



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

“Not very Catholic”

The editorial of the September edition of “Bible Alive” tells of how it got its name.

“Bible Alive was among the front runners but it met with a fair degree of opposition, because the word ‘Bible’ was perceived as not very Catholic.”

It is a sadness that this idea prevails; more than a sadness; it is a tragedy. It is like denying ones heritage. But yet that sentiment does exist in the Church, in spite of Papal teaching for more than a century. It has been (wrongly) said that at the reformation, the protestants got the Bible and Catholics got the Sacraments, as though it had been a sort of a divorce settlement.

The Council of Trent affirmed the importance and authenticity of the Bible in its fourth session in April 1546, and commissioned a new edition of the Bible in Latin. Much has been made of the reluctance of the Church to allow translations of the Bible into modern languages; this was certainly not a ban on all such translations; the first edition of the Douai-Rheims Bible was in 1582. It is also not true that before the reformation the Church had banned translations of the Bible from Latin — for example, in the late 14th century Richard Rolle translated the Psalms into English and this was authorised by the Church. The Council of Trent did insist that anything printed should be checked and approved by the Church. We still have the system of ‘Imprimatur’ on Catholic publications, dating from this decree. This was a wise move; there was the infamous “Wicked Bible”, printed in 1631, in which the word ‘not’ is omitted from the sixth commandment, this reading: “Thou shalt commit adultery”. (Most copies of this were destroyed and are now very rare; one was sold for £31,250 in 2015)

Many early translations of the Bible in English contained errors or curiosities, (for example the “Treacle Bible”), but one of the most significant was the Geneva Bible, printed in 1576, which was strongly anti-monarchist, calling ‘kings’ ‘tyrants’. King James I strongly objected to this, and as a result, commissioned a new translation that became known as the ‘Authorised Version’, or the ‘King James Bible’.

The idea that the reformation put the Bible into the hands of the ordinary person is not entirely valid either. Printed Bibles were very expensive, and to a great extent, only the educated could read. Those who could would also have understood Latin, as this was the basis of education at that time. In mediaeval times the Bible was understood through the wall-paintings and stained glass in churches, accessible to the un-lettered, but largely destroyed by the reformers.

However, it remains the case that the Catholic community did begin to place less value on the Bible; to the extent that for some people, arriving in time for the offertory, and missing the entire Liturgy of the Word as regarded as acceptable. [The Church has never endorsed this view; to have attended Mass is to have attended the whole of the Mass.]

The first saint to be celebrated in September is our Patron, St Gregory, and the last, at the end of the month is St Jerome. Both were devoted Bible scholars; Gregory wrote a famous commentary on the Book of Job, and Jerome gave us the first translation of the Bible from Greek into Latin. The editorial in September’s Bible Alive ends with the well-known saying of Jerome: “Ignorance of Scriptures in ignorance of Christ”.

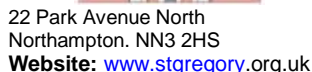
The teaching of the Church today is clear. “The Church ‘forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful . . . to learn “the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ”, by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures. “Ignorance of Scriptures in ignorance of Christ”.”
(*Catechism of the Catholic Church* §133,
quoting *Vatican II, Dei Verbum* §25)

Our Pastoral Area has been at the forefront of pioneering scripture study through the ‘Bible Timeline’ courses, and a significant number of people have made use of this opportunity. Lockdown put an end to much of these, and back in March there seemed to be a reasonable hope that we would be able to start again in the autumn. However, we are seeing cases of CoVid-19 rise across England and in other countries; here in Northampton we have the highest rate of infection of anywhere in this land; higher than many places from which those returning are put in quarantine.

Plans are therefore being put in place to run courses through ‘Zoom’. While this will be more difficult for those who are less proficient with the technology, it will allow those who find it difficult to get to meetings in church an opportunity, and while the best programmes on television are all repeats, this is a chance to do something new.

The foundation of all the courses is the ‘Bible Timeline’, and it would be a wonderful thing if all Catholics had done this basic course in understanding the Bible. In particular, all those who proclaim the Scriptures at Mass really ought to deepen their knowledge of what they are proclaiming. Details of times and how to access ‘Zoom’ will be available next week

To be a complete Catholic is to have both Scriptures and Sacraments; please don’t be a partial Catholic; *that* is “not very Catholic”.



