



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 Season of Creation

Christians join the Psalmist in proclaiming the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. (Psalms 24:1) However, the current climate crisis is accelerating ecological instability, which results in the loss of habitats that are homes for millions of species, including humans whose homes are at risk due to climate conflict, loss and damage.

As people of faith, our baptismal call compels us to till and keep God's garden, and participate in the renewal of the whole inhabited Earth, so that life may flourish and all may have a just and sustainable home.

By focusing the subtheme on the concept of 'oikos', we hope to lift up the integral nature of the many relationships that hold the web of life together. Within the whole inhabited Earth (oikoumene), the Church (oikoumene) calls all households and societies (oikos) to turn our political, social and economic systems (oikonomia) towards just, sustainable economies of life, which respect the limits and life giving ecological boundaries (oikologia) of our common home.

('Oikos' is the Greek word meaning 'home' or 'a place to live in', appearing frequently in the Gospels.)

We hope that this Season of Creation renews our baptismal call to care and sustain an ecological turning so that life may flourish, and all creatures may find their place to flourish among our common home.

The Season of Creation will end tomorrow, 4th October, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. We celebrate St. Francis as a true revolutionary in the Church, someone whose example all of us can follow today.

As Pope Francis wrote in *Laudato Si'*: "I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically... He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace" (*Laudato Si'* 10).

Pope Francis says we are a single family living in a common home. It is widely accepted that we are in a climate crisis. This is a crisis that will affect each and every one of us. A crisis that is damaging our world. Our common home. God's creation.

The Coronavirus pandemic is pushing millions of people around the world into poverty and deepened inequality. The poorest and most vulnerable people in the world are also the ones who are being hit hardest by climate change. Harvests are failing. Cities are flooding. Entire communities are finding it harder and harder to survive in the place they call home.

But, in the face of this, all around the world, ordinary people like you and me are giving their all to protect our planet. Our common home. God's creation.

Ivanilde is a mother, a grandmother and a farmer. And, for the last 19 years, she's been on the frontline of the struggle to protect our common home.

She lives in a small patch of rainforest in one of the most heavily deforested regions of the Brazilian Amazon. Pope Francis has said that the health of our planet depends on the health of the Amazon – yet every year thousands of acres are deliberately burned so the land can be cleared for cattle ranching, or simply to be turned over to make a quick profit.

More than once, Ivanilde's home has been ravaged by fires started on land owned by wealthy cattle ranchers. She's felt the heat on her face and the sting of the smoke in her eyes as the flames destroyed her trees and crops. Trees she's planted herself and spent so long caring for – the trees whose fruits her family rely on to survive.

She's faced obstacles that could shake the spirits of the very bravest – but she has never given up.

With the help of local experts from our church network, she's replanted and restored her land. Thanks to donations like ours, expert human rights lawyers were able to stand alongside Ivanilde and her community through years of legal battles, to help them win their rights to stay, and protect the fragile piece of the Amazon they call home.

Ivanilde is not alone. All over the world, people are doing their bit to fight the worst effects of climate change. In Ethiopia, water experts are helping to build solar-powered pumps to help communities struggling with drought. In Bangladesh, local climate experts are helping people protect their homes and livelihoods from ever more devastating cyclones.

Through Ivanilde's resolute commitment to our common home, we can find hope. And, through your gifts, solidarity and prayer, our hope will be strengthened. May the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and 'renew the face of the earth'

Please be generous in supporting the CAFOD collection today

Notices of Interest

Choir Matters: The Choir excelled themselves at the Confirmation on Friday evening. A big 'Thank-you' to them, to Alec and to Rosemary. Alec says "I'm delighted by the addition of 3 new members to our choir. This has enhanced what the choir can offer, though Covid prevents the choir being at full strength. We now need a younger organist to counter dodgy eyesight & weak knees! Transition from keyboard to playing the organ is easy & brings fresh challenges; eventually you learn to use your feet too!"



We welcome into the family of the Church
Mattia Antonio Bursuc
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for him and his family.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass. We need a few more helpers prepared to stand for a few minutes after Mass – all stock is marked, so an easy task! A display of Confirmation cards and mementoes is on display. *Kathleen Healey (01604) 629103*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next preparation will be in the Sacristy on Mon. 18th October, 7pm. Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: Important amendment to time of meeting – see below: If you have a child in school years 3-6 who would like to make their First Holy Communion next summer, please make a note in your diary or on your calendar for **17th October, after the 12 noon Mass.** At this meeting, the programme for this year & the commitment to the programme will be explained & registration will take place. **It is essential that your child/children, & at least one parent attend this meeting.** The meeting will be held in the Church hall after 12 noon Mass & refreshments will be provided. We expect the meeting to be about an hour. If you have any questions please e-mail Stella Watts at swatts49@outlook.com and we will get back to you.

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.

