



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 Divine Community

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Holy Trinity — the very nature of God himself. We understand God to be community in his very nature.

The Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a community of love, in which each person fulfils his divine purpose in co-operation with the other persons of the Trinity. The three persons have a unity of purpose — the salvation of the world, and a unity of practice — love.

It is not an exclusive community; quite the reverse. It is a community which seeks to embrace and take into itself all people, inviting every person to become one with Christ, and through the wonderful gift that we will be celebrating next Sunday, giving us the means to accept that invitation.

It is a creative community; not merely a community which initially created everything that exists, but re-creates and makes new through the power of the gift that we celebrated last Sunday, the gift of the Holy Spirit.

It is not a distant and remote; at his incarnation, Christ took flesh and became one with us so that we could become one with him.

When mankind was created, we were in the image of God (*Genesis 1:26*), and created to be in community (*Genesis 2:18*). We were created to be like God, but when sin entered into the world, community broke down — first Adam blames Eve (*Genesis 3:12*), and by the time of the very next generation, mankind has resorted to murder (*Genesis 4:8*).

Part of God's act of redemption was to restore the unity of mankind (*John 17:22*); to create a new community (*Acts 2:43-47*); the Church, which is the Body of Christ (*1 Corinthians 12:27*), and therefore take on the character of the Holy Trinity.

Thus we are an inclusive community, as the Trinity is an inclusive community. We seek to include rather than to exclude; we are called to make disciples. We are called to make people *belong*. When Jesus was asked where he lived, he replied “Come and see” (*John 1:38-39*). He continues, through his Church to make the same invitation. (*Apocalypse 3:20-22*) Today he lives in the hearts of believers, and in the Community of faith.

The invitation is to join the community of the Trinity on earth, which is the Church of Christ, and that invitation is made manifest in the evangelisation that the Church is called on to undertake.

The Church, like the Divine Trinity, must be a community of love, and that love is shown in many different ways. It is not always easy; reading the Acts of the Apostles, as we have been doing through Eastertide, we see that, even though newly-filled with the Holy Spirit, sometimes the actualising of the community of love was not easy. Reading in the letters of St Paul and St John, we find how those difficulties played out, and therefore how we can resolve any difficulties that we may have in our generation.

The Church, like the Divine Trinity must be ever creative, finding new ways to manifest the love of God in each new situation in which we find ourselves. So in our present age, we have what successive Popes have called the ‘New Evangelisation’, and creative ways in which we can proclaim the Gospel. This will play out in different ways in different places. Although mankind was created in the image of God, we were not all created identical, and each of us has our own unique vocation in God's plan.

However we can learn from one another; from the past in history and from other places in geography.

We learn to be a more loving community, supporting one another in our needs, sharing with one another in our plenty, rejoicing with one another in our joys and consoling one another in our sorrows. In order to do this, we need to know one another better, and this is a challenge for us as a community here. Can we grow in our fellowship as a community which reveals the life of the Divine Trinity?

We learn to be a more inclusive community as we welcome people into the life of the Church. There has grown up a welcoming team, developed from the stewards that were required to be in the church in the darker days of COVID, and now will continue as a team of people who will exercise the ministry of welcome (others are welcome to join the team!).

Welcoming is not just what happens at the door, it is what happens in the pews. But more than that, welcoming is an attitude of heart that is a participation in the life of the Trinity. If we are to become an even more welcoming community, that sense of welcome must be part of our parish culture.

During the pandemic restrictions we are not supposed to talk to each other inside the church, but we are allowed to when we get outside. Can our ongoing project be to get to know each other better, and become more like the Trinity in our welcome.

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for May & June 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.

Repository: A display of cards and items for First Communion has been added now that we know the dates. If you wish to buy anything, please come to the Church between 9 and 10am & speak to a Steward who will show you what to do & where to go.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Ruby Philomena Fraher-Vernon
Gino Giuseppe Michael Fraher
And Ianis Martinica
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for them and their families.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

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

First Holy Communion 2021: The programme is running through 'Loom', an on line platform used by many schools. Parents need to 'home-school' children. The programme is called "Growing Up Catholic", and there are 6 sessions preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by six sessions preparing for First Holy Communion.

