



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

Zeal for your house will consume me

We hear these words in the Gospel today (the Gospel for the celebration of the anniversary of the Consecration of the church, not that for the 22nd Sunday of the Year). The words are remembered by the disciples to explain the dramatic action of Jesus in his cleansing of the Temple. (*John 2:17*)

The words originally come from Psalm 69:10 in exactly the form quoted in John. We hear them in the responsorial psalm on the 12th Sunday of the Year in Year A of the lectionary (21st June next year!)

Among the psalms we find many words of praise for the Temple: “How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts” (84:1), “I rejoiced when they said to me, ‘let us go to the House of the Lord’” (122:1) as well as the psalm we hear today: “The Holy Place, the abode of the Most High” (46:5).

Yet we also hear of Jesus predicting the destruction of the Temple (*Matthew 24:2*), and in today’s Gospel we hear that Jesus was actually speaking of the temple of his body.

While we are familiar with the story of the cleansing of the Temple, one of those which occurs in all four Gospels, what may not be noticed due to the way in which we read the Scriptures at Mass is that St John places the event at a different place from the other three Gospels. Matthew, Mark and Luke place this event immediately after the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; in other words, at the beginning of Holy Week. That is probably where most Christians instinctively think of it, and might justify that by saying the three accounts beat the one in John. However, we must not forget that both Matthew and Luke are repeating the account in Mark. John places this event right at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus, immediately after the first sign he gave at Cana when he turned water into wine.

Scholars have written much about this difference between the Gospel accounts, but leaving the scholarship aside, we can ask what can we learn from the words we are hearing today, and their context?

We hear them in the context of the Mass, and while we are celebrating the anniversary of the Consecration of this building, we must always keep in mind that Jesus spoke of the temple of his body, and in the second reading St Paul reminds us that we “are God’s Temple”.

Following from that, it may be us who are in need of cleansing. Indeed at every Mass we begin with the ‘Penitential Act’ when we ask for forgiveness for our sins; and we make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation seeking forgiveness. We can see today as a celebration of our Consecration as a parish and within the parish, as celebration our own personal consecration to God. We could see today as a sort of ‘official anniversary’ for each one of us in our personal journey of Faith. This is not ‘just another day’, but a special day of celebration.

Another text which is associated with the anniversary of the Consecration of a Church is from the Old Testament story of Jacob’s Ladder: “Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not” (*Genesis 28:16*), beautifully set to music by Anton Bruckner as “Locus Iste”; “This place was made by God”. We can say that of our own body as well as of the church, and just as we seek to make the church beautiful and clean, so too do we care for our bodies and souls.

Jesus was not impressed by the physical beauty of the Temple in Jerusalem:

“And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, “As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” (*Luke 21:5-6*)

The beauty he seeks in us is in the love and goodness of our life. Specifically, in the Temple of Jerusalem, it was the money-changers and the pigeon-sellers that he attacked. They were turning the Temple into a ‘house of trade’.

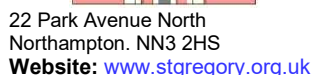
“You cannot serve God and money” said Jesus, (*Matthew 6:24*) and that was true of the Temple as it is of us. If the purpose of the Temple was to make money, it was failing God, and equally, if our purpose is to make money, we become a servant of money, not a servant of God.

The problem for the Temple was that was just what it had become and not just that it had become a money-making enterprise; it was doing it through fraud by insisting that all transactions in the temple were done in temple currency, and the money-changers were setting fraudulent rates of exchange. This was nothing new; Amos spoke of this:

Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,
saying, “When will the new moon be over,
that we may sell grain?
And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great
and deal deceitfully with false balances. (*Amos 8:4-6*)

Jesus’ complaint echoed that of Amos; it was not so much about the trading but about the dishonest trading: “you have made it a den of robbers”. (*Luke 19:46*)

It was not the building itself that was committing the fraud, it was the people working in the building, but by so doing, they corrupted the building itself. The Church is, first of all, God’s House, and as such, a house of prayer. It is where we meet to obey the Lord’s command to ‘do this in memory of me’ — to celebrate Mass and to receive forgiveness. It is a place that is freely open to everyone as a place of sanctuary and a house of prayer. And we, who see it as ‘our church’ must likewise be open to the needs of others and people of prayer, being ‘without spot or wrinkle’. (*Ephesians 5:27*)



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Sunday <i>Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 4.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	Richard & Diana McDonald (65 th Wedding Anniversary The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Care of Creation)	Thomas
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Rev. Christiana Owusu- Akuffa's Intentions
Wednesday St. Gregory the Great	9.00 am 7.00 pm	Mass Mass	Louise Battye RIP The Parish
Thursday Feria	9.00-11.00 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Mass	Georgina Donaghue RIP
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Derek Rumsey
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Marcelle Brown & Family
Sunday <i>23rd Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 3.00 pm 5.30 pm	Mass Mass Confirmation Mass Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	The Parish The Redmond Family's Intentions Those being Confirmed

