



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

Holy Mathematics?

Today the Church celebrates the Holy Trinity — the very being of God himself. The description of the Trinity defies our understanding of mathematics and in a sense challenges our basic human conception of numbers.

This leads us to an important area for the Church in relation to our mission to the world.

After the voyage of Christopher Columbus the powerful nations of Europe began an era of colonisation, which was accompanied by missionary activity. Many of the missionaries went as part of the colonising military expeditions and, in effect, forced conversion on the native population. The process had the effect of wiping out the original culture and replacing it with a replica of European culture. The Church benefitted from the protection of the colonising army; the army used the mission of the Church as a (dubious) justification for their (frequently brutal and immoral) behaviour. Today the Church is properly called to account for this activity.

However, this was not the only model of missionary activity, and last week in his weekly audience, Pope Francis drew our attention to the Jesuit mission to China, and particularly spoke of the Venerable Matteo Ricci, whose cause for beatification is ongoing. He followed a different model of missionary activity, known as “*il modo soave*”, the gentle way.

He began by learning the Chinese language and understanding their culture. He studied their literature, history and religious understanding, and was able to enter into dialogue with the Chinese scholars of his day.

He always followed the way of dialogue and friendship with all the people he encountered, and this opened many doors to him for the proclamation of the Christian faith. His first work in Chinese was indeed a treatise *On friendship*, which had great resonance.

His objective was to ‘get inside’ the culture and implant a Christian heart into it. An example of this can be seen in the famous speech of St Paul in Athens:

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human

hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way towards him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ (*Acts 17:22-31*)

As well as his knowledge of Chinese culture and language, he was also well educated in science, and able to speak with the Chinese scientists, adding to their knowledge while also increasing his own.

His excellent scientific knowledge stirred interest and admiration on the part of cultured men, starting from his famous map of the entire world as it was known at the time, with the different continents, which revealed to the Chinese for the first time a reality outside China far more extensive than they had thought. He showed them that the world was even larger than China, and they understood, because they were intelligent. But the mathematical and astronomical knowledge of Ricci and his missionary followers also contributed to a fruitful encounter between the culture and science of the West and the East, which went on to experience one of its happiest times, characterized by dialogue and friendship. Indeed, Matteo Ricci’s work would never have been possible without the collaboration of his great Chinese friends, such as the famous “Doctor Paul” (Xu Guangqi) and “Doctor Leon” (Li Zhizao).

There are those today who (mistakenly) believe that science and religion are diametrically opposed to each other. In recent years there are some who have made a living out of supporting this view. The Church needs to be better able to explain with charity that the Church has, down the ages, embraced scientific research while seeking always to underpin that research with a God-centred understanding.

Current reporting of the potential dangers of artificial intelligence, the possibility that the Covid virus was originally developed in a laboratory and the whole area of ‘life sciences’ are just three of many issues in which religion and science should be co-operating. The example of Matteo Ricci’s mission should inspire us all.

Unattributed indented paragraphs are quoted from the Papal Audience of 31st May 2023



4th June 2023
The Most Holy Trinity
Parish Mass Book - Year A
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Priest:
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org
Deacon:
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com
Parish Secretary:
Caryll Comley ☎ 713015
Email: parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org
Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

Sunday <i>The Most Holy Trinity</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 1.30 pm 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass in Shona Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	The Parish Lynne Culshaw RIP
Monday St. Boniface	9.00 am	Mass	Pat Lydon RIP
Tuesday St. Norbert	9.00 am	Mass	John Brooklyn O'Brien RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Malcolm Allen RIP
Thursday Feria	9-11.00 am 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Mass	 Michael McDonagh
Friday St. Columba	9.00 am	Mass	Hugh McLoughlin RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	Thanksgiving
Sunday <i>Corpus Christi</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	The Parish Margaret Preston

