



The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



20 ✠ C ✠ M ✠ B ✠ 26

Christ bless this parish! Christ bless our homes!

Dear brothers and sisters,

HAPPY CHRISTMASTIDE!

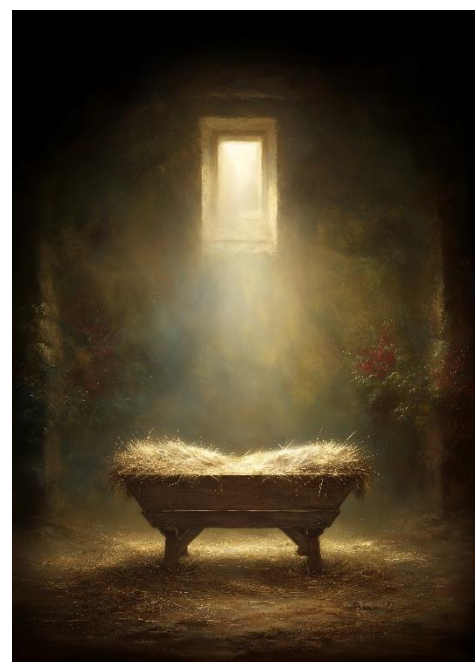
As so many have written before: we profess that God became man and lived among us. Jesus walked this earth and He breathed our air so that He might die on the Cross to redeem us. It is this pilgrimage of God to be alongside us that brings us **eternal redemption**.

In a few days we shall hear how the Magi finished their pilgrimage to see the Child Christ at the home of Mary and Joseph. What motivated them to leave the comfort and security of their family? What inspired them to undertake a journey to a distant land? They believed something momentous had happened, that the Saviour had been born, and this was confirmed by an unusually bright star rising in the night sky. The Wise Men brought the Christ gifts: **Gold for a King. Frankincense for a Priest. Myrrh for a corpse.**

As Christians we too are on a mysterious expedition! The Kings were guided by the Star of Bethlehem until they found the home of Mary and Joseph. **So where are we to find the Christ today?** In the same place the Magi found Him: in Bethlehem, which in Hebrew means "The House of Bread", so we shall find Him in the celebration of the Mass when the Scriptures are proclaimed and the Eucharistic Sacrifice is offered.

Jesus is always to be found and thus heard and seen at Mass; yes, even when offered in our Primary School!

This year, unable to be in St Gregory's Church for the Mass of the Epiphany, **we shall be fellow travellers with the Magi**, as we journey to participate in the Eucharistic Sacrifice in the parishes of Northampton and beyond. As we do so, let us hold each other in prayer, and most especially as we see the Eucharistic Christ lifted up above the Altar, for us to adore; just as the Wise Men adored the Christ Child. Let each of us also remember that Christmas is a **holy pilgrimage** of great joy with blessings that last for **several weeks!**



Dcn Michael,
Fr Wayne,
Canon Bennie
and Fr Tony
join me saying:

**Happy
New Year
of Our
Lord
2026!**

**Canon
Christopher**

*Artwork by
SilentFaithArt
(etsy store)*

22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS
Website: www.staregory.org.uk

4th January AD 2026
The Second Sunday of Christmas
CTS New Sunday Missal
Year A, Page 116

Parish Priest:
Canon Christopher Perry ☎ 713015
E-mail: frchristopher.perry@northamptondiocese.org

Deacon: Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com

Priest in Residence:
Fr Wayne Coughlin ☎ 713015
frwayne.coughlin@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Secretary: Caryll Comley ☎ 713015
Email: parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org

Safeguarding Representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

Please Pray for the Sick:

[illegible]

Some Joyful News: Whilst our focus is ensuring that we can return to St Gregory's Church as soon as possible, two smaller projects remain underway! These are covering the sanctuary platform and ambo in new carpet called: "Gilded Chalice" and the creation of a tabernacle veil, ambo fall and lectern falls in "All Seasons" fabric:



“The birds have a symbolic significance; they are the mediators between Heaven and Earth and in early Christian art they signified

saved souls. The elegantly decorated urn, a container for oils and perfumes, signifies Mary Magdalene, one of the most popular of Christian saints and consequently much depicted in Christian art. Amongst the many flowers in the design, it is possible to distinguish the Blue Iris, a floral symbol of the Virgin Mary and the Thistle, a symbol of the Passion of Jesus Christ and the sufferings of the Christian martyrs. Finally, the grapevine symbolises abundant life and the grapes, the Eucharist.”

Please contact Fr Wayne for more details.

<p>Sunday, 4th January</p> <p><i>2nd Sunday after the Nativity (Page 116)</i></p>	<p>Saint Gregory's Catholic School</p>	<p>HOLY MASS</p>	<p>INTENTIONS: 9.00 am Sarah & Ana Holloway's Intentions</p> <p>11.00 am The Parish</p>
<p>Sunday, 11th January</p> <p><i>The Baptism of the Lord (Page 129)</i></p>	<p>Saint Gregory's Catholic School</p>	<p>HOLY MASS</p>	<p>INTENTIONS: 9.00 am Dinah Keane RIP</p> <p>11.00 am The Parish</p>

Supporting Your Parish: 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; this is much simpler if you give by standing order.

