



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

Pope's Peace Day message 'Everyone has a creative role to play in building peace'

Several Vatican officials present Pope Francis' message for the 55th World Day of Peace, held on 1 January, and recall that peace is the work of every person and that it must be rooted in human dignity and justice.

Yearning for peace in creativity

Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, was the first to present his thoughts on Pope Francis' message.

He offered a reflection on the Biblical roots of the message, which begins with the prophet Isaiah: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace" (Is 52:7).

The Cardinal said humanity—in the footsteps of ancient Israel—yearns for peace, especially in moments of societal upheaval and political disaster.

He added that our world today mirrors several aspects of life for Israel during the exile. These include the lack of moral or ethical fibre and the political will to commit to life-saving measures in the face of the pandemic and climate change, as well as a short-term focus on profits at the expense of long-term stability.

Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace, said Cardinal Turkson, highlights the need for every person to play a creative role in the project for peace, building the "architecture" of peace.

Peace, added the Cardinal, is both a gift of God and the fruit of a culture of dialogue and encounter.

Young people engaged in climate crisis

Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, interim Secretary of the Dicastery for Human Development, also offered her reflections on how the Church speaks with the prophet Isaiah in favor of peace.

She gave voice to the "cry of the earth and of the poor" which laments the war which the current economic system has declared on the environment.

Young people, she added, are the intended recipients of the Pope's message, since they—more than other generations—long to carry through on promises to tackle the issue of climate change.

An intergenerational alliance is needed so that young people and adults can team up to push back against environmental destruction, said Sr. Smerilli.

Work also plays an important role in promoting peace through human dignity and justice. "Work is much more than a means for earning a living: it is an expression of our identity and dignity, of our social and relational vocation, and of our caring and tilling the earth, with God and with others," she said.

Earth crying out for peace

Fr. Fabio Baggio, Under-Secretary of the Migrants and Refugees Section, focused his remarks on the ecological aspect of Pope Francis' Peace Day message.

He said the world is more interconnected than ever before, a fact which has both positive and negative consequences as seen in climate change and the pandemic.

The survival of our common home, he added, rests on peace among the human family, so that we can face our challenges together.

Fr. Baggio highlighted the three tools which the Pope offered to achieve the goal of dialogue and peace: sincere communication, education, and work.

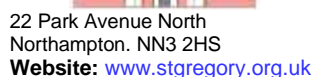
These three, he said, "are not the only tools to build a lasting peace, but they undoubtedly represent an excellent toolkit for the journey which awaits us."

*(From an article in "Vatican News" by Devin Watkins
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2021-12/pope-francis-55th-peace-day-message-press-conference.html>)*

What can we do about it?

We must be well-informed — there are two major enemies here, the first is ignorance and the second is fake news. Jesus is the Truth, and that makes truth important. Pilate walked out rather than hear the truth (*John 18:38*). We must be prepared to read, see and hear news sources that we don't necessarily agree with in order to get a balanced view.

We must be willing to make our voice be heard. The local Justice and Peace group has very few members. Please talk to Aideen Fogarty for more information about local activities



2nd January 2022
Second Sunday of Christmas
Parish Mass Book - Year C
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Priest:
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: priest@stgregory.org.uk
Deacon:
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com
Pastoral Assistant:
Maria Heath
E-mail: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk
Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 621807

Sunday <i>2nd Sunday of Christmas</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.00 pm 1.30 pm 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass in Shona (Sacristy) Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Agnes McLoughlin RIP The Parish Hannah Heath
Monday Most Holy Name of Jesus	9.00 am	Mass	Gwen Langlois RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Wayne Robb's Intentions
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Mary Ashton RIP
Thursday The Epiphany of the Lord	9-10am 7.00 pm	Holy Hour of Adoration Mass	Maura McGinty RIP
Friday St. Raymond of Penafort	9.00 am	Mass	Julia & Vittorio Ruocco RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	Cecelia Pereira RIP
Sunday <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 12.00 pm 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Hilary Green's Intentions The Parish Mick McLennon

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 £276.66. 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 & CP.

