



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

The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home. The idea of celebrating 1 September as a day of prayer for creation began at the wish of the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios in 1989, and was endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015. The season runs from September 1 to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

We are coming to the end of this year's celebration, but we cannot allow our care for the environment be limited to just one month of the year, and the resolutions we have made in this month need to continue through the coming eleven.

The reality is that each one of us can only have a small effect on the global picture, although if enough of the world's population engage in better ecological practices, major change can be accomplished. There are some issues that require government action, and cannot be fully achieved without international cooperation, which is why the COP meetings are so important. At a domestic level, the greatly increased energy bills are a powerful incentive to us to consume less and insulate better.

Last week the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has described the new government's proposals as “an unprecedented attack on nature and the laws that protect it”. This relates to the scrapping or amending of many environmental protections relating to the creation of ‘investment zones’ with a ‘liberalised planning process’, which although claiming to address some issues, will not allow the planning system to stand in the way of investment and development. (*HM Government guidance*)

The prospect of returning to fracking (which was halted after a minor earthquake was caused by it in Blackpool) and increasing use of fossil fuels are also causing alarm, as has the appointment of a climate-change sceptic to be the minister in charge of energy in the government.

We are rightly worried about our own environment and climate, but climate change is a global issue, and the hurricane in Florida, the flooding in Pakistan, following a summer of heat waves, wild fires, drought and famine remind us that we are a small part in a much larger weather system which will need international cooperation to have any significant impact. However, if each nation waits for international agreement before it is willing to act, there is a danger (some would say a certainty) that the crisis will overtake us first.

“If we learn how to listen, we can hear in the voice of creation a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home”.

Pope Francis, message for October 4th 2022

Songs of creation fill Pope Francis' message. He encourages the church to echo Saint Francis, the patron saint of animals and the environment, who sang, “Praise be to you, my Lord, for all your creatures.”

Incorporating the words of a psalm into his reflection, the pope urges, “Let us join the psalmist in singing, ‘Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!’”

“Tragically,” the pope writes, “that sweet song is accompanied by a cry of anguish. Or rather: a chorus of cries of anguish.”

He lists areas of concern: plants and animals facing extinction, the suffering of the poor and marginalized, the groups most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, the pain of indigenous peoples worldwide, who are witnessing the devastation of their ancestral lands for economic gain.

Pope Francis points out that young people all over the world are crying out in protest.

He exhorts readers to “pray and urge nations” to “reach agreement on four key principles.”

1. “to construct a clear ethical basis for the changes needed to save biodiversity.”
2. “to combat the loss of biodiversity, to support conservation and cooperation, and to satisfy people's needs in a sustainable way.”
3. “to promote global solidarity in light of the fact that biodiversity is a global common good demanding a shared commitment.”
4. “to give priority to people in situations of vulnerability, including those most affected by the loss of biodiversity, such as indigenous peoples, the elderly and the young.”

“Mindful of the exhortation of Saint Paul to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep (cf. Rom 12:15), let us weep with the anguished plea of creation. Let us hear that plea and respond to it with deeds, so that we and future generations can continue to rejoice in creation's sweet song of life and hope.”

Pope Francis, message for October 4th 2022

Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church Chelsea Mary-Kathleen Moran who received Christian Baptism recently. Please pray for her and her family.

Bible Alive for October 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: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass – Catholic Diaries for 2023 are now available! We also need more helpers prepared to stand for a few minutes after Mass - all stock is marked, so an easy task! *Contact Kath.healey.789@ gmail.com*

Thursday Holy Hour and Adoration: A request has been made that there be more opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration. From this week, as a trial, Holy Hour will be a Holy Two Hours, from 9.00 am until 11.00 am. However, this can only continue if there are sufficient numbers to sustain it. No one is expected to remain for the entire two hours, come for as long as you can or want to.

Save the Date: Saturday 18th March 2023 Encounter Northampton, a day hosted by Mission Northampton in St Gregory's Hall from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. More details later!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 26th September at 7.00 pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Important Date for First

Communion Families: Next Sunday 9th October, after 11:00 Mass, there will be an introduction to this year's programme & the opportunity to register children. It is important that at least one parent accompany the children but we welcome whole families! If this day is inconvenient there will be a session at Sacred Heart on the following Sunday (16th) after 10:30 Mass which will be the same. We look forward to meeting you.

