



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

Eighteen Years Ago

We are celebrating the event eighteen years ago when Bishop Leo McCartie came to dedicate our church 50th years after its original opening and blessing. It was on February 11th 1954 that Bishop Leo Parker opened and blessed St Gregory's, but not dedicated. This is because the act of dedication sets aside the building permanently, This cannot be assured if there is still a debt on the church. Although the debt had been paid off well before 2004, the church had never been formally dedicated, and the Golden Jubilee was a good time for this.



Looking at the crosses in the walls of the church, we may be reminded of the cross that was signed on us at the time of our own Baptism, Our Baptismal cross is not visible to others except by our way of life;

Our Christian life is not a 'bolt-on' addition to our everyday life, any more than the crosses in the walls of the church are bolt-on accessories. Just as the church walls are etched with the sign of the Cross, so our life must be indelibly marked with the sign of the Cross, shining out in our daily life.

One of the ways in which a dedicated church can be recognised is the sign of crosses and candles on the walls of the church. It is possible to buy crosses and candle sconces ready made which can be screwed onto the walls, but this could seem to make dedication a 'bolt-on' addition to the building rather than something which could not be unscrewed; in other words, to reflect the permanent nature of the dedication.

Also, the previous year the church had been re-wired, and the old light fittings, which were iron hoops hanging high up were removed and replaced with fittings attached to the walls, making the changing of bulbs less hazardous. The iron of the hoops was re-cycled into the brackets for the candles which were made by Mr Hugh Billingham from Thomas Becket Catholic School. The design was based on that of the two sconces in the sanctuary.

The Dedication Mass begins with the sprinkling of the walls and people with Holy Water, and the crosses and candles represent two further parts of the dedication ceremony. Each of the crosses is anointed with Chrism; the Holy Oil that is used in Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination. The candles are then lit. This sequence follows the Baptism liturgy, in which water is poured, the candidate is anointed with Chrism, and then given a lighted candle.

The church needs caring for and maintaining, just as our Christian life needs maintaining. For the church, the nourishment that it needs is in things like paint and cleaning materials; for our Christian life the first need is for the life of Christ Himself; given in the Eucharist. This is our most fundamental feeding. We also need the light of Christ to be shining upon us and within us, and this comes from the Holy Spirit.

We need to be hearing the Word of God in Holy Scripture, and taking this to heart. We hear this Word at every liturgy in the church, and we need to spend time letting this Word take root in our souls.

In many ways the Dedication of the Church has a parallel in our own Baptism and life of faith, and the dedication of the church is also the dedication of the people of the Church. [Notice that the church building has a small 'c' while the Church, the community of faith has a large 'C'.]

For many of us, our Baptism may have been many more than eighteen years ago; for others, more recently. But our celebration today can be seen as a celebration of our own personal dedication to God. May the Cross be deeply etched in our heart and life, and may the Light of Christ shine out through our life of goodness and love.



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

4th September 2022
Feast of the Dedication
of the Church
Parish Mass Book - Year C
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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 ☎ 621807

Sunday <i>Feast of the Dedication of the Church</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Fr. James Marks RIP The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Canon Dom Eric Phillips
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am 11.30 am	Mass Funeral Service	Derek Rumsey Eric Bray RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Vera Curley
Thursday Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9-10 am 7.00 pm	Holy Hour of Adoration Mass	Barry Kirby
Friday St. Peter Claver	9.00 am	Mass	Barbara Murray RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	Brendan Moen
Sunday <i>24th Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Ian & Tina Kennedy The Parish

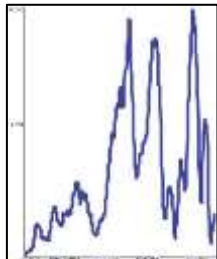
Normal opening times: Due to the relaxation in restrictions, the Church will be open every day from 8.45 am until 5.00 pm, except on Thursdays when it remains open until 7.45 pm

Your Offering to the Parish:	Last Sunday's collection was £385.07. Thank you!
Standing Order gifts to the Parish:	Each week £486 is given through standing orders.
Donations through the Diocese:	An average of £77 is given each week.
Gift Aid benefits to the parish:	The value of Gift Aid averages £88 per week
Second Collection Last Week:	Society of Mary £449.34. Thank you!
Second Collection Next Week:	For CACOD and the Disasters Emergency Appeal for Pakistan
Cleaners This Week:	The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.
Counters this Week:	CC & MM

Readings for this Sunday (Readers 9am: Richard Heron & Lorna Heron; 11am: Frances Nyaley)
Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12: *I saw a stream of water coming from the Temple.*
1 Corinthians 3: 9-11, 16-17: *You are the temple of God.*
John 2: 13-22: *He was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body.*

Readings for next Sunday (Readers 9am: Joel Varghese & Colin Sheehan, 11am: Nithin Lukose)
Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14; 1 Timothy 1: 12-17; Luke 15: 1-32. (Page 74)

During this season Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest;
Of Ordinary Time, Autumn. The Spread of the Gospel; Victims of War;
We are asked to pray for: Prisoners & their Families; Children & Young People.



