rather gone out of fashion but there is merit in having that knowledge.

Knowledge on its own has little virtue, and the Christian life is not judged by what we know, but by God in whom we believe and how we put our faith into action. Hence those energetic verbs we noticed earlier — another list!

Another important list is the virtues of the sheep in the parables of the Last Judgement, which we call the Corporal Works of Mercy:

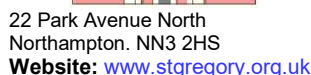
- Feeding the Hungry
- Giving drink to the thirsty
- Making strangers welcome
- Clothing the naked
- Visiting the sick
- Visiting prisoners (*Matthew 25:35-36*)
- Burying the dead. (*Tobit 1:17*)

These are all signs of a Christian life of action, and the evidence of faith. (*see James 2:14-26*)

Next Sunday we will read in St Paul’s second letter to Timothy his encouragement to “fan into a flame the gift of God”. (*2 Timothy 1:6*)

This is a reminder that the Christian life is not just one of faith (though it must be that too) but is also a life of action. Those four ‘action verbs’ are a useful reminder to us all; to the priest as he enters retirement and to the people of the parish he has tried to serve and lead for the last twenty-three years.

Flee evil; not just avoid it, but run from it. Actively pursue goodness, not just by passive approval but by positive action. Be involved in the active life of the parish. Fight the good fight of faith; seek to share your faith with others, be involved in the mission of the Church in the parish, and take hold of your particular calling within the Church. And may the grace of God be with you.



Page 1065

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

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

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

Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

Sunday 26th Sunday Of the Year	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	Caryll Comley & family The Parish
Monday Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	9.00 am	Mass	Kathleen Healey & Family
Tuesday St. Jerome	9.00 am 7.00 pm	Mass Mass	Hurley (Fdtn) Fr Andrew & Fr Christopher
Wednesday St. Therese of the Child Jesus	9.00 am	Mass	Georgina Donaghue RIP
Thursday The Holy Guardian Angels	9.00-11.00 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Mass	Wilkinson (Fdtn)
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Susan Heasman & Family
Saturday St. Francis of Assisi	9.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass (Ukrainian Rite)	Deacon Michael & Linda Fleming
Sunday 27th Sunday Of the Year	9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm 5.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass in Shona Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Eric Hasdell RIP The Parish

Last Week Was £413.39. Thank you!

: Each week £557 is given through standing orders.

An average of £75 is given each week.

Evangelii Gaudium £254.08. Thank you!

CAFOD: Harvest. (Family Fast Day 3rd October)

The value of Gift Aid averages £171 per week.

The Church is cleaned & sanitised on a regular basis.

CC & CP.

Readings for this Sunday: —see inside for details

The revelry of those who now stretch themselves out shall pass away.

Keep the commandment until the appearing of our Lord.

You received good things, and Lazarus bad things; now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.

Readings for next Sunday (CTS New Sunday Missal Page 1069)

Habakkuk 1: 2-3. 2: 2-4; 2 Timothy 1: 6-8. 13-14; Luke 17: 5-10.

Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest;
The Spread of the Gospel; Victims of War;
Prisoners & Their Families; Children & Young People.

Please Pray for the Sick:

[illegible]

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

William valentine	George Lewis
Alan Holloway	Frederick Boswell
Rita Quigley	Richard White
Anne Brannigan	Bernard Fossey
Anthony Seaman	Margaret Murphy
Roland Williams	Richard Walker
Mark Collins	Christopher Doyle
Jack Quigley	Patrick Coleman
Maria Crake	Elizabeth Allan
William Currie	Frances Keegan
Wladislaw Idczak	Margaret Garvey
Gertrude Culverhouse	Dorothy Marriott
Valerie Curran	Carmon Giuliano
Marie Squires	Henry Thompson
Dorothy Dorman	Zdzislaw Xwicien
Kathleen Neeson	Daniel Aneke
Mary O'Carroll	Martin Marcano
Harold Slatter	Margaret Forsyth
Brendan Duffy	Jean Wst
Kathleen Flynn	William Ridgeway
Brendan Clancy	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS **FOR OCTOBER**

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

Prayer for Peace for Ukraine, the Holy Land and all places of strife. 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.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day and Collection

Waré is a mother of five and a goat farmer living in southern Ethiopia, where four years of severe drought meant she had to get up at 5am every day and walk at least five hours to find water - even whilst pregnant. Waré spoke about feeling so weak, she was worried that her children would be left without a mother.

