



Catholic Parish of
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

Happy Easter

*“One is nearer God’s Heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth”*

This from a poem by Dorothy Frances Gurney entitled “God’s Garden”. She was born into an influential family in the Church of England; her father was vicar of a London church; her grandfather and her uncle were both Anglican bishops. Her husband was ordained in the Church of England, but like so many at that time, became part of the ‘second spring’ as did G. K. Chesterton. Both Dorothy and Gerald were received into the Catholic Church in 1919. She is also the author of another well-known hymn, “O Perfect Love”, written for her sister’s wedding.

The final verse of ‘God’s Garden’ begins

*“For He broke it for us in a garden
under the olive trees”.*

‘He’ in the above lines refers to Christ, hence the capital ‘H’, and this speaks of the garden of Gethsemane, and Christ’s agony there and the heart-break of betrayal, but today we think of the garden where Mary Magdalen met Jesus, but failed to recognise him. Although all four Gospels tell us that Mary Magdalen was the first to find the empty tomb, and was the messenger to the Apostles with the news of the Resurrection, it is only John who tells us of this meeting between Jesus and Mary, when she does not recognise Jesus but supposes him to be the gardener; hence, we assume that we are in a garden. It was in this garden that new life sprang up from the behind the stone.

The Latin translation of John 20:17, with which renaissance artists would have been familiar is the title of the painting by Janssens van Nuyssen depicted here seems to show Jesus actually pushing Mary away, while she seeks to reach out to him. The Greek is better translated as “do not cling on to me”; this is because, as



Noli me tangere, by Abraham Janssens van Nuyssen (1575–1632)

Jesus explains, he has not yet ascended to the Father. The risen presence in physical form will only remain for forty days.

However, later that evening Jesus will show the disciples the manner in which he will be known until the end of time; in the breaking of bread. In this Sacrament, we do more than cling on to Jesus, we take him into our very self, to become one with him, and to live his life.

To return to the garden, it is in the garden at this time of year that we are made conscious of the manner of apparently dead plants returning to life. This is a pointer

to the resurrection of Jesus that we celebrate today, but the parallel must not be pushed too far. The new life of spring happens every year, just as we celebrate Easter every year. However, the actual death and resurrection of Jesus was a truly historical event. Our annual celebration is a celebration of something that has happened, and in fact, we make this celebration at every Mass, and every Sunday is a celebration of Easter.

The poem ‘God’ Garden’ begins in the Garden of Eden, where “there, in the cool of the even, God walked with the first of men.”

In the garden of the Resurrection, in the early morning, God in Christ walks again, and Mary Magdalen recognises him when he calls her by name. He then gives her an apostolic commission: “Go and tell”. She is sometimes known as the “Apostle to the Apostles”.

We too, like Mary Magdalen have a commission, an apostolate. We too are sent to “go and tell”. In fact, this is exactly what it means to be a “Missionary Disciple”.

**Please note: until the end of restrictions, there will be an
additional Sunday Mass at St Gregory’s at 12.00 noon.**

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for Easter is now available. The cost is £3.00. If you want to purchase a copy, they are near the hand-sanitiser in the narthex as you come into church.

Repository: If you wish to buy anything, please come to the Church between 9 and 10am & speak to a Steward who will show you what to do & where to go.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Thomas Talmacel
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for him and his family.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2021: The programme has started and is running through 'Loom', an on line platform used by many schools. Parents need to 'home-school' children. The programme is called "Growing Up Catholic", and there are 6 sessions preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by six sessions preparing for First Holy Communion. It is important that the first six sessions are completed by the end of the Easter holidays. Please email Stella at swatts49@outlook.com, for last-minute registration.

Confirmation: Yet again we are thrown into confusion! We await more information. This continues to be difficult!

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School is currently recruiting for a Breakfast Club Team Member and also a Lunchtime Supervisor (all details will be on the school website).

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

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

Tots @St Gregory's: As with other meetings, Tots has been cancelled until further notice.

Parish Finances: Thank you to everyone who has been so very generous during this lockdown. Our parish finances are reasonably stable. Your generosity is much appreciated!

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)

Being a Dynamic Catholic: Through Lent there are regular talks on the parish website and Facebook page based on a book entitled "Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" by Matthew Kelly. All these are still available on the parish website.

Financial Support for Self-Isolation: Please see the following article regarding financial help available for those who are self-isolating:

<https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/health/coronavirus/how-apply-self-isolation-financial-support-now-available-across-northamptonshire-3004756>

Masses and Covid security in Lockdown: It is of the greatest importance that the church is a place of safety from the COVID virus, & while clergy & stewards do all they can to have systems in place, there is a responsibility on everyone to adhere to government regulations & maintain the safety of **everyone** as well as themselves in church. While 'bubbles' & households may sit together, there should be at least 1 metre distance separating those not in the same 'bubble' or household & must wear masks. We are still allowed to come to Mass; this is in part because churches are safe places. It is up to us to keep the church safe.

Face masks: Wearing face masks is compulsory in churches & you should wear one if you can. Stewards are not responsible for policing this, but may remind you that this is the law.

