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

40 HOURS ADORATION

Friday 10th & Saturday 11th September

Why Pray?

Each of us face challenges and obstacles in living out our calling to follow Jesus and in bearing witness to him. As a parish, in our local community and on the national and international stage too there are so many needs.

It is good to remind ourselves that the primary need is spiritual and that, as we trust in God, this prepares and paves the way for His victory to flow into our world and every situation that needs His grace.

When Joshua was fighting the battle in the valley it was only when Moses had his arms raised in prayer that the victory was won (*cf Exodus 17:8-15*).

Moses the leader and intercessor is but a reflection of someone much greater and more powerful, Jesus our victorious King- who having died and risen is now at the right hand of God the Father interceding for us. Because of Him we don't pray FOR victory but rather we pray FROM victory, from the deep conviction given by the Spirit that Jesus has indeed won the fundamental victory over sin, death and the powers of evil and is inviting us to stand in that place of faith, claiming and appropriating that victory for the various situations for which we pray.

So we give thanks to God, "who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him." (*2 Corinthians 2:14*)

Jesus is Calling Us Personally

To sign up to come and pray during the 40 hours please see: https://signup.com/go/PPozmCH

Or you may wish to sign up manually in the Narthex. There will also be opportunity to sign up after Sunday Masses.

The following words of St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) remind us of the transforming power of spending time with Jesus. We have a precious opportunity to do this in a very special way during the 40 hours of Eucharistic adoration at St Gregory's Church during Friday 10th September and Saturday 11th September, it's a personal call and a personal invitation from the Lord to each of us through the Church.

"*Nowhere on earth are you more welcome. Nowhere on earth are you more loved than by Jesus living and truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth.'*

It is important that there are people with the Lord throughout the 40 hours, which is why we ask people to sing up and commit, but even if you haven't signed up, you are still welcome to come!

Back to Mark

The last words of the Gospel of Mark that we read (six weeks ago) were: "he set himself to teach them at some length" (*Mark 6:34*). In the last five weeks we have heard Jesus' lengthy discourse on the Bread of Life. We resume our readings from St Mark today as we hear of the opening of the ears of a deaf man.

However long Jesus may teach for, those who are deaf will not hear, but we understand that there is a spiritual deafness with which we all can be afflicted. We can be good at talking to Jesus, but much less good at listening to him. Part of our 40 Hours prayer is to have time to listen to Jesus in stillness. Today's Gospel ends: "He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak." (*Mark 7:37*) May we not only hear Jesus speak to us, but be able to speak, not only to him but also about him to other people. May we hear also what he wants us to do in the post-Covid era.

22 Park Avenue North
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Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

29th August 2021
Twenty Second Sunday Of the Year
Parish Mass Book - Year B
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Sunday ***22nd Sunday of the Year***	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.00 pm 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	The Parish Joe Flannery RIP Paul O'Connell
Monday SS Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward	9.00 am	Mass	Josie Walsh
Tuesday St. Aidan	9.00 am	Mass	Margaret Gleeson RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Gemma Mangan RIP
Thursday Feria	9 – 10 am 7.00 pm	Holy Hour of Adoration Mass	 Ann Kirk
Friday **St. Gregory the Great**	9.00 am **7.00 pm**	Mass **Mass**	Seamus Kenneally RIP **The Parish**
Saturday St. Cuthbert	9.00 am	Mass	Fr. James Marks RIP
Sunday ***Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church***	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.00 pm 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Canon Dom Eric Phillips RIP Kathleen & Tom Nicholson's Intentions 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 £. 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
Cleaners This Week: The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.
Counters This Week: CC & PS.

Readings for this Sunday

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8: *Add nothing to what I command you.*
James 1: 17-18, 21-22, 27: *You must do what the word tells you.*
Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23: *You put aside the commandment of God.*

Readings for next Sunday

Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3: 9-11, 16-17; John 2: 13-22. (Page 119)

During this season Of Ordinary Time, autumn, We are asked to pray for: The Environment; Teachers & pupils; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; Prisoners & their Families; Victims of War; Young People.