Readings for this Sunday (Readers 9am: Joel Varghese, 11am: Kevin Santhosh)

Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12:

The wisdom of God has pitched her tent among the chosen people.

Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18:

He determined that we should become his adopted sons through Jesus.

John 1: 1-18:

The Word was made flesh and lived among us.

Readings for next Sunday (*Readers 9am: Cliff Snelling, 11am: Mike Gibson*)

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7; Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22. (Page 50)

During this season

Peace on Earth; Christian Unity;

Of Ordinary Time, Winter.

Victims of Trafficking: The Sick & their Carers;

We are asked to pray for:

Racial Justice; The Unemployed.

Into the New Year, so far, no new rules!

Time will tell whether the rules in place for England or those for the devolved nations were the better, and whether the coming week will change the situation. We continue to maintain caution in church through offering sanitiser, mask wearing and operating social distancing, as well as regular cleaning of the church. We are experiencing a greater number of people at the 9am Mass on Sundays, and while this is very welcome, it does present a problem. Please note that the 12 noon Mass is still quite sparsely attended. The additional 12 noon Mass on Sundays continues while we keep social distancing, & good warning will be given about when this will end. The toilets can be used if necessary, but please will users apply sanitiser as necessary.

While we will continue to offer refreshments after the 9am Mass on Sundays and Wednesdays, it is understood that there will be some who would prefer not to come, and although masks should be worn as far as is possible, clearly while eating and drinking this cannot be done. However, please will everyone think of the well-being of others. **If you feel unwell, DO NOT COME!**

Please pray for the sick:

[illegible]

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Charles Bradley	Minnie Borman
George Ganecki	John Griffin
Christopher Bosworth	Aose Robinson
Gabriel Ogbata	Ken Gray
Georgina Hill	Elena Langdale
Kathleen Leare	Maud Caillebotte
Noreen O'Connor	June Janecki
Charlotte Glibbery	Lucy Duke
Patrick Greene	Arnold Darby
Victoria Habib	Heather Peterson
Michael McCrossan	Jean Evans
Diane Murphy	John McDonald
Nancy Smith	Patrick Cawley
Josephine Scott	Adrian Williams
Agnes Parsons	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

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]*

Please pray for the soul of Neil Cramphorn who died peacefully in hospital on Christmas Eve.
May he rest in peace

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for January 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.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Sebastian George Chereches
Who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for him and his family.

Repository: The Repository is now open after every Sunday Mass. We really need a few more helpers prepared to stand for a few minutes after Mass – all stock is marked, so quite an easy task! A small display of Confirmation cards and mementoes is on display. Contact Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next preparation will be in the Sacristy on Mon. 10th Jan, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: There will be six 'in-person' sessions preparing for first Reconciliation, both at Sacred Heart church, Weston Favell from 3.00 pm until 5.00 pm on Saturdays, 4th and 11th December before the Christmas break. Those preparing on-line will receive emails with what they need. After Christmas there will be sessions on January 15th, 22nd and 29th and on February 5th.

Confirmation in 2022: The next Confirmation programme will be announced soon, but there will be a time of reflection before any definite plans are made. Please keep looking at this space where information will appear.

Parish Finances: Continued thanks for the wonderful generosity that you are showing to the parish.

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)**

Choir Matters: practices are on Fridays 1:45 – 3:00 pm starting Feb 4. (Ash Wed is Mar 2): Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 1 and 8 as we prepare for Easter (Apr 17). *Alec*

Courses for Readers: The Bible Timeline course has broken for the Christmas break, but will resume on January 5th, starting at 7.30 pm. on Zoom. We will be starting with the Book of Judges and moving on the Books of the Kings. Please email to Fr Andrew for further details. New people are welcome to join!

Tots @ St Gregory's: TINY TOTS will finish for Christmas this Tuesday (14th December) and re start on Tuesday 11th January. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year, if you have charge of a pre school child, from 9:30- 11:30 on a Tuesday morning!

