



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 Synod and living in holiness

Today the Church celebrates the feast of All Saints, and reminds us that we are all ‘called to be saints’ (*Romans 1:7*). To be a saint means to live a holy life, and part of the calling of the Church is to help us towards that holiness. She does this first through her mission, through bringing people to a living relationship with God. She then continues this through the process of catechesis, the process by which we learn more about what God asks and expects of us. Part of this catechesis is helping us to pray, both privately and in the shared worship of the Church. She offers us the Sacraments, which are ways in which we experience in a physical way the love and power of God.

Together in the Church we make our pilgrimage towards our true homeland of heaven, and that pilgrimage involved journeying together. The Synodal process is designed to help us to be a better community of pilgrims.

This Synod poses the following fundamental question: A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, “journeys together.”

- ? How is this “journeying together” happening today in your local Church?
- ? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our “journeying together”?

In responding to these questions, we are invited to: -

- ? Recall our experiences:
What experiences of our local Church does this question call to mind? –
- ? Re-read these experiences in greater depth:
What joys did they bring? What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What wounds did they reveal? What insights have they elicited?
- ? Gather the fruits to share:
Where in these experiences does the voice of the Holy Spirit resound? What is the Spirit asking of us? What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken? Where do we register a consensus? What paths are opening up for our local Church?

These questions could be phrased in another way:

- ? What do you value that the Church should keep on doing?
- ? What should the Church stop doing in order to concentrate on more important things?
- ? What new things should the Church be doing?

Over the coming few weeks people will be invited to meet together to talk about these questions. At the first level, they will help us to develop as a parish, but will also feed up to the diocese, and together

with the conversations that have taken place in other parishes in the diocese, will help our bishop in his leadership. Finally, bishops from all over the world will meet in Rome in 2023 and out of that meeting there will be a final document, into which every parish in the world will have had a chance to make a contribution. Of course, not every idea or suggestion will make it through to the end of the process, and it is not a process that is intended to change the teaching of the Church.

This synod is more about establishing the synodal process, such that it becomes the normal way of doing things in the Church. It will undermine what had become a major problem in the Church which is

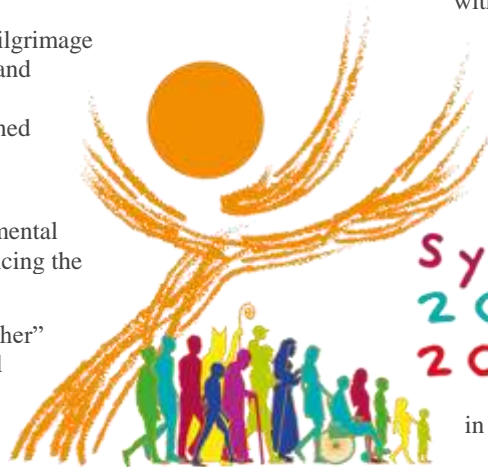
‘clericalism’; that is, the idea that it is only the clergy who make decisions in the Church. Clericalism has been a serious

problem. One of the aims of the synod is expressed thus:

“Overcome the scourge of clericalism: The Church is the Body of Christ filled with different charisms in which each member has a unique role to play. We are all interdependent on one another and we all share an equal dignity amidst the holy People of God. In the image of Christ, true power is service. Synodality calls upon pastors to listen attentively to the flock entrusted to their care, just as it calls the laity to freely and honestly express their views. Everyone listens to one other out of love, in a spirit of communion and our common mission. Thus the power of the Holy Spirit is manifested in manifold ways in and through the entire People of God.” (*Synod Vademecum, page 19*)

In all of this we are asked to keep three principles in mind:

- ✓ Speak graciously
- ✓ Listen graciously
- ✓ Discern what the Holy Spirit is saying.



Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church
Riana Arta Lauskiniece
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for her and her family.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass. We desperately need more helpers for a few minutes after Mass; all stock is marked, so an easy task! Also, help is needed for the special Christmas sale of cards, calendars & gifts, for 6 weekends. Kathleen Healey (01604) 629103

Bible Alive for November 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.

