



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

Daily Bread

During lockdown many people tried their hand at making bread, creating a daily loaf which was the work of their hands. People suddenly found they had time on their hands, because a good loaf takes time to prove and rise, and enjoyed the simple ‘magic’ where something as simple as flour and water, and little else, becomes something tasty and satisfying. The good baker knows that it is not complicated, you just need a daily routine which allows time so that the bread will be ready when you want it - when your hunger needs satisfying.

Two thousand years after Jesus taught us this simple request - to have basic food each day - we know that for many it remains a real prayer. Many people in our country have to turn to food banks to have access to something to feed them and their families. Many parishes have supported schemes to help those in need in the community so that they can have something to eat. This ‘daily bread’ is both a symbol and reality of the challenges which face us both locally and globally in terms of food production, climate change and economic systems and which often hit the poor and disadvantaged both globally and locally.

To highlight just one aspect Pope Francis writes in *Laudato Si* that ‘we know that approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and “whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor’ (*Laudato Si* §50).

The Lord’s Prayer begins with ‘our’ Father and continues here with give ‘us’. Jesus is not inviting us to make the personal prayer of an individual but to pray for ‘all, in solidarity with their needs and sufferings’ (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* §2829).



Indeed, at this point in the Lord’s Prayer it takes a turn. So far Jesus has taught us to offer praise to our Father, now we ask for something, we make petition, which is the pattern for the rest of the prayer. This two-part structure of praise and petition is why the Lord’s Prayer is called the model of prayer. It forms the pattern of many of the prayers in the liturgy, such as the Collects, where we offer praise to God for what he has done for us and then ask him to respond to our needs. This pattern can also form our own prayers.

At Mass we pray the Lord’s Prayer shortly before the distribution of Holy Communion. As the prayer of the baptised it is one of the signs of our communion which prepares us to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord but we also pray this petition ‘give us...’ as sign of our desire to receive. In the Eucharist, we know that we do not live on bread alone but the word of God - the Bread of Life we seek is ‘the Word of God accepted in faith, the Body of Christ received in the Eucharist’ (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* §2835).

The picture, reproduced from the ‘The Miracle of the Bread and Fish’ by Giovanni Lanfranco (1582 – 1647) is in the National Gallery of Ireland. The picture was originally painted for the Basilica of St Paul outside the Walls in Rome, 1620-1623.

Describe what you can see, what is happening?

What does this picture say about the generosity of God?

In the Eucharist, in Jesus himself, you receive the nourishment and grace to live out your vocation in the world. How might you live in this powerful reality?

Do you know about Northampton’s ‘Daily Bread’?

In 1980 a group from the Anglican parish of St Peter’s in Weston Favell set up a small business to reflect their Christian faith; a workers co-operative based on fair trade, selling good organic wholesome food, as much as possible sourced locally. They are based in the ‘Old Laundry’ on Bedford Road between the bottom of Cliftonville and the Barnes Meadow roundabout. All the coffee that

we serve in the hall comes from Daily Bread, and their shop is well worth a visit. On the same site is a small garden centre, a charity shop and a café. Daily Bread gives a proportion of its revenue to charity, supporting the Hope Centre and other local good causes. The work is underpinned by prayer and by a solid Christian commitment, exemplified in the name of the business.

Notices of Interest

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. There is a small display of St. Patrick's Day and Easter cards. Any queries or volunteers to 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

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

Easter Flowers: Envelopes are available for donations for flowers on the table in the narthex. If you wish your flowers to be in memory of a particular person, please write their name on the envelope. This will appear in the Easter newsletter.

Missio: The 2024 Spring magazines ("Mission Today") are available for those who support Missio's work in the Foreign Missions in the red box at the main entrance to the church (narthex) & are in alphabetical order of surnames. If you normally receive one of these please take your copy to save us delivering them. Spares available at the back of the pack for any who would like to join in this good work. Updates on the progress of the church in many areas of the world; news of the seminarians; the Holy Father's monthly intentions; details of 20 martyrs killed in 2023. Contacts: Dorothy (9:00 Mass), Alec (11:00 Mass) and the clergy.

Gregory Care Give something up for Lent! We will be holding a table top sale on **Saturday 13th April** in aid of Gregory Care. We are appealing for new or very good pre loved items to sell eg bric-a-brac, books, toys, clothes etc. Can you give something up for Lent to benefit someone else? We are not talking house clearance! But if everyone could donate something, maybe that you no longer need, we would love to relieve you of it. We will be gathering things together throughout Lent please place items in the box under the table at the back of Church.