[illegible]

Grace Horsley	Patrick Loughran
Eunice Williams	Ian Kennedy
Lawrence O'Toole	Leslie Coelho
Mary O'Donoghue	Matthew Boulos
Loretta Newby	Mary Williams
Bridget Hanrahan	Florence Thompson
Louise Battye	Robert Snelling
Maria Fennessy	Margaret Currid
Alfred Lack	Norman Jepson
Mary Oliver	Doreen Moyles
Clare Gilbert	Anthony Cotton
May Murtagh	Doris Gallati
Derek Rumsey	Fr. James Marks
Canon Dom Eric Phillips	John McKernan
Lucia Gambuti	Michael Ginnelly
Ben Jacobs	Kathleen Costello
Thomas McKinney	Stephen Cahill
Francis Phelan	Bill Frost
Margaret Lynch	Baby Andrinavicius

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.

Notices of Interest

Feast of St Gregory — Wednesday this week: We are accustomed to having a reception in the hall after our evening Mass on the feast of St Gregory, our patron. Please can anyone able to bring food for sharing on Wednesday evening please do so.

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. There is a small display of cards and items to commemorate Confirmation in September available at the Repository from this week. Any queries or volunteers please contact Kathleen on 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

Parishioners With Young Children: Please, please, do not allow your child to play with/throw around pamphlets/leaflets/booklets etc which are displayed either in the Narthex or the Foyer. They are not toys. Thank you!

Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (next – 27th September), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially the younger, more energetic ones!

Parking: Our car-park is small, & many have to park on the road. We are in a residential district, & our neighbours also like to park. Please be considerate, & remember that there are laws regarding where you may park. It is illegal to block a drive to a house where there is a dropped kerb or where a white line is painted indicating the needs of a disabled driver. It is also illegal to park at a road junction. There is usually space on Wellingborough Road at the side of Abington Park opposite the bottom of Lime Avenue.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be in the Sacristy, 7pm, on Monday 1st September. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2025/6: First Holy Communion 2026 Registration will be on Sunday 19th October after the 11.00 Mass. If you know that you cannot come on that date, there is an alternative after the 10.30 Mass at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on Sunday 12th October. Whichever day you register, it is for the same course, and makes no difference to where First Holy Communion is received.

Confirmation in 2025: The Confirmation will be in the afternoon of Sunday September 7th 2025.

Supporting Your Parish: 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)**
Please remember that if you pay income tax, the Church can reclaim this on your giving, (£2.50 for every £10 given) and this is much simpler if you give by standing order.

Gregory Care: dates for your diary:-

20th September 11-3pm African Unity in Diversity Event.

15th November (time to be confirmed) Indian Unity in Diversity Event
On both days the host community will be sharing their culture through food and entertainment.

11th October Parish Quiz and Supper Evening.

28th February Table top Sale.

9 March St Gregory's Fun Day as part of Headlands celebration.

6h June Picnic in the Park.

We hope as many people as possible can join us at these events.

Choir Notes: next practices are from 11-12 on the 2nd Saturday of the month: Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8. *Alec*

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Whatsapp & telephone on the 1st Saturday of the month, in the Hall: 10 am-12pm.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We start again on Tuesday 9th September!! If you have care of a pre-school child on a Tuesday morning we would be delighted to welcome you. Looking forward to seeing you!

Ceili Dancing: Dancing starts again on Wednesday 3rd September at 7.30pm & continues every first & third Wednesday of the month in the Parish hall. All welcome.

24-hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in honour of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Sun 7th - Mon 8th Sept. There will be the usual 9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's Shrine, Great Billing on that Sunday. This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will continue until 9am on Monday at Great Billing. Sign-up sheets for the Exposition will be available at the back of both churches.

Cathedral Hub Business Manager: We are currently recruiting for a full-time, two-year fixed-term position to support the smooth running of the Cathedral Hub, covering three local parish sites. The role involves managing financial and operational tasks, overseeing contracts, SLAs, and facilities, and ensuring strong financial controls. Ideal for someone proactive, reliable, and ready to be a key part of the team. For full info visit; <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs>. All candidates should complete a Diocesan application form & email it to: hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org. Closing date 1st September 9am.

Refreshment Donations: This is the last week-end of collecting for the refreshment fund, and next week-end the donations given will go to CAFOD.

Bible Alive: The new edition has arrived and is available in the narthex. **PLEASE NOTE:** Each edition now covers two months, and while the price per month remains unchanged, the two-month edition is priced at £6. It is extremely good value, and is a good way for you to enter into the daily Scripture readings at Mass or to follow them if you are unable to be at Mass. Please put money for Bible Alive into the 'Books and Papers' box in the narthex wall.