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

We Now Have Heating Again! **Please, please, please** can we all help to keep the heat in by closing the outside doors, and not leaving them open.

LUX Pilgrimage: A fun residential weekend for young Catholics aged 11 (Year 7) -18 years from 4th-6th February 2022 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk (transportation included from Luton & Northampton). Please contact Fiona at fiona@nymo.org or visit www.nymo.org/lux for more information and to book your place.

Food Parcels: Please get in touch with Gregory Care (07434669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

Grateful Thanks: Your generosity both to the Hope Centre and in toiletries for the Cathedral Foodstore has been magnificent and is greatly appreciated. Through the winter the need continues, and we give the Crib donations and refreshment donations to the Hope Centre. This continues until the end of Christmastide on January 9th. It is a reproach on our 'civilisation' that there is a need for foodbanks and that there is homelessness, but while this continues, we must seek to help those who are in need. Please keep them in your prayers.

The Net Charismatic Prayer Group. A new prayer group will commence meeting on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 7.30pm to 9pm in the prayer room of The Sacred Heart Church Hall, Weston Favell. The Net will meet every first and third Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome!

After Christmas and into the New Year: It is not at all clear what restrictions might be in place in the New Year, but there are plans. On Tuesday mornings after Mass the Acts course will begin in the Sacristy, assuming that this is allowed. If it is not, alternative plans will be announced. On Monday evenings, starting on 3rd January, there will be a series of Zoom sessions on "The Pivotal Players"; a video course led by Bishop Robert Barron in which he focusses on people who have been significant in the life of the Church over the centuries. St Francis of Assisi, St Catherine of Siena, St Thomas Aquinas, and St John Henry Newman are among the saints; Michelangelo the artist and G. K. Chesterton the author are also featured. On Tuesday evenings, starting on 4th January, there will be training for Alpha leaders and on Wednesday evenings the Zoom Bible Timeline will resume. Please email Fr Andrew for the Zoom links.

Seeking Assistance: Lady in Abington, new to our parish looking for persons to help her get to either 11.00 or 12.00 Mass and/or social occasions at St Gregory's. She uses a small wheeled wheelchair. Assistance required to collect her from her door & help her to a car, have room for her chair in car boot & take her to church & return her home on a regular or occasional basis. If you can offer help now & again, please contact Brigid on 07971713727 who can put you in touch with this lady. (DBS check required) Thank you.

Thank you for all your kindness, generous gifts and good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. *Fr Andrew*

Blessings to all for 2022

Scripture Readings 2nd January 2022, 2nd Sunday of Christmas, Year C

Written in Jerusalem about 180 BC, Sirach contains many carefully worded maxims, and has been much used by the Church to present moral teaching. This chapter personifies Wisdom as a distinct being who comes from God, so foreshadowing the Gospel of John. Here Wisdom is seen as God's gift to Israel, where she is to dwell.

The Psalm urges us to praise the Lord because of all his good deeds to us, giving us life, food, children, and laws to live by.

After a short greeting Paul reminds his hearers of God's plan, that mankind was designed from the beginning to be with him in eternal glory through Jesus Christ. After giving thanks for our redemption through Christ's blood, Paul prays that God "may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him", so that you may know what hope we may have in God's power which he worked in raising Christ from the dead. Our

baptism is only the first instalment of the renewal of all creation under Christ.

John's prologue to his gospel appears to be a hymn praising God's activity in creating the world and sending the "logos" or "Word", who dwells among us and shows God's glory. The three interruptions describe the role of John the Baptist, who testified to the light. Those who accept the light, Christ, are given power to become children of God.

Psalm Response:

The Word was made flesh and lived among us. .

(Sirach/Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12; Psalm 147; Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18; John 1:1-18)

Chris Oliver

The Second Vatican Council teaches that peace is not just an absence of war but is a fruit of justice and love. It can never be established by law alone but depends on virtue that grows and is maintained by constant effort in response to the gift of God. This teaching is found in the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World of Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes.