- Your Offering to the Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £364.55. Thank you!
- Standing Order gifts to the Parish:** Each week £590 is given through standing orders.
- Donations through the Diocese:** An average of £116 is given each week.
- Gift Aid benefits to the parish:** The value of Gift Aid averages £136 per week.
- CAFOD Lenten Collection:** CAFOD Lenten Collection was £1465.78. Thank you!
- Second Collection This Week:** Cathedral Healing Garden
- Cleaners This Week:** The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.
- Counters this Week:** CC & LA

Readings for this Sunday (Readers 9am:Rayner Willnecker & Kathleen Fisher: 11am: Frances Nyaley)
Exodus 34: 4-6, 8-9:— see inside for details *Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion.*
2 Corinthians 13: 11-3: *The Grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.*
John 3: 16-18: *God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved.*

Readings for next Sunday (Readers 9am: Catherine Mulligan & Joel Varghese, 11am: Ngozi Osude)
Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14-16; 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17; John 6:51-58. (Page 28)

During this season Human Life; Seafarers; Europe;
of Ordinary Time, Summer Victims of Persecution or Oppression;
We Are Asked to Pray For Christian/Jewish Relations; The Environment.

The Healing Garden behind the Cathedral



Please Pray for the Sick:

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Mary Cummings	Ursula Humphries
Pauline O'Shea	Frank Knight
Maria Niblock	Edward Tranter
Hilda Adames	Keith Pullen
William Murphy	Gertrude Cutler
Esther Manley	Elizabeth McEwen
Hugh McLoughlin	Mary Slaughter
Timothy Costello	Mary McHale
Kathleen Riley	Vera Rice
Peter Solonski	Dorothy McCarthy
Beryl Gilchrist	Anna Wilson
William Bray	Norman Stephenson
Giuseppe Petrella	Derek O'Toole
Jake O'Driscoll	Kathleen Golding
Edith Withey	Marthe Perrin
Ana Pavia	Beryl Elodred
John Eyre	Ciro Sautto
Margaret Cox	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JUNE:
We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

Notices of Interest

Car Park Safety: Please remember that Parents/Carers are responsible for children in their charge whilst using the car park. Neither the Parish nor the Diocese are responsible for the safety of persons (adults or children), cars or their contents while in the car-park.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Natalia Maria Wlodarczyk
And Olivia Dominika Wlodarczyk
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for them and their families.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass wherever possible! We need more helpers prepared to stand for a few minutes after Mass - all stock is marked, so an easy task!
There is now a small display of items for 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation. *Contact Kath.healey.789@gmail.com.*

Bible Alive for June 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.

The Letter to the Romans: From Sunday 18th June, the second reading at Sunday Mass is from the Letter to the Romans, and there will be an on-line Bible Study run by the Diocese on Wednesday evening, 14th June at 7.30 pm. Please email Fr Andrew for the link which will be sent nearer the time.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham: 10th June 2023:



A coach will leave from St. Gregory's at 8am on Saturday 10th June, leaving Walsingham at about 5.00pm. **Cost £25 per person (payable in advance).** I understand that this is considerably more than in previous years, but the cost of coach hire has also increased dramatically. To book, please speak to Caryll in the Office, or add your details to the list in the Lobby area and see one of the Clergy to pay.

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 Church, from 10am-12pm.

The Diocesan Assembly: The second preparation session is this Wednesday, June 7th in church at 7pm.

Thursday Holy Hour & Adoration: Holy Hour is now Holy Two Hours, from 9am until 11am. This will continue while there are sufficient numbers to sustain it, and remains in the Sacristy for the time being.

Choir notes: The next choir practice is after evening Mass on Thursday 29 June, the Holy Day feast of St Peter and St Paul. *Alec*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 26th June in the Sacristy at 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Enrolment for 2024 will be in the autumn; please watch this newsletter for information nearer the time.

Confirmation in 2023: Those interested in Confirmation preparation should have spoken to Helen and will know the plan for the coming months.