Confirmation in 2023: Please watch this space for information.

NYMO: Sat, 8th October, NYMO will be holding their annual Youth Ministry Conference, at the St Thomas Cathedral Centre, Northampton. This year the Conference will be looking at how we support our young people who have doubts about their sexuality, or identity. The conference starts at 11am. Full details, and booking, are on the NYMO website, www.nymo.org/conference

Little Way Healing Ministries, St Joseph's, Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bedford, Saturday 15th Oct. Day begins with 10.45am Mass & continues until 4pm. Please join us for all or part of the day of prayer, praise & healing led by Fr Laurence Brassill, Mrs Pauline Edwards and team. Lunch 1pm (bring packed lunch), refreshments will be served. See poster for details.

The Relics of St. Bernadette: The relics will arrive at the Cathedral on Monday 10th October at 3pm and will remain until 13th October after the 7am Mass. Please see posters for full details.

Choir Matters: A prominent member of the choir for many years, May Murtagh, died recently. Her funeral is on 6 Oct at 11:30. The date of the October choir practice that same day is cancelled. Instead, I expect choir members to be at October Sunday Masses by 10:45 to check the hymns etc. as planned: Oct 9: 408 & 206. Oct 16: 527 & 568. Oct 23: ICA & 560. Oct 30: 641, 522 & 283. *Alec*

The Missio newsletter is in envelopes in a red box by the confessional booths. Please collect your envelope & its contents; they are in alphabetical order. Spares available for those who would like to become supporters of this missionary work of the church. Missio is the official medium supported by the Pope to extend the influence of the Church. Financially, times are hard for us all; this gives us greater opportunity to share what we do have with others less fortunate than ourselves. *Alec*

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

Tots @ St Gregory's: We have re-started: tots and their carers welcome, 9.30-11.30 on Tuesdays during term-time £1 per adult!!

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

A Course on the Psalms: It is sub-titled "The School of Prayer", with the invitation to 'learn to pray like Christ'. Running on most Wednesdays from 28th September; there will be a few breaks; on 23rd November, 2nd November (All Soul's Day) and 5th October (a meeting which Fr Andrew needs to be at). After Christmas there will be a new course starting: "What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith". This is from the Ascension Press.

SPUC: In the centre of Northampton in a small unassuming office (British Pregnancy Advisory Service) every year approximately 2,000 unborn children are being killed by abortion. What can you do about this & how do you feel? You can do something by joining SPUC. We should feel outrage. Notwithstanding our Catholic faith, as human beings we should be appalled that innocent, vulnerable babies are being starved, poisoned, & torn apart in the womb. If you would like more info, please contact William Currie 07393965643/wpcurrie@btinternet.com. If you are unable to be involved directly, please support SPUC & other groups financially or with your prayers. Thank you.

August Hope Ministries: In partnership with World Mandate Ministries, we invite the women of your congregation to join us for a Healing Day on 15th of Oct, to coincide with International Pregnancy & Infant Loss (PAIL) Awareness Day, St. Giles Centre Northampton, from 10am-3pm. On this Healing Day, we will break down barriers and misconceptions that women may have about the loss of their baby to set a solid foundation of hope & promise. For more information or to register for the event, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pregnancy-and-infant-loss-healing-day-tickets-391194893457>

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)**
If you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Church Heating: This is the first week-end with the higher energy prices. The church heating has to be on for two hours before it even begins to warm up, so not running it for weekday Mass is a way of making a considerable saving. Please come in warm clothing! We will continue to heat the church and hall on Sundays, but the extra cost of this will be more than the saving on weekdays.

