



# 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

# Pilgrims of Hope

In preparation for the Jubilee Year of 2025, Pope Francis chose the theme of “Pilgrims of Hope” back in 2022, and wrote about it:

“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*. This will indeed be the case if we are capable of recovering a sense of universal fraternity and refuse to turn a blind eye to the tragedy of rampant poverty that prevents millions of men, women, young people and children from living in a manner worthy of our human dignity. Here I think in particular of the many refugees forced to abandon their native lands. May the voices of the poor be heard throughout this time of preparation for the Jubilee, which is meant to restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone. As the Bible teaches, “The Sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired servant and the sojourner who lives with you; for your cattle also, and for the beasts that are in your land, all its yield shall be for food” (*Leviticus 25:6-7*).

This was written as the world was beginning to recover from the COVID pandemic and before the Russian invasion of Ukraine and long before the attack on Israel last October, but yet these more recent events which had taken place since have vastly increased the need for our prayer for hope. He continues in this letter:

I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great “symphony” of prayer. Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him. Prayer, moreover, to thank God for the many gifts of his love for us and to praise his work in creation, which summons everyone to respect it and to take concrete and responsible steps to protect it. Prayer as the expression of a single “heart and soul” (cf. *Acts 4:32*), which then translates into solidarity and the sharing of our daily bread. Prayer that makes it possible for every man and woman in this world to turn to the one God and to reveal to him what lies hidden in the depths of their heart. Prayer as the royal road to holiness, which enables us to be contemplative even in the midst of activity. In a word, may it be an intense year of prayer in which hearts are opened to receive the outpouring of God’s grace and to make the “Our Father,” the prayer Jesus taught us, the life programme of each of his disciples.



## Hope and Optimism

Optimism is a happy way of looking at life: my glass is half full, not half empty. The optimist hopes that everything will end well, but has no plan to make that happy outcome to actually happen. A secular definition of hope includes a determination to make the happy outcome happen.

Christian Hope is one of the three ‘theological virtues’, which relate directly to God and are all intimately linked. The others are Faith and Charity (meaning love of God and love of neighbour). All three of these virtues prompt us to specific behaviour and actions. We are brought to worship and prayer through faith in God. Our prayer is not simply handing over all our cares to God; it is also listening to God telling us how to deal with those cares, worries and concerns. Our obedience to God drives us to acts of love and charity.

Thus hope and prayer are equally intimately linked. It is through prayer that we can see the fruition of our hope, whether that be the end of human tragedies on earth or the ultimate glory of heaven.

That is why this year of prayer is an important prelude to the Jubilee Year of 2025. In that jubilee we all recognise that we are pilgrims, and pilgrims are on a journey. Spiritually, the journey is mortal life and the destination (in hope) is heaven. Practically, we are on a journey of loving activity (love of God and of neighbour) to make in some way this world better for the least advantaged. We have a long way to go!

St Augustine tells us that “you will find no prayer that is not already contained in the Lord’s Prayer”. (*Letter to Proba*) Through Lent we will be exploring this with a resource prepared by the Bishops’ Conference entitled “We Dare to Say”.



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## 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Fifth Sunday of the Year Parish Mass Book - Year B Page 61

**Priest:**  
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015  
E-mail: [frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org)  
**Deacon:**  
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
E-mail: [mvf@btinternet.com](mailto:mvf@btinternet.com)  
**Parish Secretary:**  
Carylil Comley ☎ 713015  
Email: [parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org)  
**Safeguarding representative**  
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

.Sunday <i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass in Shona Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	Noel McDermott RIP The Parish
Monday St. Agatha	9.00 am	Mass	Valerie Hanson RIP
Tuesday St. Paul Miki & Cmpns	9.00 am	Mass	Mary Scully RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Mary Daniel RIP
Thursday Feria	9-11 am 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Mass	Rev. Br. Gearoid Barry RIP
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	John Delaney's Intentions
Saturday St. Scholastica	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	Christopher Williams RIP
Sunday <i>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Brendan Moen The Parish

**Your Offering to the Parish:**

Last Sunday's collection was £631.52. Thank you!