COVID precautions continuing

Although legal restrictions have ended, the reality is that the infection is still rampant, and the numbers of infected people in Northampton is considerable. We must act responsibly. This means not just looking after our own health & well-being, but also acting in a way that protects others. It is clearly prudent to continue the precautions that we are taking in the church, and this will last into the foreseeable future. Social distancing in Church, mask-wearing, hand sanitising & also the daily cleaning of the church must also continue. Singing from behind masks is allowed, but the use of hymn-books is still not recommended. The additional 12 noon Mass will continue while we keep social distancing, & good warning will be given about when this will end. With the completion of the new kitchen, refreshments after the 9.00 Mass on Sundays & Wednesdays will be on offer for any who wish, but as far as possible, social distancing must be observed. The toilets can be used if necessary, but please will users apply sanitiser as necessary.

Please get in touch with Gregory Care (07434 669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

With sorrow we record the death of Agnes McLoughlin on Wednesday 25th August. Her funeral Mass will be on Thursday 2nd September at 2.00 pm, followed by burial in Ireland. May she rest in peace

Please pray for the sick:

Anniversaries:
May they Rest in Peace

Jose Pallett	Joan Phelan
Harold McLoughlin	John Lynch
Bernard Kelly	William Marsden
Norah Coughlan	Roger Green
Joseph Lynskey	Marita Nash
Cecil Bailham	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 Battye
Robert Snelling	Maria Fennessy
Margaret Currid	Alfred Lack
Norman Jepson	Mary Oliver
Doreen Moyles	Clare Gilbert
Anthony Cotton	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER
That we will make courageous choices for a simple & environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in young people who are committed to this.

An act of Spiritual Communion

I prostrate myself at your feet, O my Jesus,
and I offer you the repentance of my heart,
which abases itself in its nothingness
and in your Holy Presence.
I adore You in the Sacrament of your Love;
I desire to receive You in the poor abode
that my heart offers You.
While awaiting the happiness of Sacramental Communion,
I wish to possess you in spirit.
Come to me, O my Jesus, that I may come to You. May your Love inflame my whole being
in life and in death.
Jesus, I believe in You, I hope in You, I love You. Amen.

Pope Francis [20 March 2020]

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.

Repository: There is a display of cards in the Foyer. If you wish to buy anything, please come to the Foyer after Sunday Mass, or the Office on Mon, Wed or Friday morning & speak to the Secretary who will show you what to do & where to go.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next preparation will be in the Sacristy on Monday 6th September, 7pm. Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: We are already planning our preparation for First Holy Communions next year! So if you have a child who will be in year group 3, 4, 5 or 6 this September and who would like to be involved in next year's programme watch this space! There will be more details in September.

Confirmation: At last we have a date: 1st October; feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux! The Confirmation will be at St Gregory's.

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

SPUC: Help protect the lives of Unborn Children by joining this year's March for Life. The march is on Saturday 4th September & will take place in Central London. It is a great Pro Life event & it is encouraging to be with so many Pro Life supporters. For further details either go onto the March for Life website marchforlife.co.uk or contact William on 07393965643 or wpcurrie@btinternet.com. It is not enough just to say that we are Pro Life: we must take action to stop abortion & the terrible damage it is doing to vulnerable girls, women & their unborn children.

Mission Northampton: Mission Northampton is based at the St Thomas Centre at Northampton Cathedral, but is a town-wide project involving all the parishes & Catholic schools in the town. If you are interested in being part of this new initiative he would like to hear from you. Please contact Fr David for further information: frdaviddonaghue@northamptondiocese.org

News from the Foodstore! It is good news that the Cathedral Foodstore has secured funding for food, but the need for household & personal hygiene products continues. We aim to add 2 items to each bag & there are approximately 80 bags sent out each week. Please donate what you can, & continue to pray for this work. Many Thanks, Gregory Care.

Choir Matters: Our next monthly choir practice will be 2 Sep - Feast of St Gregory, Friday 3rd. *Alec*

Tots @ St Gregory's: Tuesday September 7th is our definite start date! We will be in the church hall from 9:30 – 11:30 each school week Tuesday starting from 7th! If you have care of a baby or pre-school child on Tuesday mornings why not join our very friendly and fun group? We only charge £1 for an adult and however many children they bring and this includes snack and all activities!