Dates for your diary:-

Table top sale **Saturday 13th April**.

Parish Picnic in the Park **Sunday 23rd June**

More details to follow nearer the times.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 8th April at 7pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2023/4: All sessions are on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates, times have been given to all those who are registered.

Confirmation in 2024: There will be practical sessions through February & March, & then teaching sessions from April. Email to childrens.liturgy@stgregory.org.uk for further information.

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

Choir Notes: Practices for Holy Week: Saturday mornings in Lent 11-12:30: Mar 2, 9, 16, 23. Next will be 4 May. *Alec*

Readers' Rotas: The rotas for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers have been issued for the March to May period. Hard copies are available in the sacristy for those who want them

Tots @ St Gregory's: St Greg's Tiny Tots runs each Tuesday in term time from 9:30-11:30 in the church hall. We charge £1 per group which includes snacks & coffee! If you have care of a pre-school child, please join us!!

Teaching Opportunities: There are several teaching job opportunities available at Thomas Becket School. Please see the list in the Narthex, visit <https://www.thomasbecket.org.uk/vacancies>, or see the list held by Caryl in the office.

Urgent Appeal- SPUC: There is legislation before Parliament which would effectively remove any legal safeguards with regards to a woman procuring her own abortion at any stage of pregnancy, up until natural birth. Please write to your Member of Parliament asking them to vote against this amendment when it is presented to MP's (date not yet known). For further information or for assistance in framing your letter please contact William Currie on wpcurrie@btinternet.com or text to 07393965643. Thank you

Next Alpha will be after Easter

First session:	April 16th:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	April 23rd:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	April 30th:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	May 7th:	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session:	May 14th:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	May 21st:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session:	June 4th:	How does God guide us?
Away-Day:	June 8th:	Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session:	June 11th:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	June 18th:	Why and how should I tell others?
Tenth Session:	June 25th:	Does God heal today?
Eleventh Session:	July 2nd:	What about the Church?

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

Fire Safety – Important notice. Unlit candles **must not** be placed on the trays under the places for candles and candles must not be stacked one on top of another.

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Hall: 10am-12 pm.

You are invited to join pupils from the Northampton OLICAT Schools on their Lenten journey: Take time to be with Jesus to relive His suffering through the eyes of our young people in reflection, prayer and music. See poster for details.

Would you like to be a Youth Ministry Leader in the Lake

District? Castlerigg Manor (Diocese of Lancaster Retreat Centre) are looking for a Programme Leader to join their youth ministry team. The work involves working on retreats in the heart of the Lake District, and occasionally working on outreach visits around the area. The post is residential and comes with a salary package in the range of £26-28k, made up of paid salary, accommodation, food etc. Would suit somebody with youth ministry experience perhaps recently graduated. Interested – jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Diocesan Pilgrimages: There will be a coach for the Walsingham pilgrimage from St Gregory's on June 8th, and the Diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage will be from Friday 23rd August to Friday 30th August. Bookings for either or both will be available soon.

Bishop David is seeking experienced Directors/School Governors to represent his wishes on the Duns Scotus Trust – the diocesan body that has ultimate oversight of all diocesan schools and reports back to the Trustee. For an information pack or to discuss this volunteer position, please contact Debbie Main at debbie.main@northamptondiocese.org

Thursday Holy Hour & Adoration: Holy Hour remains as Holy Two Hours, from 9am until 11am. It is important that at least two people are present throughout the time of adoration. During cold weather, Adoration will be in the Hall.

Prayer for Peace for Ukraine and the Holy Land:

Please continue to pray for an end to wars, and for all victims of war:
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

Sunday 3rd March: The 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B

In Genesis God promised to shower blessings on Abraham and his descendants. Today Exodus spells out the people's part of the covenant. In the Law given to Moses on Sinai the Ten Commandments are followed by 10 chapters of detailed rules about behaviour and ritual. Meanwhile, back at the foot of the mountain, the people became bored, and built a golden calf to worship!

The Psalm praises God's moral law, underlining the irony of worshipping a golden calf: God's decrees "are more to be desired than gold".

