



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.”**

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VISION

Inheritance and Legacy

According to Google, ‘inheritance’ and ‘legacy’ are synonyms, but they come from different origins, and offer slightly different aspects.

Inheritance derives from a Latin word ‘hereditas’, meaning a material or financial gift from a predecessor or parent, normally following their death.

Legacy comes from the Latin word ‘legatus’, meaning a deputy; someone who is given authority or responsibility by the person to whom that authority really belongs.

Today’s Gospel uses the word ‘inheritance’, and speaks of the material or financial estate of the person who has died.

We have heard a great deal about inheritance recently in relation to inheritance tax on farms which is causing a lot of upset. There is also a moral question regarding the injustice of some being born rich and others being born poor. These are bigger issues than can be addressed in a single page!

Legacy speaks of much more than the material and financial; it relates to everything that is left behind and not necessarily following a death. For example, each government leaves a legacy for its successor, good or bad. Likewise a retiring director of a business, or indeed, a retiring priest in a parish.

We all of us leave a legacy with everyone we have known, just as we all receive a legacy. Last week many people came out onto the streets of Birmingham to celebrate the legacy of the late Ozzy Osborne, in terms of the music he left, as too the day before the streets of London were lined to celebrate the Lionesses. They hope to leave a legacy of improved facilities for girls to play football in schools, and indeed, for improved sports facilities in general, but particularly for girls and women.

Most people have memories of school and particular teachers; that is the legacy of those teachers. When one of these former-pupils goes on to a successful career, that legacy is bearing fruit. It is in this that the daunting responsibility of the teacher is demonstrated.

No less daunting is the responsibility of the parent. In a negative sense this is shown so clearly in the children’s book by Roald Dahl made into a film and musical, ‘Matilda’. The eponymous heroine of this story found escape from her dreadful parents in reading; how much better if parents and children can spend quality time together, although the legacy of Harry Wormwood was not a good one.

Whether Roald Dahl drew the name ‘Wormwood’ from the Bible, where it is associated with bitterness (*see Lamentations 3:15*) and sorrow (*see Amos 5:7*), or from C. S. Lewis’ book, ‘The Screwtape Letters’ in which Wormwood is a junior tempter under instruction from his uncle Screwtape or indeed, directly from the plant of that name. (*Artemisia Absinthium*)

‘Wormwood’ also appears in the New Testament:

“The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter. (*Revelation 8:10-11*)

The context of this is a series of plagues that prepare the way for the Kingdom of God; they relate to the plagues that afflicted Egypt before the escape of the Israelites. The first of these plagues resulted in the destruction of vegetation, the second caused the creatures of the sea to die, and the wormwood caused the fresh water to become poisonous.

The fourth plague is one of darkness, and the final three lead us to the next part of the book, but just to look at the three plagues of chapter 8 have a stark similarity to present global trends.

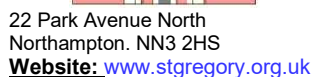
This is not to make any suggestion of the present fulfilment of any prophesy in the Book of Revelation; rather it is to recognise that Scripture does contain warnings to us, and that there is a legacy from *inaction* as well as from action. The process of climate change is causing the destruction of vegetation, aided by the felling of the rain forests and our pollution of the oceans is having an effect on marine life. It is hardly necessary to mention the present crisis in the water industry.

The legacy of this generation to the next will be the bill for the greed and inaction that we have shown in failing to keep our infrastructure adequate to keep pace with our increased population and energy requirements. Our ‘developed’ society has not developed the wisdom to realise that we have lived beyond our means for many decades, and the next generation will need to find a way to redress this, and it must not be done in such a way this it is the poorest who have to make the sacrifices so that the rich do not have to.

Within what is written here is contained some of what a shortly-to-retire priest might hope to leave as a legacy. Without any ranking in importance, a desire to find the hand of God in all things, a love for the Scriptures and a willingness to read and learn. It would be wonderful for the ‘Bible Timeline’ courses to restart and continue with many more people committed to the study of the Scriptures.

The implications of the Faith in relation to society, as shown in our support for CAFOD, Stella Maris, the Hope Centre, the Cathedral Foodstore are part of the legacy from previous times of the parish and have continued and grown over the past two decades. The work of Gregory Care in supporting the needy of our parish is vital.

The mission of the Church, globally through support for Missio, and locally through our Alpha programme are also essential.



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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.

To be Catholic means to desire the unity of all Christians according to the prayers of Jesus himself “that they may be one”. (*John 17:21*)

Notices of Interest

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. Any queries or volunteers please contact Kathleen on 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

Bible Alive for August is now available - only £3.00! If you wish to purchase a copy, they are in the narthex as you come into church.

Two Missals, of Great Sentimental Value, were left in the Church after the 9am Mass on 6th July. If anyone has seen them, please hand them in – there are items of great sentimental value inside them. Thank you!