"We have lost so much", Waré told us.

But there is a happy ending. With your gifts at Family Fast Day, CAFOD worked to help Waré and her community build an underground water storage tank, able to support 300 families. Now, Waré has water just a 10 minute walk from her home.

Our parish's support this Family Fast Day will mean that more of our neighbours can get safe water for their families.

Notices of Interest

Important Note From the Office! Thank you all so much for your patience over the last week as we have struggled with no phone & no internet. The internet (and email) is now restored, but just for this week there is a temporary telephone number which is 01604 510855. From 5th October the usual one will be restored. *Caryll*

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. Any queries or volunteers please contact Kathleen on 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

Bible Timeline (short course) online, starts next Wednesday, 7pm to 8.45, for 8 sessions. To register visit www.comeandsee.org

Bible Alive: The new edition has arrived & is available in the narthex. Each edition now covers 2 months, & while the price per month is the same, the two-month edition is priced at £6. It is extremely good value. Please put money into the 'Books & Papers' box in the narthex wall.

Parishioners With Young Children: Please, please, do not allow your child to play with/throw around pamphlets/leaflets/booklets etc which are displayed either in the Narthex or the Foyer. They are not toys. Thank you!

Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (next – 25th October), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially the younger, more energetic ones!

Parking: Our car-park is small, & many have to park on the road. We are in a residential district, & our neighbours also like to park. Please be considerate, & remember that there are laws regarding where you may park. It is illegal to block a drive to a house where there is a dropped kerb or where a white line is painted indicating the needs of a disabled driver. It is also illegal to park at a road junction. There is usually space on Wellingborough Road at the side of Abington Park opposite the bottom of Lime Avenue.

Marriage support: Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? The next programme starts on 17th October www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296 983

Tots @ St Gregory's: If you have care of a pre-school child on a Tuesday morning we would be delighted to welcome you. Looking forward to seeing you!

Ceili Dancing: Dancing continues every first & third Wednesday of the month in the Parish hall. All welcome.

Choir Notes: next practices are from 11-12 on the 2nd Saturday of the month: Oct 11, Nov 8. *Alec*

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Whatsapp & telephone on the 1st Saturday of the month, in the Hall: 10 am-12pm.

Season of Creation Event: Sunday 28th September; 6.00 pm, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be in the Sacristy, 7pm, on Monday 13th October. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2025/6: First Holy Communion 2026 Registration will be on Sunday 19th October after the 11am Mass. If you know that you cannot come on that date, there is an alternative after the 10.30 Mass at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on Sunday 12th October. Whichever day you register, it is for the same course, and makes no difference to where First Holy Communion is received.

Confirmation in 2025: The Confirmation will be in the afternoon of Sunday September 7th 2025.

Supporting Your Parish: 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)**
Please remember that if you pay income tax, the Church can reclaim this on your giving, (£2.50 for every £10 given) and this is much simpler if you give by standing order.

Gregory Care: dates for your diary:-

Saturday 11th October Parish Quiz and Supper Evening. 7.00 pm
Tickets are available this week. — Light Supper Bring your own drinks. Teams of 6 people per table. Get a team together and join us for some fun and "healthy" competition! £7:50 per person in aid of Gregory Care.
15th November (time to be confirmed) Indian Unity in Diversity Event
On both days the host community will be sharing their culture through food and entertainment.

28th February Table top Sale.

9 March St Gregory's Fun Day as part of Headlands celebration.

6h June Picnic in the Park.

We hope as many people as possible can join us at these events.

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
Ordinary Time until the end of August:	Refreshment Fund
September until the Harvest collection:	CAFOD
After harvest until the beginning of Advent:	The Bible Society

Alpha in the Autumn 2025 — Dates and Subjects

Third Session	October 7 th	Why did Jesus die?	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. 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
Fourth Session	October 14 th	How can I have faith?	
Fifth Session	October 21 st	Why and how do I pray?	
Sixth Session:	November 4 th	Why and how should I read the Bible?	
Seventh Session	November 11 th	How does God guide us?	
Eighth Session	November 18 th	Does God heal today?	
Alpha Away-Day	November 22 nd (Saturday)	Who is The Holy Spirit?	
Ninth Session	November 25 th	How can I resist evil?	
Tenth Session	December 2 nd	Why and how should I tell others?	
Eleventh Session	December 3 rd	What about the Church?	