COVID numbers very volatile

Last week numbers were falling, this week they are growing again. With no free testing, accurate measurements are impossible. **However, on the basis of safety, we ask that everyone continues to be cautious.** Refreshments will be offered after both Masses, but please remain cautious. Please, everyone, think of the well-being of others. Please remember that if you are ill or caring for an infant or someone who is ill, there is no obligation to do what is impossible! Please pray for all who are suffering with Covid.

If you feel unwell, DO NOT COME

Toiletries Collection — Urgent appeal

Studies have shown that when poverty strikes, hygiene is one of the first areas in which people stop buying. Thank you for your continuing generous response last week — please keep it up!

Please Pray for the Sick:

Debbie	Jean O'Neill
Fr Philip Swingle	Khanh Phan
Michael Spowart	Matt Murphy
Owen	Deacon Rory
Peter Phillips	Aileen Hasdell
Margaret Farragher	Katy
May Murtagh	Sr. Margaret
Betty McKee	Teresa Redmond
Catherine Stratten	Mary Morgan
Leo Bell	Maureen Bell
Michael Rowback	Margaret M
Marion Gilbert	Bridget Devane
May Cramphorn	Andrew Stewart
David Pick	Liam Murphy
Margaret Vaughan	Virginia Thomas
Peter Frost	Colin Smith
Jim O'Connor	Sheila Frost
Paul Gilbert	Sheila Dowling
Eileen Flanagan	John Hodges
Alyssia Wraxall	Bridie Walsh
Doris Jones	Jayne Miller
Gery McGuinness	Elsie Smith
Frances Taylor	Florence Dunn
Glynis Garibaldi	Donald Green
Maire West	Theresa
Diana George	Alex Zaloga
Sandra Coughlan	Margaret Refoy
Michael Woolmore	Kathleen Eyre
Peter Cawley	

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Margaret Currid	Alfred Lack
Norman Jepsum	Mary Oliver
Doreen Moyles	Clare Gilbert
Anthony Cotton	Doris Gallati
Derek Rumsey	Rev. Fr. James Marks
Canon Dom Eric Phillips	John McKernan
Lucia Gambuti	Michael Ginnelly
Ben Jacobs	Kathleen Costello
Thomas McKinney	Stephen Cahill
Francis Phelan	Bill Frost
Margaret Lynch	Baby Andrinaviciyus
Maud Clarke	Thomas English
Audrey Teare	Margaret McCarthy
Bridget Hughes	John Ansell
Jean Van Arsdel	Viola Spring
Frederick Darby	Rosina Lombardi
Pantalina Dias	Patricia Flanagan
Michael Dillane	Rosa Cabassi
Jane Roberts	Gertrude Clarke
Walter Faulkner-Dunkley	Walter Barwell
Mary Kelliher	Barbara Latham
Norah Freeman	Molly Cave
Nicholas Bamforth	Ashley Merlit
Johanna O'Dwyer	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER:

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for September 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.



We welcome into the family of the Church
William Finning Queuedo,
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for him and his family.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass. We need more helpers prepared to stand for a few minutes after Mass – all stock is marked, so an easy task!
Contact Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

The God who Speaks: The ‘Year of the Word’ of 2020 was interrupted by the lockdown, but the Diocesan Bible Study sessions for the Sunday Mass readings are continuing. The next session will be on Wednesday 7th September starting at 7.30 pm on Zoom: access to the link will be available soon. There will also be a session on ‘Preparing for Advent and Christmas’ on 23rd November and in January there will be an introduction to the Year of Matthew (Year A in the lectionary)

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 26th September at 7.00 pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Please watch this space for information. The programme will take a similar form to last year, in which a parent/carer will take a primary position in the teaching. The feedback from this system has been very encouraging.

Confirmation in 2023: Please watch this space for information.

Our Lady's Birthday (Thursday 8th September): There will be the usual 9.30am Mass at the Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on Wednesday 7th. There will be an additional Mass at 10.30am at Our Lady's Shrine, Great Billing on that Wednesday. This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will continue until the 9.30am Mass at Great Billing on the Thursday. Sign-up sheets for the Exposition will be available at the back of both Churches.

Our Top Priority: “The Church exists to evangelise”. This is the message from Pope St Paul VI, and has been reaffirmed by every Pope since. This applies to every parish, & our main parish evangelistic work is through Alpha. Our next Alpha will be needing help in various departments: you may be specifically asked! Please remember that both Pope Francis & Bishop David are telling us that we must be ‘Missionary Disciples’ & that we must be ‘permanently in a state of Mission’. Your parish needs you; your Diocese needs you; your Church needs you.

Choir Matters: Pilgrimage Mass: this is a new & exciting Mass setting by Teresa Brown. It is already in use at 9am & I hope to introduce it at 11am starting this Sunday & during the rest of August. I hope you soon pick it up & are able to join in: remember what one of the Saints said – “the one who sings prays twice”. *Alec*

Vocations to Priesthood: Vocations weekends are planned three times a year. These are weekends for men who are discerning priesthood. You may be in the very early stages of discernment & don't worry - you don't have to sign anything! You can take your time & meet priests who can share more about this incredible life. Priesthood is a gift to our diocese, & we would love to connect with you as you continue your journey with God. At any point you can contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Andy Richardson – (01582 502400) or vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org.

