



# 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

## What would you save?

The ‘Thought for the day’ last Thursday considered the question of what the speaker, Elizabeth Harris, would try to save in the event of her house being on fire.

She quoted a Buddhist text: “‘Sons have I, wealth have I’, thus the fool is fretful. He himself is not his own, how then are sons, how wealth?” (*Dhammapada 5:60*)

This chimes in well with all our readings for today. The focus of the ‘thought for the day’ was that kindness and compassion last, material things do not.

The parable we hear today about the rich fool begins in a similar way to another, that of the rich man and Lazarus, (*Luke 16:19-31*) and in both, the rich man dies. We are not told of the ultimate fate of the rich man in our parable today; in the other, the rich man is punished for his failure to exercise charity (‘kindness and compassion’) to Lazarus, who in the story, stands for all the poor and needy of the world.

The musical ‘Oliver’ gives Fagin the words: “In this life, one thing counts – in the bank, large amounts”, and the verse continues ‘I’m afraid these don’t grow on trees’. Is that the origin of the ‘magic money tree’ that politicians deny the existence of until they need to find some money for something?

Our readings tell us that this is simply not true — there are things that count for much more than personal wealth. However, at the other end of the financial scale, having no money is not a happy place to be. This is a very real worry for many people today, as we are told of yet more price rises, and the possibility that for many, their gas bill alone will exceed their income.

Today’s readings invite us to, as St Paul puts it, “look for the things that are in heaven” (*Colossians 3:2*); to recognise that earthly material possessions are a ‘vanity’ (toiled for in vain), and that no one’s life is measured by wealth. (*Luke 12:15*)

There is a tendency in the media today to monetarise everything, yet the money value of things is fickle. Those programmes that ‘value’ antiques will frequently observe that some objects would have sold for much more a few years ago, but are now out of fashion, or that a particular artist is not much sought-after at present.

Another example of this is the comparison of the success of a particular film measured by the amount of money brought in through ticket sales. By this measure, each year records are broken, but since the price of cinema tickets goes up year by year, it is not a measure of how many people actually went to see the film.

When a government is challenged about some failure, the first repost is frequently how much money has been spent on whatever it is that has gone wrong, but the effectivity of that spending is seldom considered. It is the money that matters!

Jesus teaches us something different, and the parable in the Gospel today begins that lesson. Having great wealth is not all that counts; whether that wealth be in barns (*Luke 12:18*) or in a bank or in any other form.

When the rich man in the Gospel reached the final judgement, he faced the challenge of how he used the gifts that he was given. (*Luke 19:11-27*) This parable does not take us that far, but the Lazarus parable warns us of the dangers of not using our gifts in accordance with God’s plan.

In listing the danger-zones, St Paul emphasises greed which is worshipping a false god. He reminds the Colossians that they have ‘put off the old nature’. (*Colossians 3:9*)

He reminds us that when we were Baptised we ‘put on Christ’ (*Galatians 3:27*), and our passage from Colossians continues: “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.” (*Colossians 3:12-15*)

We see in this description of Christian life a very similar collection of virtues as is given in the list that we call the ‘Fruits of the Spirit’; these are the manifestations of the life in the Spirit to which we are all called. Among them we find those particularly singled out in Thursday’s ‘thought for the day’; kindness and compassion.

This sight of the burned out houses in London, and (nearer home) Milton Keynes reminds us of the fragility of possessions; we should remember the many more people in Ukraine whose homes have been destroyed by Russian artillery whose loss is even greater.

We can exercise these gifts right now, and they are not measured in money. But, none the less, those of us who, like the man in the Gospel, have ‘plenty of good things laid by for many years to come’ (*Luke 12:19*) can help the poor man ‘who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table’. (*Luke 16:21*)

Through the summer holidays many families who rely on school dinners to feed their children in term-time have great difficulties, and the demands on the food-banks increase. Many of these are supported through the Cathedral Foodstore and the Hope Centre.

It is certain that for most of us, the coming winter will be a time of belt-tightening. We may well feel that our greatest need is to save our money for the winter, and that is entirely understandable.