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

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary – 2nd Collection
Next Week: Sr. Mary Sebastian Ogwuikwe will be talking to us next week regarding her order of Missionary Sisters of England & Wales to support the poor & marginalised. They work in different countries serving the homeless, destitute & vulnerable children & adults.

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!

Ceili Dancing: There is no dancing for the month of August. Dancing starts again on Wednesday 3rd September at 7.30pm & continues every first & third Wednesday of the month in the Parish hall. All welcome.

News From the Office: I will be on holiday from 16th August until 31st August (I know, how dare I!). If you know you are going to need something, please try to come in or phone before 15th August. Many thanks. *Caryll*

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!

Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (**next – 30th August**), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially the younger, more energetic ones!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be in the Sacristy, 7pm, on Monday 28th July. 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.

Choir Notes: next practices are from 11-12 on the 2nd Saturday of the month: Aug 9, Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8. *Alec*

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.

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.

6th June Picnic in the Park.

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

Year of Pilgrimage, Pilgrims of Hope.

We are delighted to be able to sponsor Smitha Robin on a Pilgrimage to Lourdes, working as a nurse on the Across bus, representing Gregory Care. *Across is a charity created specifically to provide transport and support to enable those with special care needs to go on pilgrimages to Lourdes.*

As part of this pilgrimage Smitha will be taking petitions and intentions of this Parish with her. We will soon have a box in Church for any petitions you would like praying for.

Please keep Smitha and her two teenage children (who are also making the pilgrimage as helpers) in your prayers.

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: The Hope Centre

From the Second Sunday in ordinary time to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday: Gregory Care

Through Lent and Eastertide: CAFOD

Ordinary Time until the end of August: Refreshment Fund

September until the Harvest collection: CAFOD

After harvest until the beginning of Advent: The Bible Society

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?	

Scripture Readings: 18th Sunday of the Year, 3rd August 2025

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 also will appear with him in 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

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.

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

In just 4 weeks we will be celebrating the 21st anniversary of the Consecration of St Gregory's Church. This is celebrated every year on the Sunday nearest to the Feast of St Gregory the Great, the actual day when, in 2004 Bishop Leo McCartie came and celebrated the consecration of the Church and the Altar.

We celebrate the anniversary of the Consecration on the nearest Sunday so that on the day itself we can celebrate our Patron, St Gregory the Great. The two celebrations are distinct, and we keep them separate so that both are given their due importance.

In the earliest days of the Church there were no buildings and the Church worshipped in the homes of families which were large enough to accommodate the congregation. There are a number of churches in Rome which began in this way. (Please notice the use of the capital 'C' to denote the Church as the community of faith, and the small 'c' to denote the building in which the Church meets for worship.)

Today few people live in houses large enough to accommodate the number of people attending Mass, and for this reason, churches were built. In the case of the 'house churches', the owner of the house gave his land to the Church for this purpose.

There was an additional reason for this which is that as well as providing space for the public worship of the Church, it also provided a safe place where Christians could come to pray privately, and as the Church came to understand the significance of the Blessed Sacrament not only as the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ to be received at Mass, but also as the abiding presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle, the ability to come and pray in church outside Mass was more valued.

In addition to this, the earliest Altars were the tombs of the martyrs, and the place of their mortal remains became special places of prayer; the origin of shrines and pilgrimage.

At the consecration St Gregory's, a relic of our Patron was sealed into the top of the Altar; in a real sense it is a shrine of our Patron.

A church has these two functions; in past ages churches were used in other ways as well. In many places the church was the only stone-built building in a village; it would serve as a community hall, and in times of adversity, as a place of safety from weather or from enemies. A tower would be a look-out as well as a place of defence.

The feast of St Gregory gives us the opportunity to give thanks for the life and example of our Patron and to ask his continued prayers and protection. His life and Papacy were very significant in the life and history of the Church and in many ways he laid the foundations for the medieval Church.

As our Patron, he is not just an historical figure, still less a name by which our church may be identified. He is our prayer-partner in heaven, and has a special care for all who belong to his parish here in Northampton. His name literally means 'one who watches over the flock', and where his statue is in the church, he watches over the congregation and holds us in prayer to God.

September will continue with the visit of the Bishop on the following Sunday, which is also the day of the Canonisation of Carlo Acutis, and a picture of the new saint will be blessed and placed in the church. As the first 'millennial saint, we hope he will be an encouragement to his generation.

At the end of the month, Fr Andrew enters into his retirement, and we welcome Fr Christopher Perry as new Parish Priest.

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ

The Institute was founded in 1937 by an Irish Missionary to Nigeria, Archbishop Charles Heerey, C.S.Sp

Our founder's concern for the status of women, the underprivileged, the sick, children, and for good Christian family life led to our foundation, and we dedicate ourselves to the special care of

children, educating the youth, care of the sick and underprivileged, family life, retreats and marriage counselling.

Wherever we serve and in whatever we do, IHM Sisters serve with cheerfulness and humility that comes from the heart; hence, we are affectionately called "The Smiling Nuns" or "The Blue Nuns."