Let's get *inviting.* 
alpha.org.uk/promote

Scripture Readings: 25th Sunday of the Year, 21st September

Amos warns both the northern kingdom, Israel, ie Samaria, and the southern kingdom, Judea, with its capital Zion or Jerusalem, that the idle rich in both kingdoms will be the first to go into exile. 40 years later, in 721 BC, Samaria was conquered, and later Judea followed into exile.

The Psalm, echoed by Mary in Luke's Magnificat, confirms that God's justice will prevail: the hungry will be fed, the blind given sight, but the wicked will lose out.

Instructing Timothy how to organise the early Christian church, Paul also insists the rich should use their wealth for good deeds. Christians should ideally aspire to show the Christian virtues as examples to all, and so witness to the truth, until our Lord Jesus Christ returns to appear in glory as King of kings. And Paul insists that only God "has immortality": we do not simply have souls that

live on after death – our creed says we believe in "the resurrection of the body", a gift from God in which our whole person, body and soul, lives for ever.

The Gospel graphically illustrates the dangers of riches: the rich man, who is not named, asks that the poor man – who is named – Lazarus – be sent to relieve his torments in hell. Abraham tells him the rich should listen to the prophets.

Psalm Response:

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

(Amos 6:1, 4-7, Ps 145(146):6-10, 1 Tim 6:11-16, Lk 16:19-31)

Chris Oliver

Please pray for the soul of Chris Oliver who died on 22nd June. May he rest in peace and may God reward him for all the good he has done.

Coming Up

Tuesday 30th September

"Vale et Salve"

(Farewell and Welcome)

Farewell to Fr Andrew;
welcome to Fr Christopher

Mass at 7.00 pm

ETHICS UNPLUGGED:

A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO KEY ISSUES—ZOOM MEETINGS

2nd, 16th, 30th OCTOBER & 13th NOVEMBER 2025

To book your place and receive the zoom link please go online:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/ethics/>

The Presidents of Churches Together in England, named below, have issued the following statement:

As leaders of Christian Churches in this country, we wish to express our deep concern that in the recent rally "Unite our Nation," and in other places, use has been made, by some, of the symbols and words of the Christian faith to support views and attitudes actually opposed to their message. In contrast, we wish to state clearly some of the key messages of our shared faith that are a crucial contribution to the well-being of all people in our lands.

The Cross of Christ reveals God's overwhelming and unconditional love for every single human being. The Cross calls us to love our land and its communities and to serve its well-being. But, equally, we are called to love members of other nations too. The Cross and the Gospel of Christ must never be co-opted to support the messages that breed hostility towards others. Its message never legitimises rejection, hatred or superiority towards people of other cultures.

This ethic is core to a biblical vision. In the Old Testament, God commands the people of Israel, "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:33-34). Jesus intensifies this call when proclaiming that love for the least is love for himself, saying, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)

As Christians, we wish all policy to be grounded in solid and compassionate values. So, we pray for a generous and just spirit, which does not demonise the other simply for being other. We pray that we can have mercy on those in need who legitimately come seeking our aid. We pray for a true Christian revival where people of all creeds and none, of all ethnicities and ways of life, can feel secure and appreciated for the gifts they bring.

- **Cardinal Vincent Nichols**, The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster
- **Bishop Tedroy Powell**, CTE Pentecostal and Charismatic President, and National Bishop of the Church of God of Prophecy UK
- **Rev Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson**, Moderator of the Free Churches Group
- **Bishop Paulina Hlawiczka-Trotman**, CTE President for the Fourth Presidency Group and Head of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain
- **His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas**, CTE President for the Orthodox Churches, and Archbishop of the Oecumenical Patriarchate (Diocese of Thyateira and Great Britain)
- **The Archbishop of Canterbury** (position vacant)

The title of the march and rally last Sunday, "Unite our Nation" may be an appealing concept, but the reality turned out somewhat different. Many who attended will have been well-meaning, but many of the speakers clearly had a very narrow view of who should be included in this unity.

It is welcome that Cardinal Nichols and other Christian leaders in our country have expressed their 'deep concern' about the manner in which Christian symbols and texts were used in a way which runs counter to the fundamental Christian message of love of God and of neighbour.

As Christians we can have different political views, but as Christians, they must be underpinned by Jesus' command to 'love one another'.



PRAYER

FOR GODS' CREATION



Sunday 28th September

6.00pm - approx 7.30pm

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 147-155 Kettering Road, NNI 4BS

Join us for an evening of reflection and prayer focussing on our planet, what is damaging it and what we can do

In association with Northamptonshire Ecumenical Eco Churches Group