Commissioning Extra-ordinary Minister's of the Eucharist:

There is a Holy Hour at the Cathedral on Sunday June 4th at 3.00 pm for Eucharistic Ministers and will include commissioning, alternatively there will be commissioning at both Masses at St Gregory's on Sunday 11th June, the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Fire Safety — Important notice. Some years ago in response to instructions relating to the fire risk associated with votive candles, we had trays made to go under the racks where the candles burned to prevent the possibility of a naked flame falling on unlit candles below. Unlit candles **MUST NOT** be placed on these trays in any circumstances & must not be stacked one on top of another. This has been happening in recent weeks, and must not continue.

URGENT NOTE ON FINANCES

Many people transferred to Standing Orders with their bank through lockdown, and it is this that has kept the parish finances stable through that very difficult time. For this we are deeply grateful. However, it appears that Gift Aid declarations in many cases have not followed those standing orders. This does not require new Gift Aid declarations, **but please can any who have transferred to standing orders and pay income tax please contact Fr Andrew (preferably by email) so that their Gift Aid can be linked to their donation.** Claims can only be made for up to three years, so there is some urgency about this.

Can you help? Gregory Care are in the process of tidying up a family garden in the Eastfield area. We are looking for someone who might help dig over a small vegetable plot to help the lady start to grow some of her own food. It would only take a couple of hours and is a 'one off job'.

If anyone could help please speak to one of the Gregory Care team or text message us (number below) and we'll get back to you

Food Parcels: Please contact Gregory Care (07434 669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

Parish Finances: Much 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)**

Tots @ St Gregory's: Next Tuesday (6th June), weather permitting, we will meet near the cafe in the park. There is no charge & a snack will be provided but bring drinks! Phone Jean on 07980866516 if uncertain.

Caritas Northampton: The following items are needed for local families with young children:

Double bed and mattresses x 2
Wardrobe, chest of drawers, table and chairs. If anyone has anything to donate could they please call Caritas on 01604 434362 to arrange collection.

Orchestral Pops: Northampton Concert Orchestra is presenting 'Orchestral Pops' with soloist Lincoln Noel (Piano) to include orchestral arrangements of music by Abba, Burt Bacharach, the Beatles, Paul Simon, Freddie Mercury & Andrew Lloyd Webber on Friday 9th June, 7.30pm at the Northampton Cathedral Centre, Primrose Hill, NN2 6AG. Tickets £10 at the door. See poster for full details.

Alpha in the Autumn: The sessions will start in September, and although evenings will be light then, by the time it finishes it will be the first week in December, and many are less happy about coming out, so this will be an 'on-line' course through Zoom. However, so that those on the course can meet face-to-face, there will be a welcome session the week before the official start, on Tuesday 12th September in the Hall at 7.15 pm. There will be fuller details soon.

Assembly Insight

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them"
(Ephesians 2:10)

Prayer for Ukraine:

Please continue to pray for an end to the war in Ukraine:
**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**

Scripture Readings 4th June 2023, Holy Trinity Year A

Seeing the Israelites dancing round the golden calf, Moses was angry and had thrown down and broken the tablets on which the Lord had written his covenant. The agreement with God was literally broken!

Now the Lord, a God of compassion, tells Moses to prepare two more tablets. After "passing before" Moses, the Lord declares that He is "a God merciful, ... forgiving iniquity". Moses asks the Lord to forgive his people, and the Lord re-affirms his covenant and again writes the Commandments on stone tablets.

Today's psalm comes from the hymn of thanks in the story of Daniel, set in the 6th century BC but probably written about 165 BC. Daniel's three companions refused to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's statue and so were thrown into a furnace so hot their guards were killed. But God protected the three men, who

walked about inside the furnace with their clothes intact but their rope bindings burned off.

After Paul's stern instructions to his beloved Corinthians, his second letter ends with this fond farewell, including the Trinitarian grace used widely by Christians.