Paul began his letter to the Corinthians by telling them to stop squabbling among themselves. They should not divide into opposing groups, saying "I belong to Paul" or "I belong to Apollos", and so on. They must follow only the crucified Christ, who brought the

Law of Moses to completion by his command to love one another. He demonstrated this love by dying on the Cross – "a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles".

In John's gospel Jesus cleanses the Temple at the beginning of his ministry, instead of towards the end, as in the other gospels. Jesus claims he will rebuild the Temple in three days, replacing it with himself and antagonising the Jewish leaders. From the start of John's gospel Jesus' death and resurrection are foreshadowed.

Psalm Response: **You, Lord have the message of eternal life.**

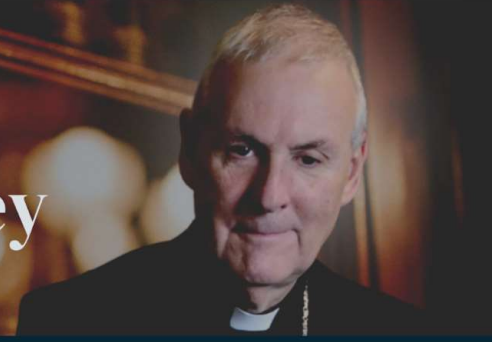
(Exodus 20: 1-17; Psalm 18(19); 1 Cor 1: 22-25; John 2: 13-25)

Chris Oliver



Bishop David Oakley

Bishop of Northampton



Bishop David writes:

There is something disturbing about today's Gospel. What sense can we make of the Lord's action, making a whip out of some cord, driving sellers out of the Temple and overturning the tables of religious commerce?

I am reminded of that moment when Jesus was an infant. Our Blessed Lady and St Joseph took him up to Jerusalem where he could be presented to the Lord in the Temple there. They offered a sacrifice to God in accordance with the Law, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. The Temple in Jerusalem was all about sacrifices to God; sacrifices of thanksgiving for blessings received, holocausts of desire for God's mercy for sins committed. There were various sacrifices for the many feasts celebrated by the children of Israel. The most important one being the sacrifice of a lamb for the Feast of the Passover.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus burned with compassion for all people. He came to establish God's reign, the Kingdom of God. This Kingdom is about life within a restored relationship with God after the Fall. Ultimately, Jesus himself would become the sacrificial lamb, the Lamb of God whose blood was poured out for us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

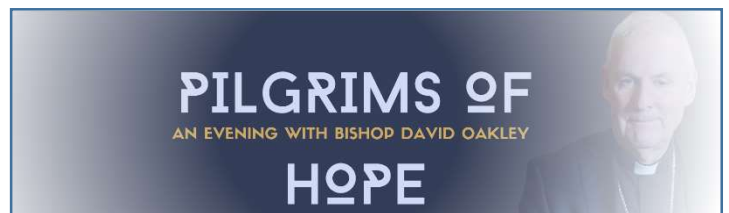
Jesus came to heal the sick, cast out demons, restore order to our broken world. This is what Jesus seeks to do today. He invites us to become his workers in the vineyard. We are to break down the walls of prejudice and division. We are to work tirelessly for justice and peace. It is only right that the followers of Jesus should share his Heart, on fire with desire for a better world.

I wonder what it would have been like, to be a disciple of Jesus in the Temple that day. Maybe we would be having second thoughts. Do I really want to be identified with someone who acts in that manner? Do I want to be associated with someone who is so clearly a source of concern to the authorities? How many of us prefer a more quiet life!

And yet we are baptised to make a difference in our world. And the Cross is part of what this difference is all about. Jesus tells us this himself. Unless we take up our cross and follow him, we cannot be his disciple.

I said earlier, there is something disturbing about today's Gospel moment. This speaks to what happens after this event too. The Gospel tells us, many came to believe in Jesus. They saw the miraculous signs for themselves. They were excited with what was happening. The Gospel suggests Jesus was looking for more. Are we disciples who are just looking for signs and wonders? During this time of Lent, there is an opportunity for us to deepen our lives of faith. Jesus sees our weakness and frailty. He also sees our desire to stay close to him. To stay the course, and the challenges we encounter as disciples of Jesus.

Bishop David



Bishop David will be coming to our parish on Monday September 9th to reflect on what it means to be a pilgrim of hope. He will answer questions from those present and pray together as a community. It will begin at 7.00 pm

You are invited to attend and invite those who wish to discover more of the beauty of our Catholic faith.