Track and Trace: The government have now released their app to support track & trace & we have a QR code which can be scanned to record your presence at church. This is not obligatory, but should help in the important task of controlling the spread of the virus. As responsible members of society, we should comply with this request.



Narthex revamp

The map which has been in the narthex for many years was intended to be a reminder of the global nature of the Church, and that we have people at St Gregory's whose original home was far away from here. The plan is that on the boards either side of the door will be the message "Welcome" in the language of every place represented here. You may be asked to help!

The Prince of Wales has recorded the poem "God's Grandeur", to form part of the on-line Easter Meditation for Stonyhurst College. Gerard Manly Hopkins was a Jesuit, another of the 'second spring' converts to Catholicism, like Dorothy Frances Gurney, and Stonyhurst is a Jesuit college. Prince Charles has said that he wants to show support for Christians at Easter. The first four lines of the poem speak of the greatness of God, but then asks why people do not "reck" (heed) his "rod" (commands). The next four lines laments the state of the people of the world, "seared with trade". The final part of the poem affirms that nature itself proclaims God's grandeur.

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

Gerard Manly Hopkins

Scripture Readings 4th April 2021, Easter Sunday, Year B

In a vision in Acts Peter is told that all animals and birds are suitable for eating: the restrictions of the Jewish Law are ending. So he can enter the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. Peter's speech is interrupted by the Holy Spirit welcoming the Gentile community into the church. Peter realises that forgiveness of sins is offered to "everyone who believes" in Jesus' name.

The vigil reading from Paul sees our baptism as joining Christ in his tomb, to rise to a new life in Christ, freed from the slavery of sin.

The dramatic Passover Psalm thanks God for repeatedly coming to our rescue and saving us.

Paul's letter to the Colossians draws attention away from earthly marks of religion: having died to things on earth, they should focus

on the life to come when they "will appear with Christ in glory". The alternative reading refers to the feast of Unleavened Bread, which followed Passover.

In the three synoptic gospels three women discover the tomb empty and run to tell the apostles. But in John's gospel Mary of Magdala is alone. Finding the stone removed from the tomb, she runs to tell Peter. Peter goes in first and sees the empty burial cloths. When the other disciple goes in, he believes.

Psalm Response: **This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.**

Chris Oliver

Easter Flowers In Memory Of:

Mary Mavromatis	John & Julia Cahalane	Jeremiah Cahalane
Joan Palmer	Leslie Thompson	Dillane Family
Murray Family	Anita Grosso	Michael Chudley
Diana Chudley	Christopher Chudley	Glen Chudley
Tim & Eve Perkins	John Perkins	Rebecca Holt
Louise Whalley	Houghton Family	De Verteuil Family
George Walsh	Roger Salter	Malcolm Allen
Fred Jones	Percy Walton	Petrea
Kate Kenealy	Brian Woods	Verona
Dumitru	Maria	Maria
Ludovic	Nicolae	Maria
Mihai	Roseanne Ogbata's Family & Friends	
Annie & Arthur Eyles	Leann Hannelly	Mary Cashman
Michael Moore	Mick McCabe	Ben Duffy
Pamela	Evelyn Alfred	Derek Hodgkinson
Derek Rumsey	Brendan Moen	Louie Short
Marion Cave	Eddie & Julie Moriarty	Carlo Marchese
Caterina Bradshaw	Italia & Ben Jacobs	Antionietta Riseley
Stephen Goddard		

In Thanksgiving For:

All our Blessings	The Church staying open during lockdown
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Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti

Anyone who thinks that the only lesson to be learned was the need to improve what we were already doing, or to refine existing systems and regulations, is denying reality." *Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, §7*

"Global society is suffering from grave structural deficiencies that cannot be resolved by piecemeal solutions or quick fixes. Much needs to change, through fundamental reform and major renewal." Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, §179

"Each day offers US a new opportunity, a new possibility. We should not expect everything from those who govern us, for that would be childish. We

have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes." Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, §77

As Vaccinations bring us protection we need to renew our personal commitment to stopping climate change. Sacrifice! Reduce to one car per household (an electric one asap), stop flying unless essential, Walk, Cycle, Use public transport. Plant trees, Let your lawn grow longer, Do not concrete your garden for parking. Petition Government for action on climate change through CAFOD.



Why Alpha: Pope Francis has asked that every parish and every Catholic have a missionary heart. In 2019, over 5,600 Catholic parishes and organisations around the world ran Alpha with an estimated 310,000 participants.

"The Alpha experience is not only a means through which one finds true life, but also a way to share the good news of the Living Christ." *Cardinal Mark Ouellet, Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America*



SECOND COLLECTIONS 2021

28 th February	CAFOD (Lenten Fast Day 26 th Feb)
2 nd April	Good Friday Collection for the Holy Places
25 th April	Diocesan Priests' Training Fund
16 th May	Mass Media
20 th June	Day for Life
27 th June	Peter's Pence
11 th July	Apostleship of the Sea
19 th September	Home Mission Sunday
3 rd October	CAFOD (Harvest Fast Day 1 st October)
24 th October	Mission Sunday
7 th November	Bishop's Maintenance Fund
14 th November	Sick & Retired Priests' Fund

