



# 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



Blessed Carlo Acutis — Born in London, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1991, died in Monza, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006. Beatified, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## “To always be close to Jesus”

Last week Pope Francis approved the second miracle attributed to the prayers of Blessed Carlo Acutis, opening the way to his canonisation and recognition as a saint.

He was born in London, the only child of wealthy parents who moved to Italy when Carlo was only 4 months old, living in Milan. Following his first Holy Communion, he attended Mass as often as he possibly could, and has been called the “Apostle of the Eucharist”. He was in many ways a typical boy of our times; he loved video games and watching films, and admired Italian car design by Ferrari and Maserati.

His family were not practicing Catholics, but his parents employed a Polish babysitter who gave the young Carlo his first knowledge of the Church; of prayer and of the love of Jesus.

Through his faith and devotion Carlo’s parents came to faith, and many others were converted or had their faith revived by his influence. He has been called ‘God’s Influencer’!

His faith was not seen only in his prayer and speech; it was revealed in his actions. He engaged in voluntary work to support the poor and homeless, he was concerned for the environment and the protection of nature.

At school, he was not an outstanding student, but had a passion for computer studies, to the extent that he was thought of as a ‘geek’.

He created a website for his parish in Milan, and then another for his school to encourage volunteering, for which he won a national competition. However, he is better known for creating a website which catalogued and described every approved Eucharistic miracle.

Carlo had a great devotion to the Eucharist, attending Mass as often as possible and spending time in Eucharistic adoration.

It is appropriate that the news of his coming canonisation comes shortly before the celebration of Corpus et Sanguis Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ); the great annual celebration of the Eucharist, and for us, this year as we prepare for our 40 Hours Adoration on 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July.



# Notices of Interest

**Repository:** The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. Cards and items for First Communion and Confirmation are available. Red Communion ties are here & cost £6. Any queries or volunteers to 01604 629103 or [Kath.healey.789@gmail.com](mailto:Kath.healey.789@gmail.com)

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

**Choir Notes:** I have had to change several of the dates of our Saturday practices, 11-12:30. The new details are June 8; July 13; August 24; Oct 12; Nov 9, 16, 23, 30; Dec 7 and 14, then some time in February 2025 (Happy Christmas!). *Alec*

## Coming Events (for your diary):

Sunday 23rd June: Parish Picnic in the Park *More details nearer the time*  
Friday 19th to Saturday 20th July: 40 Hours Adoration at St Gregory's

**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)**

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next session will be reported here shortly. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

**First Holy Communion 2023/4:** All sessions are on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates, times have been given to all those who are registered.

**Confirmation in 2024:** There will be practical sessions through February & March, & then teaching sessions from April. Email to [childrens.liturgy@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:childrens.liturgy@stgregory.org.uk) for further information.

## Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham:

**8th June 2023:**

A coach will leave from St. Gregory's at 8am on Saturday 8th June, leaving Walsingham at about 5.00pm. **Cost £20 per person** (payable in advance). To book, please speak to Caryll in the Office, or add your details to the list in the Lobby area and see one of the Clergy to pay.



**CAFOD: The Big Pilgrimage:** Sat. 9th July at Northampton Cathedral. There will be a short circular group pilgrimage (2-3 miles), a longer pilgrimage (5-6 miles) and tea, coffee etc. Please see the fliers for full details!

**Live Music** fundraising event at Abington Avenue URC, Saturday 8th June, 7.30-10.30pm. "The Wilde Bunch" and "Green Light". Tickets £5, bring your own drinks/snacks. Please see poster for details.

## Next Alpha Sessions:

<b>Seventh Session:</b>	<b>June 4th:</b>	How does God guide us?
<b>Eighth Session:</b>	<b>June 11th:</b>	Does God heal today?
<b>Away-Day:</b>	<b>June 15th:</b>	Who is the Holy Spirit?
<b>Ninth Session:</b>	<b>June 18th:</b>	How can I resist evil?
<b>Tenth Session:</b>	<b>June 25th:</b>	Why and how should I tell others?
<b>Eleventh Session:</b>	<b>July 2nd:</b>	What about the Church?

**Tots @ St Gregory's:** St Greg's Tiny Tots runs each Tuesday in term time from 9:30-11:30 in the church hall. We charge £1 per group which includes snacks & coffee! If you have care of a pre-school child, please join us!!

**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.

**Picnic in the Park:** If the rain holds off, Gregory Care is planning a picnic in Abington Park on Sunday 23rd June from 12.30 pm. There is no cost; just bring your own picnic and join us for a get-together and children's games.

**Church Cleaning:** Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (**next - 29th June**), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially younger, more energetic ones!