**Standing Order gifts to the Parish:**

Each week £580 is given through standing orders.

**Donations through the Diocese:**

An average of £90 is given each week.

**Gift Aid benefits to the parish:**

The value of Gift Aid averages £136 per week.

**Cleaners This Week:**

The Church is cleaned and sanitised on a regular basis.

**Counters this Week:**

CC & CP

**Readings for this Sunday** — see inside for details

**Job 7: 1-4, 6-7:**

*Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.*

**1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23:**

*I should be punished if I did not preach the Gospel.*

**Mark 1: 29-39:**

*He cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another.*

**Readings for next Sunday**

Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10: 31-11: 1; Mark 1: 40-45. (Page 63)

**During This Season**

Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; Racial Justice;

**of Ordinary Time, Winter.**

Victims of Trafficking; The Unemployed;

**We Are Asked to Pray For:**

The Sick & Their Carers.

### The Idea of the Jubilee

The origin of the 'Jubilee' is to be found in the Bible: after 49 years (7 x 7 years) you shall have the trumpet sounded loud to proclaim the Jubilee Year. (see *Leviticus 25:8-13*) The word 'jubilee' comes from Hebrew name of the rams horn trumpet, 'yobel'.

Jesus refers to the Jubilee as his 'manifesto', quoting Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord". (*Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 61:1-2*)

The tradition of the Christian Jubilee or 'Holy Year' began in 1300, called by Pope Boniface VIII. From 1470, the Jubilee was held every 25 years, although there have also been 'extra-ordinary' Holy Years to mark significant anniversaries or occasions, most recently the Year of Mercy in 2015.

Just as the original Jewish Jubilee was a year of forgiveness and liberation, so the Christian Jubilee is a celebration of forgiveness, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important part of this liberation.

The traditional pilgrimage venue was Rome, and each of the four Papal basilicas has a special door which is only opened in Holy Years, as a sign of entering a new phase in life after forgiveness. In 2015, recognising that the cost of getting to Rome was too much for many people, each diocese in the world was asked to have "doors of mercy" so that no one was prevented from participating in the Holy Year.

**Please Pray for the Sick:**


**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

Victoria O'Sullivan	Suzanne Munns
Mary George	Julia Mays
Maria Butler	Dennis Whitworthy
Sadie Goode	Cecil Priestley
Cecilia Melanaphy	Mary Smyth
Margaret Ruddy	Kathleen Moore
Valerie Hanson	Noel McDermott
Thomas Hughes	George Sharp
Hannah Moore	Sidney Stoker
Agnes Graham	Doris Kirk
John Homan	Mary Richards
Lee Ventour	Charlotte McAdam
Tony Burke	Carmela Cheeseman
Iris Bazeley	John Curley
James Campbell	Antonio Gambuti
Minnie Awara	Mary Jones
Helen Cawkwell	Mary Wright
Kitty Allen	Selina Gee
Charles Pallett	Sebina Hadley
John King	Wilfred Rook-Ley
Phyllis Robertson	Patricia Stenson
Patrick Malone	

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY:**

We pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment

# Notices of Interest

**Repository:** The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. We still need more helpers especially after 9am Mass. I want to express a huge thank you to the loyal band who make the whole enterprise possible! Any queries or volunteers to 01604 629103 or [Kath.healey.789@gmail.com](mailto: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. December is now sold out! There are, however, several small booklets of Walk with Me available for Advent. Please see the table in the Narthex.

**The Big Sleep Out** has now been slept! Siobhan & Lorna wish to thank everyone for their kind sponsorship & generosity. They will be collecting the sponsorship money after both Masses this weekend. If you can't pay this weekend, please give the money, with your name, to one of the Clergy! Many thanks Siobhan & Lorna.

**Diocesan Bible Study:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm, by Zoom on the Scripture Readings for the Sundays of Eastertide. The link will be sent to those who have previously attended, others are asked to email to Fr Andrew who will send it to you.