Office Diary 2022: The new diary has now arrived for 2022 and dates are filling very quickly – there are very few dates available now throughout the first two months of the year. If you know that there is a specific date you need for a Mass Intention, please don't delay as you may be disappointed and not get the date you wanted. Caryll

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next preparation will be in the Sacristy on Mon. 22nd November, 7pm. Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: We have enrolled as many children as we are able to prepare for First Holy Communion in 2022. Please keep the children and their parents in your prayers. Increasingly we are emphasising the importance of parents in the growth in faith of their children; it would be worth-while for parents to look out for the next Alpha course.

Confirmation in 2022: The next Confirmation programme will be announced soon, but there will be a time of reflection before any definite plans are made. Please keep looking at this space where information will appear.

Parish Finances: Continued thanks for the wonderful generosity that you are showing to the parish.

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)

SPUC- Silent Prayer Vigil: The Northampton branch of SPUC has started a weekly silent prayer vigil in St Giles Terrace, Northampton. The members will stand in silent prayer to give public witness to the 2000 babies killed by abortion at the local branch of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, situated in Albion House, St Giles Terrace. Abortion is a dreadful crime against women and babies. As Christians we all have a duty before Christ to actively stop it. Please join us. For further details please contact William Currie on wpcurrie@btinternet.com or 07393965643

SPUC - Tiny Feet Coffee Morning: You are invited to our SPUC 'Tiny Feet' coffee morning, 10am-12pm, Sat. 13th Nov, in the Parish Hall. Please come & give your support to our Pro Life event. Money raised will go towards the work of the SPUC. Every little thing we do, with God's grace, will make the world Pro Life & reject the horror of abortion. Thank you.

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.

News from the Foodstore! Thank you for the magnificent supply of toiletries last week. This was much appreciated, and the need continues. We as a parish continue to support the Cathedral Foodstore by supplying toiletries to add to food bags. The Cathedral supply these provisions each week to families in need from around Northampton. Please donate what you can, & continue to pray for this work. Remember that as the weather gets colder, the need becomes greater. Many Thanks, *Gregory Care*.

Choir Matters: Choir Practices in preparation for Christmastide will be after evening Mass every Thursday starting 4 November, 7:45-9 pm. *Alec*

All Soul's Day & Praying for our Departed: The Feast of All Saints is transferred to Sunday, but All Souls falls on Tuesday, 2nd November, & there will be Mass at 7pm for the departed of the parish and those whose funerals have taken place in St Gregory's in the past two years. Due to the continuing need for social distancing, we have not issued invitations this year, but there will be opportunity for anyone to ask for particular people to be mentioned by name in the Bidding Prayers. There will also be refreshments offered afterwards.

Catholic Mental Health Workshop: For all who serve young people - you are invited to join us on Sat. 20th Nov. for a Catholic Mental Health & Wellbeing workshop where we will explore what our faith has to say on this topic & how to support young people at this time. The workshop is just £5 & can be paid on the day. The workshop will take place in the parish hall of St. Martin De Porres Catholic Church, 366 Leagrave High Street, Luton, LU4 0NG. To book, please email fiona@nymo.org.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We will be in the hall from 9:30-11:30 each school week Tuesday! If you have care of a baby or pre-school child Tuesday mornings why not join our very friendly & fun group? We only charge £1 for an adult & however many children they bring & this includes snack & all activities!

Courses for Readers: The Bible Timeline course has started on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7.30 pm. on 13th October. All are welcome, but those who proclaim the Scriptures at Mass are particularly encouraged to take part. Please email to Fr Andrew for further details. It is not too late to join!

Love Christmas Campaign: The diocese is putting on an online workshop on Thursday 18th November, 7.30pm to explore a number of practical ways that we can reach out into our community, from outdoor cribs to bags of kindness, including the ecumenical Love Christmas Campaign. We will explore Ideas for every parish and school community to get involved. If you are interested in joining, please contact Fr. Andrew (priest@stgregory.org.uk)

Climate Change Conference, COP26: The destruction of our land, oceans and forests is threatening people's homes and their ability to earn a living. From October 31st to November 12th, governments from across the world meet to discuss how to tackle the climate emergency at COP26. It's vital for the Catholic community to demand that our leaders act now to protect our common home. Join CAFOD| on Tuesday 9th November at 7.00 pm to hear live from Glasgow. Neil Thorns, Head of Advocacy, Communication and Education and a Vatican representative from the Vatican delegation will present a webinar on the progress made at the COP26. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and listen to the latest discussions at the global United Nations summit about climate change and how countries are planning to tackle it. To register and for more information, visit: <https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/COP26-update>. The webinar will be recorded, and can be watched later.