By putting kindness, compassion and, above all, love for others above our own desires, we will find a greater saving.



# Notices of Interest

**Bible Alive** for August 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.

**Message from Mary Keohane and Family:** Mary Keohane and family would like to thank all friends and parishioners for their messages of sympathy, prayers and masses over the last few weeks. Thanks to Deacon Michael for his support and especially to Father Andrew for arranging and celebrating Des' funeral Mass.

**The funeral of Tony Bull:** This will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August at 11.00 am. His body will be received into church on Thursday evening, 18<sup>th</sup> August at 5.00 pm.

**Repository:** The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass. We 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](mailto:Kath.healey.789@gmail.com)

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

**Baptism Preparation:** Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

**First Holy Communion 2023:** Please watch this space for information. The programme will take a similar form to last year, in which a parent/carer will take a primary position in the teaching. The feedback from this system has been very encouraging.

**Confirmation in 2023:** Please watch this space for information.

**Choir Matters:** Practices start after evening Mass, 1st Thursday each month: 7:45-9pm. Dates Aug 4, Sep 1, and Oct 6. Old age & infirmity are catching up with some familiar voices - including myself - & new members are needed...the view from the Gallery is great.  
*Alec.*

**Pilgrimage of Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life:** Walsingham National Catholic Shrine, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 12pm. Please see poster for details or contact Christopher & Margaret on (01858) 571242.

**Lepra:** The second collection next week will be for Lepra. One new case of Leprosy is found, somewhere in the world, every three minutes. Despite being curable, misinformation and prejudice means that many children and adults will be unable to attend school or work. It costs Lepra £25 to change a life & if found early enough, and treatment provided, Leprosy can be halted & reconstructive surgery often restores the use of limbs & sight. See posters for full details or visit [lepra.org.uk](http://lepra.org.uk) to find out more. Please give generously.

**Our Top Priority:** "The Church exists to evangelise" This is the message from Pope St Paul VI, and has been reaffirmed by every Pope since. This applies to every parish, and our main parish evangelistic work is through Alpha. Our next Alpha will be needing help in various departments: You may be specifically asked! Please remember that both Pope Francis and Bishop David are telling us that we must be 'Missionary Disciples' and that we must be 'permanently in a state of Mission'. Your parish needs you; your Diocese needs you; your Church needs you.

**Vocations to Priesthood:** Vocations weekends are planned three times a year. These are weekends for men who are discerning priesthood. You may be in the very early stages of discernment & don't worry - you don't have to sign anything! You can take your time & meet priests who can share more about this incredible life. Priesthood is a gift to our diocese, & we would love to connect with you as you continue your journey with God. At any point you can contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Andy Richardson – (01582 502400) or [vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org).

**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)**

**Money Matters:** The closing of churches during lockdown was a financial disaster for the diocese, with very little money coming in through parishes, but all the same bills needing to be paid. Although the furlough scheme was a great help, the situation remains very difficult. The diocese has asked every parish to set a budget for the year and to live within it. The increase in gas and electricity costs will be a challenge for us, but we must try to control our expenditure. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, and if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

## **Young Catholic Adults (YCA) Weekend 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October:**

Theme: "The Communion of Saints' prayer & veneration of Holy Relics". During the weekend, Young Catholic Adults will run a retreat at Douai Abbey with Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge who will be holding Gregorian Chant workshops. There will also be a Marian Procession, Rosaries, Sung Masses, Confession, talks & socials. Prices: £12 (for the day) £55pp per night (residential). Book soon as places are limited! Please note, to guarantee your place Douai Abbey have requested that everyone books in 3 weeks before the start of the weekend (16<sup>th</sup> Sept). For info, go to <http://youngcatholicadults-latestnews.blogspot.co.uk/> or <http://www.youngcatholicadults.co.uk>. To book: <https://bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-douai2022>

**Tots @ St Gregory's:** We have had a great year and our last session will be on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July and we re-start on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September!!