News from the Foodstore! 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. Many Thanks, *Gregory Care.*

Zoom course on the Mass: Continuing on Tuesday evenings there is the Alpha course, and on Mondays there is a course entitled "A Biblical Walk through the Mass". There are two more sessions: Mondays, 4th and 11th October, starting at 7.30 pm. Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link

Youth Ministry Conference: Saturday, 9th Oct, NYMO will be holding their annual Youth Ministry Conference, at the NYMO Offices in Luton, 11.00 - 15:30. Conference is for youth ministers, catechists, volunteers, priests, deacons & anyone who is interested in the future of young people in the Church. Places limited, so if you wish to attend, book online at the NYMO website. Tickets are just £10 per person. For more information, see nymo.org/conference

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School: Reception in 2022: Parents' Open Morning, Monday 18th October 2021 10.00 a.m. We look forward to welcoming you to our lovely school! Join us for an information session and tour, to view our school and see learning in action!

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

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!

St Thomas Becket Catholic School: A new Head Teacher, Mr Paul McCahill, has been appointed for Thomas Becket School, here in Northampton. Tony Bishop, Strategic Executive Lead at the Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust said in a statement, "Paul is an ex-pupil of our school and is passionate about developing Catholic education in Northampton."

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

Bible Alive for October 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.

Parish Finances: Continued thanks for the wonderful generosity that you are showing to the parish, in the special collections, CAFOD, Missio, and gifts for the kitchen refurbishment.

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: Members of the Northampton branch of SPUC are starting a silent prayer vigil in the vicinity of the Northampton branch of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS), which is the main provider of abortion in Britain. The vigil will take place on Wednesday mornings between 10am & 12pm, St Giles Terrace. This BPAS office performed over 2000 abortions last year & BPAS is the main provider of late term abortions in this country. Please join us in praying for the victims of abortion... Mothers, Babies, Fathers and Families. "*See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.*" **Matthew 18:10** Further info. contact William 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.

Courses for Readers: The Bible Timeline course will start 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.

Up-cyclers: We have a few metal-framed chairs which have been in the Sacristy for some time, but whose upholstery has got damaged, and no longer comply with health and safety regulations, but could be up-cycled to make garden chairs. Maybe a winter project to be ready for next summer! This must be a better fate for them than to be taken to the tip. Free to a good home, or a suitable donation accepted!

Scripture Readings 3rd October 2021, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

In this second version of creation, since God has created man as social being like himself, he now creates woman, to support and join with him.

The psalm celebrates the blessings of children and family life.

Readings from the Letter to the Hebrews will take us up to the end of Ordinary Time. The most Jewish of the New Testament books, it has a rich theology of Christ's priesthood. Jesus is greater than the angels as God, but lower than the angels as man. Christ's priestly sacrifice, as man and as God's Son, renews once and for ever the covenant God has made with man.

As intermediaries, priests offer prayers and sacrifices to God on our behalf. Not seeking to change God's mind. Relationships are confirmed with celebratory meals and things of value sacrificed

by making them unusable. A wedding feast confirms our witness and support for the vows made by the married couple.

In Mark's Gospel Jesus continues teaching during his journey to Jerusalem. He insists on the full meaning of the Law, which Mark updates, applying it also to a Gentile woman divorcing her husband. The union of a man and a woman in a marriage made by God cannot be unmade. Children help us to recognise our utter dependence on God.

Psalm Response: **May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.**

(Gen 2:18-24; Ps 127(128); Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16)

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.**

Coming soon:

“Catholicism — The New Evangelisation”

**Starting on Monday 18th October, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
and running for 6 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 and even sent some believers to prison and others to their graves.

We have the same call. That is evangelisation

A course by Bishop Robert Barron, delivered by Zoom!

For those who have been Confirmed

The third part of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is entitled: “Life in Christ”, and begins with a quotation:

“Christian, recognize your dignity and, now that you share in God's own nature, do not return to your former base condition by sinning. Remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Never forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of the Kingdom of God.” (*Christmas sermon, between 442 and 461*)

The section of the Catechism that deals with Life in Christ goes from paragraph 1691 to 2557, and it can be seen as a life's work to read it and then put it into practice. It speaks of how we are called to a life of goodness, of how the human society should operate in peace and justice and how the teachings of the Bible and the Church support this. There is a great adventure ahead in discovering what this means specifically in your life. Enjoy!

Money Matters

It is well-known that gas prices are set to rise, and electricity will doubtless follow; this will affect the parish and the Church as a whole just as it will affect every home and business in the country. The diocese as a whole will be under increased financial pressure, and with the ending of the furlough scheme, the pressures are increased yet further.

The Diocese has no resources of its own. The cost of running the diocese can only come from the parishes, and each parish make a contribution to the central costs of the diocese. With the increase of legislation in areas such as health and safety, the central expenses have increased far above that of inflation. This means that parishes will have to make an increased contribution to diocesan costs — the rate of contributions has not increased for many years, but will need to in the near future.

This parish has run at a small surplus over the past years, but with higher contributions needed for the diocese, we, in common with every parish in the diocese, will need to look to increase our own income.

Many are giving with great generosity already, and many have made additional gifts to the church through lockdown. This appeal is not addressed to them, but to any who may have not changed their giving for some years.

Standing orders are a great way of giving to the Church, but can also remain unchanged in the face of inflation and changing prices and changing income. Our giving to the Church should be as determined as the rest of our discipleship, not from the left-overs but from the first-fruits, as a gift of thanksgiving to God from whom all good and all good things come.

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?