**Diocesan Bible Study:** The next Diocesan Bible Study will be on Wednesday evening, 12th June starting at 7.30 pm. It will look at the readings from 2 Corinthians which will be proclaimed from next Sunday until the beginning of July. Please email Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

**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.

**Pilgrimage to Northern France** You are invited to join Bishop David & Canon John Udris on pilgrimage to Northern France from 15-22 Oct. The pilgrimage will begin with 3 nights in Lisieux, the home of St Thérèse, before we travel to Chartres to the beautiful Cathedral for 1 night. Leaving Chartres we travel to Paris via Rouen. We travel home following 3 nights in the French capital. For more details visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/france/>

**40 Hours Adoration Planning:** The next planning meeting for our parish 40 hours adoration will be at **10.00 am on Wednesday 5th June 2024 in the parish hall**. We would like to invite as many as possible to be involved in the preparation so that the 40 Hours in July is a great communal prayer for God's glory and for the mission of sharing the Gospel.

For those who are busy during that time please contact Fr Andrew or Alex on 07963032175 to find out more about how you can be involved. Blessed (soon to be Saint) Carlo Acutis- pray for us

**Stella Maris:** Thank you to all the knitters and suppliers of wool!



This year St Gregory's have supplied 179 knitted hats to Stella Maris. Chaplain Julian Wong, the Regional Port Chaplain for East Anglia and Haven Ports, wanted to ensure you all know that he is so thankful for your work, donations and prayers. For all the latest news and information, please see <https://stellamaris.org.uk/>

**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)

## 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



**For Sale:** Small plaques of the church, gift-boxed, artist hand-made, a limited number available in the repository. £5 for Gregory Care.

## 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**

# Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Corpus et Sanguis Christi, Year B

After rescuing the Israelites from Egypt God gave Moses the Law, including the Ten Commandments. The animal's blood thrown over people and altar symbolises the people's agreement to this covenant.

The Psalm gives thanks to God for answering prayers in time of need. And renews our promise to keep God's laws.

The blood which ratified Israel's covenant with God foreshadowed the people's suffering before they could build their kingdom in the Promised Land. So the Letter to the Hebrews sees Jesus Christ's suffering and bloody sacrifice as marking the new covenant, which enables the new people of God to enter their eternal inheritance. But, as "co-heirs with Christ" we must share in Christ's suffering "so as to share his glory". God's kingdom can be built only through suffering: the Cross is the only way.

Like the apostles, we must also drink the cup Christ has drunk, as well as eating the heavenly food we celebrate today.

Mark's gospel brings us back to the Passover blood of the lamb, with which the exodus began, then forward to the Last Supper, when Jesus' own blood was drunk to initiate the new covenant. But Jesus postpones drinking the fourth, final cup of the meal until just before dying on the Cross. Jesus commanded us to repeat the Eucharistic meal "until he comes".

Psalm response: **The cup of salvation I will raise  
I will call on the Lord's name.**

(Exodus 24:3-8; Ps 115(116); Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 14:12-16, 22-26)

*Chris Oliver*

## Timetable for 40 Hours Adoration

Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	
7.00 am	Opening Mass
8.00 am	Morning Prayer
9.00 am	Parish Mass – Adoration continues after Mass
10.00 am	
11.00 am	
12 noon	
1.00 pm	
2.00 pm	
3.00 pm	Divine Mercy – led by Cyprian Tansi prayer group
4.00 pm	Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group
5.00 pm	
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
7.00 pm	
8.00 pm	
9.00 pm	Night Prayer
10.00 pm	
11.00 pm	
Midnight	
<b>Would anyone like to arrange particular events (such as)</b>	
Conducted prayer for children (Saturday morning?)	
Charismatic Prayer	
Music	
Praise Song	

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	
1.00 am	
2.00 am	
3.00 am	
4.00 am	
5.00 am	
6.00 am	
7.00 am	
8.00 am	Morning :Prayer
9.00 am	Parish Mass – Adoration continues after Mass
10.00 am	
11.00 am	
12 noon	
1.00 pm	
2.00 pm	
3.00 pm	
4.00 pm	
5.00 pm	
6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
7.00 pm	
8.00 pm	
9.00 pm	
10.00 pm	Closing Mass followed by Night Prayer
11.00 pm	40 Hours completed.

## The Church and the State

The law of the Catholic Church forbids clergy from 'assuming public office whenever it means sharing in the exercise of civil power'. (Canon 285 §3) This clearly rules out bishops, priests or deacons from becoming members of parliament (either Commons or Lords). The Church has generally followed a policy of neutrality in relation to party politics.

St Augustine of Hippo allowed the secular government to control the social order provided that it allowed the Church to carry out evangelistic work and worship. This allowed the Church to criticise the State where there was failure to give the Church its legitimate freedom or to uphold good social order.

The Feudal System of the Middle Ages tied Church and State together, this was not the understanding of the early Church, and for Catholics, was eventually was seen to be inappropriate.

Although clergy are forbidden to hold office which gives civil power, that does not apply to Catholic laity, and British politics has been enriched by many Catholics working within many of the political parties.

There is no political party which is perfect in every way, but Catholic Social Teaching has much to offer all the parties in terms of their specific policies. The Church has a duty to commend policies which uphold our teaching and to criticise those which conflict with it.

Equally, while not endorsing any one political party, the Church can commend policies which are in line with Catholic Social Teaching, and to criticise those which are not, whatever party has put forward those policies.