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

**Food Parcels:** Please get in touch with Gregory Care (07434669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

**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:	<b>The Hope Centre</b>
From the Second Sunday in ordinary time	
to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:	<b>Gregory Care</b>
Through Lent and Eastertide:	<b>CAFOD</b>
Ordinary Time until the end of August:	<b>Refreshment Fund</b>
September until the Harvest collection:	<b>CAFOD</b>
After harvest until the beginning of Advent:	<b>The Bible Society</b>

**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 31st July 2022, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Qoheleth the Preacher struggles with the contradictions of life and the vanity of created things which give no lasting satisfaction. Good people suffer, sinners enjoy life and prosper. With no idea of life after death, the Preacher's only solution is to trust that God will make it right eventually.

The Psalm contrasts the shortness of our lives with God's eternity, seeing suffering and death as punishment for sin. But also prays that God will grant some happiness before death.

This final extract from Colossians hints at Paul's very detailed moral teaching. The Christian's life is now "hidden with Christ", but when Christ is revealed "you too will be revealed in all your glory". Paul then spells out how we should live our lives focussed on Christ. So that we will grow in knowledge and maturity towards the images of our creator that God intended us to be. We

must put away sins of both sex and speech, which damage individuals and the Christian community.

Luke's Gospel answers the Preacher's problem in the first reading: good actions in this life are rewarded after death, and evil will be punished. The rich man's approach was sensible in capitalist terms, and not immoral. But Luke insists that we must help the poor while we can!

Psalm Response: **O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.**

(Eccles 1:2, 2:21-23; Ps 89(90):3-17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21)

Chris Oliver

## Repainting the Church

**NEW START DATE:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August, starting 10.00, after Mass and Rosary. Please, all who have already volunteered keep in touch with Cliff [cliff.snelling@btinternet.com](mailto:cliff.snelling@btinternet.com).

We also need more people to join the rota for refreshments after the Sunday Masses, especially after 11am. The hope is to have sufficient people so that it will come round not more frequently than one week in five. Please see one of the people with badges on to find out more!

### Alpha in the Autumn

Each time we run the Alpha Course there are more people who speak of how much they have enjoyed it, and how it has deepened their faith and understanding of what life in Christ actually means. Please think about coming on the next one!

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which is in the hall and in person. It is highly recommended for everyone, and is very enjoyable. Each session starts with a good meal (a proper evening meal, not just a snack), then we watch a film together about our faith. After the film we have a conversation around our table about what we have seen and heard. Please come, and if you can, bring a friend. There is no charge, but donations are cheerfully accepted. For catering purposes, please register at [www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha](http://www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha)

Many people have found this valuable for themselves, but this is also an easy way for anyone to fulfil the wish of Pope Francis that we all become Missionary Disciples. Just come and bring a friend!

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

## Adult Faith Formation — Autumn

There has been some interest already shown in resuming face-to-face courses in the autumn; anyone with particular requests in asked to email to Fr Andrew to indicate what they would like to study.

There are a number of courses that are available on video for us, but we can also devise courses to meet local needs. One of the requests that came from the Synod conversations was that there should be more opportunity for people to grow in their faith.

If the autumn allows us to resume face-to-face sessions, it would be good to offer opportunity for study in any area of the Faith that people want. Anyone who has a particular request, please send an email to Fr Andrew as soon as possible.

One which has been suggested is a Timeline of Church History, with particular reference to the saints whose day we celebrate through the

year, and connecting them to the era in which they lived and the historical circumstances of their life.

We also have an excellent course on the Mass, as well as several from Bishop Robert Barron.

Among the blessings that flow from these courses is the building up of confidence in the faith. Many who would like to be able to speak of their faith to others are reluctant, thinking that they don't know enough and might say something wrong. But in addition to this, most people enjoy the experience, and make new friends, building up the social life of the Church.

Details of what will be planned will appear soon, but NOW is your chance to influence what will be on offer.

### The Feast of St Gregory, our Patron

We will celebrate our Patron on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September with Mass at 7.00 pm followed by a social gathering in the hall. There will soon be lists to sign up to for the provision of food for the occasion. Please make a note of this date in your diary (or 'phone)