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Sunday <i>22nd Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish Canonisation of Bl. Cyprian Tansi
	11.00 am	Mass	
Monday St. Aidan	9.00 am	Mass	Packie Kearns
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Maggie Ndekwe's Intentions
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Roseann Ogbata & Rev. Michael Graney RIP
Thursday St. Gregory the Great	9.00 am to 10.30 am 11.00 am 7.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Funeral Mass	Maud Currid RIP Maria Fennessy RIP
Friday St. Cuthbert	9.00 am	Mass	Fr. James Marks RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Canon Dom Eric Phillips RIP
Sunday <i>Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Derek Rumsey RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Are you new to the Parish? You are welcome!
Please introduce yourself to the Clergy
In hospital? Let the Chaplaincy know on 01604 714556
If you are in need, please ring Gregory Care on 07982 235379. Someone will respond as soon as possible. Please be patient.

[illegible]

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
Florence Thompson	Mary Williams
Bridget Hanrahan	Loretta Newby
Louise Battye	Robert Snelling
Maria Fennessy	Margaret Currid
Alfred Lack	Norman Jepsun
Mary Oliver	Doreen Moyles
Clare Gilbert	Anthony Cotton
Doris Gallati	Derek Rumsey
Fr. James Marks	John McKernan
Lucia Gambuti	Michael Ginnelly
Ben Jacobs	

Jesus, I believe in You, I hope in You, I love You.
Amen.

Notices of Interest

Confession: Confession will be available between 9.30 am and 12.00 noon daily, but please email first to arrange a time to ensure that Fr Andrew is free.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: From 9.00 am to 12 noon on Thursdays, and then following Mass in the evening there will be Adoration until 8.30 pm.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Rebecca Mihaela Zbona
who received Christian Baptism last week.
Please pray for her and her family.

The Office: I am happy to see people during office hours. However, I must ask you to stay at the office doorway so that social distancing can be maintained & if possible, wear a face covering. Thank you.
Caryll

For Parents and Teachers. CAFOD have launched a National Assembly which can be used at home. It is all about CAFOD's 'Summer of Hope' and informs, inspires and encourages children, at a time when children may really need it. It is led by passionate youths and is a real must-watch! <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Summer-hope-assembly>

CAFOD Corona Virus online petition: Out of love for our brothers & sisters please sign the online petition to our Prime Minister asking him to ensure the most vulnerable people are a priority in the UK's international efforts as well as at home. Visit <https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1> to sign the petition online.

Supporting CAFOD and the Hope Centre: Please see the respective websites to make donations for CAFOD and / or the Hope Centre:
<https://cafod.org.uk/>
<https://northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), of which CAFOD is an active member has launched a nationwide appeal for funds. CAFOD is working in the most deprived areas of the world, helping local communities stricken by coronavirus to survive by:

- Delivering food to where it is needed most.
- Improving hygiene, handwashing and sanitation at the community and household level.
- Producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention.
- Training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns.

Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal> or use a CAFOD envelope and give through the parish. There will be an opportunity to give to the appeal this Sunday.

Global Healing: The Bishops' Conference have produced a film entitled "Global Healing", which can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/environment/global-healing/global-healing-films/main-film/>. It highlights the state of our planet & looks more closely at the Pope's encyclical letter on caring for our common home – Laudato si'.

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

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Tots @St Gregory's: As with other meetings, Tots has been cancelled until further notice.

Bible Alive for August & September is now available. The cost is £3.00. If you want to purchase a copy, they are near the hand-sanitiser in the narthex as you come into church. Please help yourself to a copy of The Crusader.

Forthcoming Alpha Course: The next Alpha Course was due to start on Tuesday April 21st. In view of the current projections for the Coronavirus pandemic, we have to postpone this course. However, those who have registered will be kept informed about any change of date. Much the easiest way to enrol is through the web-site at <http://stgregory.org.uk/alpha/>.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be on Monday 7th September at 7pm in the Sacristy. **Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 0799908997 before you attend to book your place.**

First Holy Communion — 2020: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established.

Confirmation – 3rd Preparation Session: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established. There is a provisional date for Confirmation of 20th November (Note change).

Notice from the Diocese

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)

Holy Communion and face masks: Last week instructions were given that the wearing of face masks was to become compulsory in churches; this has now come into force; and you should wear one if you are not exempt. Stewards are not responsible for policing this, but may remind you that this now the law. However, you clearly cannot have your mouth covered while receiving Holy Communion! The Church's rule is that you consume the Host before you move away from the minister. Please remove your mask before being given the Host. Priest and Deacon wear face-coverings for your protection.

Becoming a Catholic: For adults interested in becoming a Catholic, the parish runs Journey in Faith process (RCIA). Also offered for adults who are Catholic, but have not received all the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist. Please speak to Alex Heath (07963032175) or Fr Andrew.