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

Readers at Mass: If anyone wishes to become a reader at Mass (Sundays and Weekdays), please contact Deacon Michael, which will enable us to prepare rotas for when some sort of normality returns!

Walsingham (Virtual) Pilgrimage: This year there will be a 'virtual' pilgrimage to Walsingham, on Saturday 12th June, led by Bishop David with Mass at 12 noon to be streamed live here... <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/event/northampton-pilgrimage/> also on live on EWTN

Tony Bull: "To those who sent birthday cards and videos on the occasion of my 90th Birthday my grateful thanks. Mass will be offered for your intentions on Thursday, 16th September. Thank you all again. Tony"

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

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

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Re-Envisioning Catechesis: The Church has recently produced a new version of the "Directory for Catechesis", which makes clear the link between evangelisation & the teaching of the Faith. One fruit of this is that the diocesan department for catechesis has been moved from NORES to the new department for Mission. To help those engaged in Sacramental preparation, there will be an on line course over 5 consecutive Thursday evenings, starting 17th June 7.30 pm (ending at 8.45 pm) on Zoom. If anyone would like to take part, please let Fr Andrew know (by email, please), and the parish will make the booking.

Eucharistic Adoration for Corpus Christi: There will be 24 hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Diocesan Shrine at Great Billing, starting with the Saturday 9.30 am Mass on June 5th and finishing with the Sunday 9.15 am Mass on the 6th. Although COVID restrictions mean that people must book for the Masses, they can just turn up at any time in between for Adoration.

Holy Hour on Corpus Christi for Ministers of the

Eucharist: Bishop David invites all who have served as Lay Ministers of the Eucharist to pray a Holy Hour with him on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi 6 June 2021 at 3.00 pm. Come to the Cathedral or join by Live Stream. This is a chance to pray and give thanks for all who share Eucharistic Ministry. CoVid and Lockdown has severely restricted the service of lay ministers of the Eucharist during Mass and in taking Communion to the Sick and Housebound. As the situation opens up we have a chance to thank God for what has been possible. The Order of Service will be made available on the diocesan website – www.northamptondiocese.org
Gregory Care Toiletries appeal update: Thank you for your continued support. Many thanks again for your generosity-We will keep you updated!

Broadmead Community Church is looking for a cleaner, 18-20 hours per week. Please see poster for full details.

Pru Hill RIP

The funeral for Pru Hill will be by invitation only, to comply with Covid restrictions. However, she will be prayed for at the 9.00 Mass on Wednesday before her funeral and we welcome all who would like to pray for her. It will also be possible to watch her funeral live-streamed from 10.45 <https://tinyurl.com/prusayleshillfuneral>. There will also be a memory post-box in church from that day – Pru's family would love you to contribute your memories of Pru and messages there. It is also possible to share your memories online on her obituary page at www.legacy.com. It is also possible to share your memories online on her obituary page at www.legacy.com

CAFOD: As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with Caritas India to provide vital support to poor communities. Already £200,000 has been pledged. This helps to distribute PPE kits to health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, & set up safely run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: cafod.org.uk/give. Please pray for the people of India & all those affected by the pandemic.

Lifeteen Summer Camp 2021: From Wednesday 28th July, 3pm to Sunday 1st August till 2pm. Cost £225.00 for camping (provide own tent), £275.00 for dormitory, £50.00 for online camp. £50.00 non-refundable deposit when booking, final payment by 1st July. Alton Castle, Staffs (transport NOT be provided). Summer Camp is 5 days of fun & activities where young Catholics gain formation & friendships. Included in price is accommodation, food, daily Mass & Reconciliation, activities including a day at Alton Towers, biking, trekking, climbing, archery, campfires and much more. More info and to go to the bookings page visit <https://nymo.org/summercamp/>

Parish Finances: Thank you to everyone who has been so very generous during this lockdown. Our parish finances are reasonably stable. Your generosity is much appreciated!

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)**

Track and Trace: The government have now released their app to support track & trace & we have a QR code which can be scanned to record your presence at church. This is not obligatory, but should help in the important task of controlling the spread of the virus. As responsible members of society, we should comply with this request.