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

Prayers for Ukraine: Please continue to pray for an end to the war in Ukraine:

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

Scripture Readings 2nd October 2022, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Habbakuk appears to have prophesied while Judah was being threatened by Babylon, who destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC. Habbakuk expresses the ever-present frustration of mankind that evil people always seem to triumph. Since God is good and just, why doesn't He intervene to help those who worship Him? Instead of punishing his erring people by a nation even more wicked? God's answer here is that "the upright man will live by his faithfulness". So Habbakuk agrees to "quietly wait" for the invaders to be punished.

The Psalm invites us to praise and worship the Lord daily, for he is our king and shepherd. We must not lose faith in God, as did the Israelites in their desert journey.

In the first of four readings from Paul's second letter to Timothy, he is urged to "bear the hardships" relying on God's power, using and

The Prophet Habakkuk

The reading that we have today is the only bit of the prophecy of Habakkuk that is read in the liturgical calendar. It is, in fact particularly relevant at this time, although the exact date if its writing is uncertain. The prophet is crying to God in the face of violent oppression: "Plundering and violence confront me" (1:3) "Law loses its grip and justice never emerges, since the wicked outwits the upright and so justice comes out perverted" (1:4). The answer comes in the final statement of today's first reading: "anyone whose heart is not upright will succumb; but the upright shall live through faithfulness" (2:4)

developing his skills to testify to the good news. You should "guard the rich truth that has been entrusted to you" the truth that Jesus, "has abolished death".

In Luke's Gospel Jesus continues to teach on his way to Jerusalem. We must have confidence in God's plan, carrying out the tasks God has given us. We must not expect God to put this world to rights in our lifetime.

Psalm Response: **O that today you would listen to his voice!
"Harden not your hearts."**

(Hab 1:2-3,2:2-4; Ps 94(95); 2 Tim 1:6-8,13-14; Lk 17:5-10)

Chris Oliver

Fan into a flame the gift

Last week this article spoke of those who come on Alpha as a means of re-kindling their faith, to 'fan into a flame the gift that God gave them'; indeed, many who are now on the Alpha team are there for that very reason. Maybe they saw it as a sort of extended retreat, lasting eleven weeks but only for two hours each week.

Whether for that reason or for any other, so many people have found it a blessing to them. In the box on the right you can see the titles of each of the sessions. They are all important and basic questions of the Catholic Faith that we all need to be able to answer. Many of the presenters in the course are Catholics, including a two who are now Cardinals! Although Alpha is not of Catholic origin, it is widely endorsed by the Catholic Church.

All are welcome; the meal is free although we do accept donations, and there are no strings attached. While it is too late to join this course, there will be another in the spring.— please think about coming.

First session:	September 20th 2022:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	September 27th 2022:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	October 4th 2022:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	October 11th 2022:	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session:	October 18th 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	October 25th 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session:	November 8th 2022:	How does God guide us?
Away-Day:	November 11th - 12th:	Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
Eighth Session:	November 15th 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	November 22nd 2022:	Why and how should I tell others?
Tenth Session:	November 29th 2022:	Does God heal today?
Eleventh Session:	December 6th 2022:	What about the Church?

Action for The Season of Creation

Laudate si' says, **"Together with our obligation to use the earth's goods responsibly, we are called to recognise that other living beings have a value their own in God's eyes."**

Leave part of your garden untouched,	so that wildflowers and herbs can grow there
Join a litter pick group,	to redress human abuse of God's creation
Avoid toxic cleaners in the home and garden,	to protect water sources for human and insect/ bird health.
Give your 'preloved' clothes to charity shops	for recycling.
Electric cars now cost from £138 per month	no petrol costs! Worth considering?



First Holy Communion Preparation

Preparation for first Holy Communion will start soon, with enrolling at St Gregory's next Sunday, 9th October after the 11.00 Mass. If you cannot manage then, there is a second opportunity at Sacred Heart on 16th October, after Mass at 10.30 am. The preparation for the two parishes is run together, and takes place in the hall at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on twelve Saturday afternoons, spread over eight months.

If you have a child in school years 3 to 6, please come to the enrolment session on 9th October to find out more and to enrol your child. Once the sessions start, we may not be able to take any new enrolments. It is **really important** to get in at the beginning. The form of the preparation involves at least one parent/carer, and ideally, the whole family.