Pace is not the mere absence of war or the simple maintenance of a balance of power between forces, nor can it be imposed at the dictate of absolute power. It is called, rightly and properly, a work of justice. It is the product of order, the order implanted in human society by its divine founder, to be realized in practice as men hunger and thirst for ever more perfect justice.

PEACE AS A CONSTANT PURSUIT

The common good of the human race is subject to the eternal law as its primary principle, but its requirements in practice keep changing with the passage of time. The result is that peace is never established finally and for ever; the building up of peace has to go on all the time. Again, the human will is weak and wounded by sin; the search for peace therefore demands from each individual constant control of the passions, and from legitimate authority untiring vigilance.

LOVE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

Even this is not enough. Peace here on earth cannot be maintained unless the good of the human person is safeguarded, and men are willing to trust each other and share their riches of spirit and talent. If peace is to be established it is absolutely necessary to have a firm determination to respect other persons and peoples and their dignity, and to be zealous in the practice of brotherhood.

Peace is therefore the fruit also of love; love goes beyond what justice can achieve. Peace on earth, born of love for one's neighbour, is the sign and the effect of the peace of Christ that flows from God the Father. In his own person the incarnate Son, the Prince of Peace, reconciled all men to God through his death on the cross. In his human nature he destroyed hatred and restored unity to all mankind in one people and one body. Raised on high by the resurrection, he sent the Spirit of love into the hearts of men.

PEACEMAKERS WORK FOR JUSTICE

All Christians are thus urgently summoned to live the truth in love, and to join all true peacemakers in prayer and work for peace. Moved by the same spirit, we cannot but praise those who renounce violence in defence of rights, and have recourse to means of defence otherwise available to the less powerful as well, provided that this can be done without injury to the rights and obligations of others or of the community. Insofar as men are sinful, the threat of war hangs over them, and hang over them it will until the return of Christ. But insofar as men vanquish sin by a union of love, they will vanquish violence as well and make these words come true: "They shall turn their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into sickles. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

(Vatican II, *Gaudium et Spes*, §78, and quoted in: www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/peaceflowsfromjustice)

The Primary importance of Justice — A Cardinal Virtue

Wherever justice is denied, peace is threatened. This is on two accounts. First, the denial of justice is often forced by violence. Where a section of a population is oppressed, this oppression is enforced by violent, non-peaceful means. Second, where there is injustice, the normal human responses are triggered; fight or flight. In the case of fight, warfare is immediate. In the case of flight, a refugee crisis is precipitated.

Justice is the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbour. Justice toward God is called the "virtue of religion." Justice toward men disposes one to respect the rights of each and to establish in human relationships the harmony that promotes equity with regard to persons and to the common good. The just man, often mentioned in the Sacred Scriptures, is distinguished by habitual right thinking and the uprightness of his conduct toward his neighbour. "You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbour." (*Leviticus 19:15*) "Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven." (*Colossians 4:1*)

(*Catechism of the Catholic Church* §1807)

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen

*It's a huge undertaking,
but the Synod is getting
underway in our diocese.*

Synod 2021-23

Once the Christmas festivities are over, the plans for the Synod in our parish will be worked out. Pope Francis is clear that the voices of the loud and powerful and those with an axe to grind or a bee in their bonnet should not drown out the voice of the quiet and the marginalised.

St Gregory's next Alpha:

To the right 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. 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. Please come, and if you can, bring a friend. There is no charge, but donations are cheerfully accepted. For catering purposes, please register at

www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha

First session:	After Easter 2022: Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	After Easter 2022: Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	After Easter 2022: Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session	After Easter 2022: How can I be sure of my faith?
Fifth Session	After Easter 2022: Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session	After Easter 2022: How does God guide us?
Seventh Session	After Easter 2022: Why and how should I read the Bible?
Away-Day	After Easter 2022: Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session	After Easter 2022: How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session	After Easter 2022: Why and how should we tell others?
Tenth Session	After Easter 2022: What about the Church?
Eleventh Session	After Easter 2022: What about the rest of my life?

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.

An act of Spiritual Communion

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]*