24 hours of Adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. In honour of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there will be 24 hours of Exposition of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. Adoration will start after the 9.30am Mass on **Tuesday 7th September**. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet available at the Shrine and the Sacred Heart Church or contact either the Office or Gillian on 07724 337202. Thank you.

Parish Finances: Continued thanks for the wonderful generosity that you are showing to the parish, in the special collections, CAFOD, Missio, and gifts for the kitchen refurbishment.

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)**

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

The Catholicism Course: The "Catholicism" course is running on Tuesday evenings through the summer, starting at 7.30. While it does form a continuous course, each session does stand alone, so if you have to miss one or more, you can dip in to those you can. There are three sessions left:

1 August 31st The Communion of Saints
2 September 7th Prayer and the Life of the Spirit
3 September 14th The Last Things

Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link

Zoom course on the Mass: When the present 'Catholicism' course ends, on Tuesday evenings there will be the Alpha course on Tuesdays, but on Mondays there will be a course entitled "A Biblical Walk through the Mass". There are four sessions: Mondays, 20th and 27th September and 4th and 11th October, starting at 7.30 pm. Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link

Courses for Readers: There will be a course for readers on Zoom starting on Wednesday 22nd September, and following that the Bible Timeline course will start on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7.30 pm. All are welcome, but those who proclaim the Scriptures at Mass are particularly encouraged to take part.

The March for Life: This will take place on Saturday 4th September 2021. A number of indoor events for children, teens and adults will take place from 10am until 1pm in The Emmanuel Centre, 9-23 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3DW. The March to Parliament Square, will start outside The Emmanuel Centre at 1.30pm. There will be a number of Pro-Life speakers at Parliament Square, including Bishop John Keenan who will travel all the way from Scotland to attend this very important event. For more details see: www.MarchForLife.co.uk

St Gregory's next Alpha: Below are the dates of the next Alpha course which we are hoping will be able to be in the hall and in person. It is highly recommended for everyone, and is very enjoyable.

First session:	**21st September 2021:** Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	**28th September 2021** Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	**5th October 2021** Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session	**12th October 2021** How can I be sure of my faith?
Fifth Session	**19th October 2021** Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session	**9th November 2021** How does God guide us?
Seventh Session	**16th November 2021** Why and how should I read the Bible?
Away-Day	**19th -20th November 2021** Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session	**23rd November 2021** How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session	**30th November 2021** Why and how should we tell others?
Tenth Session	**7th December 2021** What about the Church?
Eleventh Session	**14th December 2021** What about the rest of my life?

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. It is good to have established believers as well as potential converts and those who simply want to know more about our faith. There is no charge, but donations are cheerfully accepted.

Scripture Readings 29th August 2021, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

After the testamentary speech from Joshua last week, this week we have the beginning of Moses' last testament, following God's refusal to allow Moses to cross the Jordan and enter the Promised Land. In Deuteronomy Moses sums up the Law, but with some relaxations from the strict Law given by God on Sinai. As God's representative, Moses allowed divorce and hating enemies. But God's justice cannot change, and Jesus will later reverse these changes, made "because of their hardness of heart". Observing God's Law "will demonstrate to the peoples" their wisdom and understanding.

The Psalm summarises the moral qualities required to be "at one" with the Lord, especially the social virtues of justice and charity.

James also insists "do what the word tells you", especially helping the vulnerable and avoiding contamination by the world. We must be "quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger". More practical advice from James in the coming weeks.

Jesus gives the same message: his disciples should do what the Pharisees say, but not what they do. As Peter is to learn later before preaching to Cornelius, "nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean". It is what we do that can make us unclean, not lack of washing. This teaching is underlined immediately by the faith of the Syro-Phoenician woman.

Psalm Response: **The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

(Deut 4: 1-2, 6-8; Psalm 14(15): 2-5; James 1: 1-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

Chris Oliver

The Feasts of St Gregory and the Consecration of the church

The Feast of St Gregory comes this Friday, and the numbers of those infected with COVID remains high. We had hoped that by the beginning of September we would be in a better state, but, alas, we cannot be planning a celebration on the scale that we have been used to before the pandemic.