Scripture Readings 31st October 2021, All Saints

Films about "apocalypses" can lead us to misunderstand the book of Revelation. "Apocalypse" really means "revealing". Cosmic battles are raging all about us: evil seems to triumph in our world, yet this revelation of Christ gives us confidence (hope) that He will save us. The previous chapter ended by describing the coming terrible day of judgement (Dies irae). But in this chapter there is a pause while the elect – the chosen ones – are sealed with God's mark to show they will be protected. Not only many from Israel but numberless people from all nations. Our liturgies on earth reflect and join those in heaven. The chapter ends with the hope faith gives those who repent: "The Lamb ... will lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes".

This liturgical Psalm gives the moral requirements for assisting at divine worship, while confirming the hope the just may have in God.

The reading from John's first letter emphasises that we are already God's children, but we must try to prepare for the greater joy still to come.

In Matthew's Gospel the beatitudes bring the Commandments up to date: positive actions, not just avoiding doing wrong, are necessary for us to be counted among the elect.

Psalm Response: **Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.**

(Rev 7:2-4,9-14; Ps 23(24):1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12)

Chris Oliver

A WEEKEND JOURNEY TO EMMAUS

Hosted by Mission Northampton

A heart warming journey with Jesus as he explains the Scriptures.

Saturday 27th November, 10.00 am–8.00 pm and

Sunday 28th November 10.00 am–4.00 pm:

a commitment to the whole weekend is essential.

Venue:

St. Thomas Centre, Northampton Cathedral, Primrose Hill, Kingsthorpe Rd, Northampton, NN2, 6AG.

Details of how to register & pay coming soon.

Please email your interest to: maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk to reserve your place.

New Expressions this week:

"Catholicism — The New Evangelisation"

Monday 1st November, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

and running for 4 weeks on Mondays at 2.00 pm

"The Catholic Faith is not about myths or legends, symbols or literary devices. It's about an encounter so overwhelming that you want to tell the whole world. It's an encounter with Jesus Christ. Throughout history the call of Christ has sent people to the corners of the earth with a message of great joy - a message that has built civilisations, inspired cultures & even sent some believers to prison & others to their graves.

We have the same call. That is evangelisation

A course by Bishop Robert Barron, delivered by Zoom!

This week is the first of two in which we examine new expressions of evangelisation, and this begins by recognising barriers to faith. The first that is examined is the reality that the 'god' whom many atheists reject is very different from the God that we worship. The second barrier is the apparent rejection of the spiritual dimension, although this is confused by a popular belief in horoscopes, 'garden angels' and the like.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for this month is 'that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel'. Each one of us can pray the words of the hymn: "O thou who camest from above, thy pure celestial fire to impart; kindle a flame of sacred love on the mean altar of my heart."

It will help us to become better disciples ourselves.

Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity

so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You,

who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen

November — Month of the Holy Souls

The month of November is traditionally associated with prayer for those who have died; coming as it does in the time of the year (in the northern hemisphere) with the season when plants die back; when the harvest has been gathered in and when days are shorter. Over the time of the pandemic we have lost many friends and relatives, and many families have suffered bereavements.

Throughout the year Mass is offered with the intention for people who have died, and all too often, we are asked for an anniversary

Mass at short notice, and are unable to offer the date requested.

Masses can be arranged for any date in 2022, and if there is a particular date on which you would like a Mass to be said, it is not too early to book it and secure the date. Simply contact Caryll in the office (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm) and arrange it with her. It is traditional to make an offering for the Mass; anciently the Mass offering was what fed the priest for the day, if you are looking for a guide to an appropriate offering!

St Gregory's next Alpha:

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which we are hoping will be able to be 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. It is good to have established believers as well as potential converts and those who simply want to know more about our faith. 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

First session:	21st September 2021: Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	28th September 2021 Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	5th October 2021 Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session	12th October 2021 How can I be sure of my faith?
Fifth Session	19th October 2021 Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session	9th November 2021 How does God guide us?
Seventh Session	16th November 2021 Why and how should I read the Bible?
Away-Day	19th -20th November 2021 Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session	23rd November 2021 How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session	30th November 2021 Why and how should we tell others?
Tenth Session	7th December 2021 What about the Church?
Eleventh Session	14th December 2021 What about the rest of my life?