Alpha in the Autumn 2025 — Dates and Subjects

First session:	September 16 th	Is there more to life than this?	Alpha is a basic introduction to faith in God, in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is not a complete teaching scheme for the entire Christian faith. We need to recruit more helpers; if you are able to help in any way, please contact Daniel Davighi or speak to Fr Andrew. For more information and to book please see: https://stgregory.org.uk/alpha
Second Session	September 23 rd	Who is Jesus?	
Third Session	October 7 th	Why did Jesus die?	
Fourth Session	October 14 th	How can I have faith?	
Fifth Session	October 21 st	Why and how do I pray?	
Sixth Session:	November 4 th	Why and how should I read the Bible?	
Seventh Session	November 11 th	How does God guide us?	
Eighth Session	November 18 th	Does God heal today?	
Alpha Away-Day	November 22 nd (Saturday)	Who is The Holy Spirit?	
Ninth Session	November 25 th	How can I resist evil?	
Tenth Session	December 2 nd	Why and how should I tell others?	
Eleventh Session	December 3 rd	What about the Church?	

Let's get *inviting.* 
alpha.org.uk/promote

Scripture Readings: For the Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church

Ezekiel was deported to Babylon with the Jews in 598 BC. He explained the fall of Jerusalem and destruction of the temple as God's punishment for his people, and predicted a new day and a new temple for Israel. Today we hear about the extensive supply of life-giving water that will pour from this new temple, enough even to make the Dead Sea fresh enough for fish.

The psalm is a hymn of victory: we trust in the Lord, he will protect us in his city.

The Jews believed God dwelt in the temple in Jerusalem. But, writing from Ephesus around AD 54, Paul tells the Corinthians that "you are God's sanctuary" since "God's Spirit dwells in you". They are being built into "God's holy temple". They should stop quarrelling among themselves and be a community united in loving service. Sowing dissension damages God's temple and will be punished.

Near the beginning of John's gospel, after the disciples are chosen and the marriage at Cana, Jesus proclaims his mission by cleansing the Jerusalem temple. The temple had become a business, in which those in religious authority profited from the spiritual needs of the people. His Father's house should not be misused: trade and power have no place in it.

Psalm Response: **The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place, the abode of the Most High.**

Ezek 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 45(46); 1 Cor 3:9-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22

Chris Oliver

Please pray for the soul of Chris Oliver who died on 22nd June. May he rest in peace and may God reward him for all the good he has done.

Coming Up

Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church and the Feast of St Gregory

Sunday 31st August

Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church

Mass at 9.00 and 11.00 am

Wednesday 3rd September

Feast of St Gregory

Mass at 9.00 am and 7.00 pm

Sunday 7th September

Bishop's Visitation

Mass at 9.00 and 11.00 am

Confirmation Mass at 3.00 pm

Saturday 20th September

African Cultural Experience

Sunday 28th September

Season of Creation Event

5.00 pm, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Tuesday 30th September

"Vale et Salve"

(Farewell and Welcome)

Farewell to Fr Andrew; welcome to Fr Christopher

Mass at 7.00 pm

Season of Creation starts tomorrow

Thanks to the creation of the "Borgo Laudato si'" project, the beauty of the Pontifical Villas' Gardens has become the natural setting for the development of a place, open to all people of good will, to be trained in integral ecology. By setting up Borgo Laudato Si' in his residence at Castel Gandolfo, Pope Francis wanted to demonstrate that the principles described in the Encyclical "Laudato Si'" could become a reality. The project has been developed in three directions: integral ecology education, circular and generative economy, and environmental sustainability.

Borgo Laudato Si' includes 55 hectares of extraterritorial area, divided into 35 hectares of magnificent gardens and 20 hectares of agricultural and farming land, greenhouses and service buildings that the Borgo is committed to preserving and developing with loving care, by also adding to the investment on education the essential commitment to foster the culture of care.

Regarding the gardens area, the Borgo is entrusted with their preservation, maintenance, care, and at the same time development, by also applying new techniques and technological innovations



to better protect the wealth of the place and preserve its integrity for future generations.

In the agricultural area, production activities typical of the Pontifical farms are being reorganized and developed, by also employing a model of circular economy based on sharing, reusing, repairing, reconditioning, and recycling. The project also includes the creation of an energy community based on renewable sources.

In every activity, biodiversity preservation and harmonious interaction between human beings and nature are deemed very important. The main thrust of Borgo Laudato

Si' is education in integral ecology and fraternity, making it inclusive and accessible to everyone, especially to vulnerable people. From job training to educational courses, from immersion experiences into nature to seminars and cultural events, everything at Borgo is an opportunity to take advantage of the educational courses on the themes of the Encyclical Laudato Si'.

<https://www.laudatosi.va/en/borgo-laudato-si-2/>

On Monday morning at the 9.00 Mass the prayers for the Mass for the Care of Creation will be used.

Our candle at
Lourdes