However, all is not lost, and the Mass at 7.00 on Friday evening, 3rd September will happen, and there will be refreshments afterwards. Because it is impossible to know how many people will come to the Mass, and how many of them will stay for the refreshments, rather than our normal appeal for food, we are planning to serve tea, coffee and squash, with cakes and biscuits. We are appealing for contributions of cakes, **BUT** only those that will keep if not consumed on the night. Please bring cakes when you come to Mass.

Cakes not eaten on Friday will be served after the 9.00 am Mass on Sunday when we celebrate the anniversary of the consecration of the church.

What do you want me to do, Lord?

If the time before COVID was BC, we must be preparing for 'AD'; the time of Apostolic Discipleship.

Gradually the day to day and week by week activities of the Church must resume, and this eighteen-month break has forced a re-think of some of our activities and given us an opportunity for a re-set.

The pandemic has taken its toll on us, as community; not just in those who have died, but in terms of many who, through advancing years, are unable to continue with the level of activity they exercised before the pandemic.

There are some activities which essential to the work of the Church; there are others which are desirable; there are new activities which we had not previously undertaken but which we recognise we ought to be doing and there may be activities which no longer seem to be important.

Liturgy and Worship

This is a core activity of the Church, and is the work of all the people. Vatican II speaks of the 'active participation' of the people in the celebration of Mass (*Sacrosanctum Concilium §14, 19, 27, 41, 50, 113, 114, 121, 124*). From the number of times that it is mentioned, it is clear that the Church takes this very seriously.

Active Participation is not limited to those who have visible and/or audible roles in the celebration, and one of the ways in which we need to grow is understanding what this means for those who have no particular ministry in the Mass, but for now, we need to re-establish those ministries that are essential. We have already done this for the ministry of welcome — many thanks to all who are exercising this important ministry!

There has already been an appeal for people to proclaim the Scriptures during Mass, and through the autumn/winter we will re-run the Bible Timeline course, with a particular emphasis for those who have this ministry. St Paul writes about singing and praying in the spirit and with understanding. (*1 Corinthians 14:15*)

During the pandemic we were told to stop offering the Precious Blood of Christ at Mass as a precaution against the transmission of infection, and this advice has not yet been withdrawn, but the time will come when we will be looking for recruits as ministers of the Eucharist at Mass. More immediately, we need to increase the number of those who are willing and able to take the Blessed Sacrament to the sick and housebound. The number of the housebound has increased during the pandemic, and the number of those able to minister to them has sadly decreased. Those who take the Blessed Sacrament to the housebound need to have a DBS clearance as part of the Church's safeguarding procedures.

The Liturgy of the Word for children in the hall (commonly called 'Children's Liturgy) is an important ministry; it is not just a crèche during Mass, but a way of offering active participation in a way that is appropriate to children. To be able to offer this we need a sufficient number of people willing to lead. There must be two adults at each Mass, one of whom needs to be a trained leader, and both must be DBS cleared. There needs to be a team of leaders and helpers.

Evangelisation

This is the growth-area of the Church in two ways. First, it is an aspect of Church life whose importance is increasingly being recognised, and in this parish we are among the leaders in this. Second, it is the way in which the Church will grow. Without evangelisation, the Church would diminish. 'Divine Renovation' is a book written by Fr James Mallon, a priest from Halifax, Nova Scotia, and have been enormously influential in the development of parish evangelisation. The running of Alpha is part of the process, and this itself has many different ministries. The first is the ministry of invitation, the ministry of inviting someone (just one person) to come with you to Alpha. You do not need to do more than to come with your guest; the Holy Spirit will do the rest!

Please use the 40 Hours prayer time to ask God what he wants you to do. (There are other ministries available too, more next week!)

SECOND COLLECTIONS 2021

28th February	**CAFOD (Lenten Fast Day 26th Feb)**
2nd April	**Good Friday Collection for the Holy Places**
25th April	**Diocesan Priests' Training Fund**
16th May	**Mass Media**
20th June	**Day for Life**
27th June	**Peter's Pence**
11th July	**Apostleship of the Sea**
19th September	**Home Mission Sunday**
3rd October	**CAFOD (Harvest Fast Day 1st October)**
24th October	**Mission Sunday**
7th November	**Bishop's Maintenance Fund**
14th November	**Sick & Retired Priests' Fund**