**Mission Northampton:** Weekly Zoom course entitled "Secrets of Paul", lasting 10 weeks on Wednesdays starting 10<sup>th</sup> Jan and running until 20<sup>th</sup> Mar (with a break for half-term on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb). There is a charge of £10 for the course - visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/secrets-of-paul-online/> to register.

**Church Cleaning:** Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (next - Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Feb), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially younger, more energetic ones!

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

**As we prepare for the Jubilee year** in 2025 as 'Pilgrims of Hope' you are invited to join our diocese on pilgrimage. There are plenty to choose from including the Shrines of Northern France in Oct. 24, Lourdes in Aug. 24, Walsingham in June 24 and Rome and Assisi in 2025. For more information on all of these pilgrimages and our diocesan walking pilgrimage, 'The Way of Our Lady of Guadalupe' visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/pilgrimage/>

**Light up Lent (29<sup>th</sup> Feb - 7<sup>th</sup> March)** is our diocesan Week of Accompanied Prayer, a retreat in everyday life. Begin or deepen your prayer life, get to know the Scriptures better, & above all, grow in faith & love for the Lord who loves you. With one-to-one support each day for a week, via Zoom, from an experienced prayer guide. Find out more here & at our introductory webinar on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 7:30-8:30pm. <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/event/lightuplent/>

**Bookings are open** for Lux 2024. For school years 7 to 13. Our theme this year is Dive. See the website for more information and to book: <https://nymo.org/lux-dive/>. If you have any questions then please email [info@nymo.org](mailto:info@nymo.org).

**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. Do you know anyone who has experience in business, finance or education? Would they have time to commit to three meetings per year? For an information pack or to discuss this volunteer position, please ask them to contact Debbie Main on 01634 953369 or email [debbie.main@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:debbie.main@northamptondiocese.org)

**The Diocese** are currently recruiting for a Pastoral Development Worker to help our pastoral areas & parishes identify mission & community needs & to work with local groups to discern & implement their local vision. The role will be 37.5 hours pw on a 3 year fixed term contract, involving weekend & evening work. For full information for the position & application form <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/>. Closing date for applications Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Interview dates to be confirmed. All candidates should complete an application form and email it to: [hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org)

**Help protect unborn babies-SPUC:** With attempts to decriminalise abortion in the UK & the Democratic Party in America making access to abortion a major election issue, attacks on unborn babies have never been as numerous or pernicious. Now is a vital time for pro-lifers to fight for the rights of unborn children & as Catholics we have a moral duty to act in this regard. Please consider joining a pro-life organisation such as the SPUC. SPUC is the oldest pro-life organisation in the world & does invaluable work in Parliament & education & offers support for women suffering from post-abortion trauma. YOU are being called to help us make abortion unthinkable. For more details contact William Currie on [wpcurrie@btinternet.com](mailto:wpcurrie@btinternet.com) or 07393965643 (text)

**Choir Notes:** The next practices will be on Saturday mornings of Lent, 11-12:30: Feb 17 and 24; Mar 2, 9, 16, 23 as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. After that it will be May 4. *Alec*

**The Secrets of St Paul:** A 10 week course on Zoom run by Mission Northampton, starting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and running until Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 7.30-9.00 pm. (Break for Ash Wednesday & half term: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February). Book at: <https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/secrets-of-paul-online>

**Cathedral Foodstore:** Our continued thanks to all who donate to the toiletries for the Foodstore. Please remember that the Foodstore is open to everyone who may be experiencing hardship. Food can be purchased at substantially reduced prices (as it now operates as a food larder) All that is required is a form of ID and a genuine reason for needing to use the larder. It operates between 10:15 - 12:15 every Thursday in the St Thomas Centre (behind the Cathedral).

**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!!

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next session will be on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 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:** 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](mailto:childrens.liturgy@stgregory.org.uk) for further information.