Online Prayer resources during this time

Live-streamed Mass from the Cathedral
<http://northamptoncathedral.org/live/>

Live-streamed Mass from Walsingham
<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

Scripture Readings 30th August 2020, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Jeremiah, probably before 600 BC, and so before the exile, criticised Israel for worshipping other gods. So Pashtur, the chief priest, beat Jeremiah and put him in the stocks. Next day, when he was released, Jeremiah told Pashtur that he would go to Babylon, where he and all his friends would die. Jeremiah then continued with this lament that God had misled him, because he had to suffer so much on the Lord's behalf, and had begun to wonder – or doubt – whether his call from God was real.

Homesick for the sanctuary, the Psalm holds fast to the Lord in spirit, confident the Lord will defeat our enemies.

After marvelling last week at the impossibility of understanding God's plans, Paul goes on to encourage the Romans to "let your behaviour change". Like Jeremiah, they must "not be conformed to

this world", but be "transformed by the renewal of your mind", discovering and doing the will of God.

In Matthew's gospel Jesus starts to instruct the disciples how he is to suffer, in accordance with God's will. Peter objects, but Jesus turns on Peter with similar words he used to Satan after his Baptism. Poor Peter, given the power to bind and loose, but now told he is not on God's side, but is thinking like the world!

Psalm Response: **My soul is thirsting for you,
O Lord my God.**

(Jer 20:7-9; Ps 62(63); Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27)

Chris Oliver

The Season of Creation

Tip No. 77: Living sustainably with creation: Accept as your own, the Life Principle of Love. John Powell S.J.

Tip No. 74: Living sustainably with creation: Since Covid 19 and the horrendous Climate change damage by airline travel, many new transnational High-speed train services have been opened to replace flights in Europe.

Actions to LiveSimply : Communication regularly (telephone) with of our , 'family in faith,' can cheer our predicament, or with eye contact using WhatsApp, Messenger or Skype.

Many thanks to Harry and Helen Charles who have offered to co-ordinate our parish's work towards the "Living Simply Award". Anyone who is interested is being involved in this, please contact them, or speak to Fr Andrew

2020 Season of Creation Theme: Jubilee for the Earth

Climate change is a result of the intersection of greed, inequality and destruction of God's Earth. The theme of Jubilee is chosen as this year's Season of Creation as it reflects those three interlocking themes. Jubilee is a time to renounce overconsumption and economic systems based on constant economic growth at the cost of the Earth and those who are poor. Jubilee is a time when those who have consumed the most must make restitution to those who have suffered the most.

Jubilee is a time of rest for the land from constant exploitation, to restore ecosystems and people.

The concept of Jubilee is rooted in the holy wisdom that there must exist a just and sustainable balance between social, economic and ecological realities. When one variable is exploited to maximize growth of another, the whole system will eventually suffer. When one part of the Earth community is stressed, every part is affected. In 2020, the novel coronavirus pandemic demonstrated this reality on a global scale.

While the experience of living with the COVID-19 outbreak points back to this need to maintain justice, the lessons that we learn may point us towards the need for a Jubilee and motivate us to restore balance to the very systems that sustain life.

"And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family". (*Leviticus 25:10, NRSV*)

Jubilee means 'a ram's horn'. It was blown to mark the start of a time of universal redemption. The year of Jubilee involved release from indebtedness, when injustices of the past fifty years were to be restored. It was also a time for rest for the land.

The theme of Jubilee has clear links to the root paradigms fueling unjust exploitation, such as neoliberal and capitalist approaches to the

world economy. It brings together the need for a prophetic voice on climate injustice and actions for the restoration of the Earth. The theme of Jubilee affirms the need for equality, justice and sustainability, and a transition to sustainable economies. It honours the Jubilee 2000 Campaign, which successfully called for an amnesty on debt for global South countries and redistribution of wealth. And 2020 marks 50 years since the first Earth Day when the environmental movement was born.

A Climate Emergency

We are in the midst of a climate emergency. Several studies have indicated that the world is nowhere near meeting pledged emission reduction rate targets. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report highlights that "only with rapid and far-reaching" transitions in the world economy on a scale and at a rate without historical precedent, can the 1.5°C limit be achieved. It is therefore a time to reconcile ourselves with creation through concrete repentance and urgent action.

The Season of Creation is a time to acknowledge that tipping points are being reached, threatening the lives of the most vulnerable and putting the lives of future generations in jeopardy. As people of faith, we are being called to stand up against climate injustice in prophetic ways.

The Season of Creation 2020 will also be an important moment for the Christian family to raise a united voice for rapid and radical ambitious action ahead of the 26th annual United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP) to address the climate crisis.

COP 26 is particularly significant, as parties are due to announce how they will implement the Paris Climate Agreement (and whether they will fall short). It is a time when faith communities are called to support and challenge their countries' leadership to implement visionary and significant goals. It is also a time when we must listen to the prophetic voices of young people.



During this time of restricted public worship, please keep reading the Bible. The September “Bible Alive” is now available — see the note elsewhere in this newsletter.