At the beginning of John's Gospel, after the wedding at Cana and the cleansing of the Temple, Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be "born again". Nicodemus cannot understand this, but Jesus insists that those who refuse to believe and trust in Jesus condemn themselves.

Psalm Response: **To you glory and praise for evermore.**

(Ex 34:4-6,8-9; Dan 3:52-56; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18)

Chris Oliver

The Ministry of Welcome — Our 'One Step Challenge'

We all appreciate being made welcome, and are also very conscious if at any time we are made to feel unwelcome. The mission of the Church is greatly enhanced when visitors and newcomers are made to feel welcome; all too often we can be very welcoming to the people we know, but ignore those we don't, if we are only friendly to our friends.

The diocese ran an online course, and we can watch it, it is in two sessions, the first will be on Wednesday 21st June, the second on 28th June, 11.00 am in the Sacristy or at 7.30 pm. by Zoom. There is no commitment implied in coming to this course.

Alpha returns this week after school half-term

The next Alpha session will be on June 6th, and will look at the way in which God continues the healing ministry of Jesus in the Church today.

We think of healing as related to illness, whether it be physical or mental, but there is also a need for a healing of broken relationships, both personal, institutional, national and international.

We pray for healing at all of these levels; much of the recorded life of Jesus was spent in healing. We (the Church) are called to be the present life of Jesus here on earth, filled with his Spirit, fed by his life, and our love, care and support can bring healing, as too can medical science, which is another way in which God is working.

First session:	March 14th 2023:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	March 21st 2023:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	March 28th 2023	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	April 18th 2023:	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session:	April 25th 2023:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	May 2nd 2023:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session:	May 9th 2023:	How does God guide us?
Away-Day:	May 12th/13th 2023	Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session:	May 16th 2023:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	May 23rd 2023:	Why and how should I tell others?
Tenth Session:	June 6th 2023:	Does God heal today?
Eleventh Session:	June 13th 2023:	What about the Church?

Special Collection today for the Healing Garden

The tragic reality of abuse is a stain on our human condition, and victims of abuse carry the consequences of what they have suffered for decades; frequently for life. That some have suffered abuse through the Church brings that stain very close to home.

What makes that stain even worse is the appalling manner in which victims have been treated, and the loudest cry from victims is often simply to be listened to and to be believed. In the Catholic Church we are trying to respond to the needs of victims in a variety of ways and new structures are being put in place which should ensure that throughout England and Wales (the jurisdiction of our Bishops' Conference) there is a common standard which offers the best possible care.

In our diocese, and following a suggestion from survivors of abuse, a Healing Garden has been constructed as a place of sanctuary for survivors of abuse and all those in need of healing, whatever the cause of that abuse. A place which we hope will provide a relaxing and peaceful setting to spend time, experience quietness and contemplation, to help improve well-being and reduce isolation.

Although the Healing Garden was opened in May 2022, it remains an ongoing development – a garden is never complete – which mirrors our diocesan commitment to listening and responding compassionately to those with lived experience of abuse and its impact. There will be a special collection for this today.

CALLED & EQUIPPED

A year-long programme, offering a foundation in Catholic teaching and a journey of faith formation. It is for anyone active in parish life or coming into ministry.

There will be two information webinars about the course on 14th and 17th June at 7.30 pm

Visit www.pastoralministryoffice.org/called/

Rayner Willnecker has recently completed this programme, and would be happy to talk to anyone who might be interested in enrolling for the coming year.

Gregory Care

Support for refugees

We continue to work with local churches supporting refugees and thank you to those who have donated things through us in the past. We are now looking for:-

Suitcases, wool and knitting needles and children's bikes and helmets.

The wool and needles can be left in the Gregory Care box however if you have a bike you would like to donate please speak to one of the team so we can arrange collection and delivery.

Thank you.

Gregory Care ☎ 07434 669011