## Refreshment Donations:

Below is the schedule for refreshment donations through the year:  
From the first Sunday in Advent The Hope Centre  
to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:

<b>From the Second Sunday in ordinary time</b>	<b>Gregory Care</b>
<b>to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:</b>	
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

**Household Support Fund:** West Northants Council have received further funding from Dept. of Work & Pensions to support eligible residents until 31 Mar 24. Support available for West Northants residents earning less than £450 per week. Anyone who is eligible should visit <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/claiming-benefits/household-support-fund>

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> February: The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year, Year B

In this Wisdom Book the blameless Job laments his sufferings at great length. The Lord allowed Satan to afflict Job any way he chose except death. Today's reading describes the drudgery that many people see in their lives, with only death to look forward to. Job refuses to curse God, but challenges God to say what he has done to deserve these sufferings. Then he accepts that "I have dealt with great things that ... I cannot know". But Job's challenge is not answered.

The Psalm sings the praises of God who restored Israel to Jerusalem after their exile, and who sustains the needy.

Our readings from Paul's letter to the Corinthians have omitted a long argument that Christians should not behave in a way that might be a stumbling block to others. Today Paul gives an example: he

does not claim justifiable payments for spreading the gospel in case people doubt his motives – and so doubt the gospel message.

In Mark's gospel the demoniac was healed by word, now Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law by touch – well enough for her to get supper immediately. Jesus heals many more, but again the demons are not allowed to say who Jesus is – Jesus cannot be understood until the Cross demonstrates God's infinitely merciful love for mankind.

Psalm Response:

**Praise the Lord  
who heals the broken-hearted.**

(Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; Psalm 146(147):1-6; 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23; Mark 1: 29-39)

*Chris Oliver*

## 10 Days until Ash Wednesday!

Easter falls quite early this year; Ash Wednesday is on 14<sup>th</sup> February. The day before is Shrove Tuesday ('Mardi Gras'), a day for 'Carnival' (literally, 'good bye to meat' before Lent), probably a more suitable day for 'Valentines' celebrations: pancakes and red roses!

### Friday Stations of the Cross

16 <sup>th</sup> February	St Gregory's
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	St Matthew's
1 <sup>st</sup> March	St Gregory's
8 <sup>th</sup> March	St Matthew's
15 <sup>th</sup> March	St Gregory's
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	St Matthew's

Among the Lent activities, there will be Station of the Cross, shared with St Matthew's on Friday evenings at 7.30.

There will also be Stations of the Cross each Sunday at 2.30 pm in St Gregory's.

There will be other Lent resources, particularly on prayer which will be announced soon.

### PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED DATES

**Donorbox:** St. Gregory's has now signed up with Donorbox to enable people to make donations to the Church via a QR code. This is a safe & easy way of making a one-off donation without having to have cash on you!

If you have a smartphone, just point your camera at the QR code, click the link & the site will see you through the donation process. There is a larger version of this QR code in the Narthex area and in the hall for refreshment donations!



In May 2008, Jimmy Mizen, a 16 year old boy from South London, walked into a local bakery with his older brother. After a few minutes somebody else entered the bakery. Jake was known to the brothers as he had been cautioned by the police years earlier for harassing the older brother and on this occasion brushed past the brothers which resulted in a scuffle. During the scuffle, Jake hurled a glass dish at Jimmy and the result was fatal.

Immediately following the incident in the bakery, Jimmy's parents, Margaret and Barry spoke to the media with a message of peace and compassion and not revenge. Jake is now serving a life sentence for the murder of Jimmy Mizen and Margaret and Barry have travelled the country sharing their message of forgiveness and compassion.

Margaret says,

"For me forgiveness is about not wanting revenge and not being angry"

This message of love has been shared with thousands of young people and adults over the last 15 years. They began the 'Mizen foundation' to help young people across the UK become those changemakers for peace we know they can be and, in the process, go on to help to make our streets and our communities so much safer for everyone.

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Margaret and Barry Mizen will visit the St Thomas Centre at Northampton Cathedral to share their incredible story

## PILGRIMS OF HOPE

AN EVENING WITH BISHOP DAVID OAKLEY

### WHAT IS THE PILGRIMS OF HOPE TOUR?

Throughout 2024 we are asked to prepare for the Jubilee year 2025, by hosting a 'year of prayer'.

As part of this year of prayer, Bishop David Oakley will be coming to our parish on Monday September 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**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.