Scripture Readings 30th May 2021, Holy Trinity, Year B

Deuteronomy, the second book of the Law, consolidated Israel's beliefs and rituals. A long introductory teaching by Moses emphasises the requirement for Israel to keep the Law, as its part in their covenant with God. In today's reading Moses emphasises the uniqueness of God, who has made himself known to Israel, speaking out of a fire, and who has made a covenant with them: He will be their God and they are to be his people. Moses then repeats the ten commandments, given by God.

The Psalm picks up God's omnipotence, who created even the heavens and the stars. We can rely confidently on His promises.

God's revelation in Christ fulfilled this covenant relationship: Paul tells the Romans that if we are in the Spirit we are not in the flesh. We are no longer dominated by our human tendency to turn from

God. We are now God's children, sharing in Christ's inheritance, in his suffering and in his glory.

There only two resurrection appearances in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus appeared very briefly to two Marys. Then the Gospel ends with Jesus commissioning the eleven disciples to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". And He promises to be with his people always.

Psalm Response:

**Happy the people
the Lord has chosen as his own.**

(Deut 4: 32-34, 39-40; Psalm 32(33); Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 28: 16-20)

Chris Oliver

Kitchen Makeover Update

The construction work to increase the size of the kitchen is complete with just a few small jobs and details remaining. The first fix electrical work has been completed and this will have to be checked and "signed off" by an appropriately qualified electrician. The new electrics give a good supply of power points. New "greener" LED lighting has been installed to give an excellent level of lighting. I am pleased to say we have found a plasterer and the walls are due to be plastered in the coming week. New non-slip flooring will be installed within the next few weeks. Once the walls have been plastered and sufficiently dried the walls and ceiling must be painted, and it is here that anyone who is handy with a paintbrush or roller can help, so

please let me know if you can help. We will obtain the correct type of paint to meet the current standards. We DO NOT need donations of leftover paint. We have identified a new professional cooker which must be installed by a competent gas engineer. There will be many jobs such as handy man jobs, cleaning, moving the kitchen equipment back in, to restoring the Church Hall to its former glory and now that Covid restrictions are easing it should make it easier to volunteer to help. Please let me know of any ways you can help. Finally I would like to thank all those, including Fr. Andrew, who have given their time and efforts to help with this project.

Cliff Snelling

G7 interfaith event - Building a better world after the pandemic CAFOD campaign for the G7

What's happening?



Faith leaders will speak an event livestreamed from Truro Cathedral ahead of the G7 summit

The G7 summit will see heads of government of seven of the world's richest countries - including President Joe Biden - travel to Cornwall and discuss how the world can rebuild after the coronavirus pandemic.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has a crucial role to play, with the UK holding the presidency of the G7. We want to send a message to him and the other G7 leaders that people of faith in the UK and around the world expect them to put in place plans for a global and green recovery from the crisis which leaves no one behind.

[Join our livestreamed event](#)

The pandemic means we can't all travel to Cornwall to send this message to the leaders at the summit.

But that doesn't stop us coming together online in an act of witness. So, instead of travelling to Cornwall, we can join together on our laptops, tablets or phones at an event on **Thursday 10th June at 7:00 pm** which will be livestreamed from Truro Cathedral.

We'll reflect on the impact of the pandemic, how we rebuild and send a digital message to the presidents and prime ministers ahead of the start of their meeting the next day.

Date: 10 June 2021

Address: Livestreamed from Truro Cathedral
(If you are reading the print version, please visit: www.cafod.org.uk)

Mission Northampton

The Mission Northampton team will be based at our new St Thomas Centre at Northampton Cathedral.

St Gregory's will be part of this initiative, and over the coming weeks we will be hearing a great deal more about it. Please keep praying for it, and for Fr David Donaghue who will be steering it.

Please keep praying for our own parish, that we may become all that God wishes us to be, and that, like the first Christians, we may be devoted to the teaching of the apostles, to the fellowship, to the Breaking of Bread and to the prayers. May we all be truly missionary disciples, and this a missionary parish.

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