Gregory Care - Next dates for your diary:

28th February: Table-Top Sale
9th May: Fun Day (Headlands celebration)
6th June: Picnic in the Park
We hope as many people as possible will

The 'Fire Fund': Thank you to everyone who supported this with donations of any size.

The Giving Tree: Thank you for your very generous support of this important project.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of: Margaret Farragher & Bridie Walsh.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of: All departed parishioners of 2025.

St Michael the Archangel, defend us in this day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust down into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

The Parish Litany:

Our Lady of Walsingham: **Pray for us!**
 St Joseph: **Pray for us!**
 Pope St Gregory the Great: **Pray for us!**
 St Thomas of Canterbury: **Pray for us!**
 All saints and angels of God: **Pray for us!**

The Divine Assistance Prayer:

**May the divine assistance remain with us always,
and may the souls of the faithful departed, +
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen**

Right To Life UK: Last year was one of the most challenging and busiest years ever for the UK pro-life movement. Thanks to your support there has been a strong response in Parliament, the media and the public. Visit righttolife.org.uk/2025 for details.

The Prayer of the Faithful:

After each intention that is vocalised by the Deacon in the Intercessions at Mass there is a short pause while the faithful pray. Therefore, the Deacon leads us in the Intercessions, but we do the praying!



Over the coming months look out for details regarding the founding of the '**Confraternity of the Holy House, Corby**' in our parish. Life Membership is just £5 to cover the cost of the lovely enamel badge and prayer card.

Thank you! Fr Christopher and Fr Wayne offer their sincere appreciation for the great generosity that was shown to them via the Christmas Eve/Day collections and extend their gratitude for the cards and gifts they received in honour of Jesus' Nativity.

Blessed chalk will be available after Holy Mass this weekend so that you might bless your home in this the New Year of Our Lord 2026. The blessed chalk is used to mark the year (20 - 26), the initials of the three Magi (C - M - B), whose names are Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, and the Lord's holy Cross (✠) over the main door of your home as a sign of His blessing, i.e. **20 ✠ C ✠ M ✠ B ✠ 26**. The initials of the Magi represent, in Latin, the blessing:

Christus mansionem benedicat

Christ bless this house.

This is a beautiful act of Faith and very often it will encourage questions from visitors to our homes.

St John Henry Newman prayed:

“May each Christmas, as it comes, find us more and more like Him, who at this time became a little child for our sake, more simple-minded, more humble, more holy, more affectionate, more resigned, more happy, more full of God.” **Amen!**

The Epiphany (Tuesday, 6th January): This solemnity celebrates the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child at the Home of Mary and Joseph and is a Holy Day of Obligation; please consult the newsletters of other parishes for the times of Mass.

2025 Jubilee Year: Called ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ this concludes on the Epiphany: Tues., 6th January.

Next Jubilee Year: 2033 will be of exceptional significance for the Christian community and the entire world. This extraordinary year will mark the two thousandth anniversary of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the foundation of our Catholic Faith. This will be a unique Jubilee, characterised by profound spiritual celebrations and a renewed commitment to the values of peace, reconciliation and solidarity.

Small bottles of Holy Water will be available to take home after Mass on Sunday, 11th January as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord; this is the final day of the Christmas season. This Holy Water can be used to bless one's home, the grave of a loved one, etc. but is not for drinking.



Marking the sixtieth anniversary of the **Second Vatican Council's** decree on the Sacred Priesthood, Pope Leo's Apostolic Letter “*A*

fidelity that generates the future” aims for a **more profound understanding of the training, ministry and role of Priests**. Please pray that all Priests will make time for a proper rest over the coming weeks.

The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham
Called to the Fullness of Life and Love

A new religious community dedicated to Our Lady of Walsingham offering talks, parish missions, retreat days, accompaniment and more, both in Norfolk and around the country. Retreats, both personal and guided are also available at their convent in Dereham, located thirty minutes from Walsingham and with good public transport links to Norwich.

Mary's House Appeal
Help us to establish a place of prayer and service in Walsingham, our spiritual home.
Please support as we raise funds for the purchase of a mission house in Walsingham as our community continues to grow, visit the website to find out more.
Any donation you can give is appreciated!

| office@walsinghamcommunity.org |
| www.maryshouseappeal.org | 01362 692574 |

*For our young people to colour-in
as we celebrate The Epiphany!*



The wise men came to the house where the child was with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened the boxes of gifts they had brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So, they went home to their own country a different way. *Matthew 2:11-13*

Let us recall the Pope's desire that we pray that all the children of the world will live in peace.