Food Parcels: Please contact Gregory Care (07434669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

Pakistan Emergency Appeal: CAFOD, as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee are appealing for money to relieve the flooding in Pakistan. We are living in times where weather events which have not been seen while records have been kept are occurring very frequently. There will be a special collection for this next Sunday.

Lepra: A letter of thanks has been received from Lepra for our donation of 164.17. It is to the credit of our parish that we do support outside agencies working for the relief of suffering and poverty as well as our missionary support. Many thanks.

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

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)**

Money Matters: As a church, we do not come under the fuel price cap, and it is not yet certain by how much our bills will increase. We hope not to need heating for as long as possible. The church heating has to be on for two hours before it even begins to warm up, so not running it for weekday Mass is a way of making a considerable saving. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, & if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We have had a great year and our last session was on Tuesday 19th July; we re-start on Tuesday 6th September!!

Thomas Becket Catholic School is happy to invite prospective parents/students to their open evening on Thursday 22nd September 22 from 5pm. Talks will take place in the auditorium at 5.30pm and 6.30pm. Please see the invitation cards at the back of the Church to book your place.

Refreshment Donations: Below is the schedule for refreshment donations through the year:

From the first Sunday in Advent to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:	The Hope Centre
From the Second Sunday in ordinary time to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:	Gregory Care
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

Prayers 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 September: The Anniversary of the Consecration of the church

Ezekiel was deported to Babylon with the Jews in 598 BC. He explained the fall of Jerusalem and destruction of the temple as God's punishment for his people, and predicted a new day and a new temple for Israel. Today we hear about the extensive supply of life-giving water that will pour from this new temple, the source of God's blessing. An ample supply of water would obviously be an enormous benefit in this dry land, and even make the Dead Sea fresh enough for fish.

The psalm is a hymn of victory: we trust in the Lord, he will protect us in his city.

The Jews believed God dwelt in the temple in Jerusalem. But, writing from Ephesus around AD 54, Paul tells the Corinthians that "you are God's sanctuary" since "God's Spirit dwells in you". They are being built into "God's holy temple". They should stop quarrelling among themselves and be a community united in

loving service. Sowing dissension damages God's temple and will be punished.

Near the beginning of John's gospel, after the disciples are chosen and the marriage at Cana, Jesus proclaims his mission by cleansing the Jerusalem temple. The temple had become a business, in which those in religious authority profited from the spiritual needs of the people. His Father's house should not be misused: trade and power have no place in it.

Psalm Response: **The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place where the Most High dwells.**

(Ezek 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 45(46):2-3,5-6,8-9; 1 Cor 3:9-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22)

Chris Oliver

Alpha in the Autumn

Each time we run the Alpha Course there are more people who speak of how much they have enjoyed it, and how it has deepened their faith and understanding of what life in Christ actually means. Please think about coming on the next one!

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which is 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. 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

Many people have found this valuable for themselves, but this is also an easy way for anyone to fulfil the wish of Pope Francis that we all become Missionary Disciples. Just come and bring a friend!

First session:	September 20th 2022:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	September 27th 2022:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	October 4th 2022:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	October 11th 2022:	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session:	October 18th 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	October 25th 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session:	November 8th 2022:	How does God guide us?
Away-Day:	November 11th - 12th:	Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
Eighth Session:	November 15th 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	November 22nd 2022:	Why and how should I tell others?
Tenth Session:	November 29th 2022:	Does God heal today?
Eleventh Session:	December 6th 2022:	What about the Church?

Adult Faith Formation - Autumn

On Wednesday 7th September there will be a Diocesan presentation on the Letters to Timothy which will be read on Sundays from 11th September to 23rd October. This will be on Zoom; please email to Fr Andrew for the link.

Starting on Wednesday 28th September, a course of the Psalms will begin. It is sub-titled "The School of Prayer", with the invitation to 'learn to pray like Christ'. We read a passage of the Psalms at every Mass, and the prayer of the Church, used by every priest, deacon and religious involved praying from the Psalms several times every day. As they appear in the printed Bible, they can be difficult to understand, but they formed the heart of the prayer-life of Judaism, and therefore, of Jesus, and have been the backbone of prayer in the Church from the earliest days. Jesus quoted from the Psalms as he hangs on the Cross (*Matthew 27:46*); St Peter quoted from the Psalms (*Acts 1:20*); the Holy Spirit inspired them, Israel sang them, Jesus would have heard them from his earliest childhood, as prayed by Our Lady. Within the Psalms we find every human condition; joy, sorrow, fear, doubt. We find prayers of pilgrimage, prayers in suffering and lament and we find prayers of praise and thanksgiving. This course will run on most Wednesdays from 28th September, but there will be a few breaks; on 23rd November there is the next in the Diocesan presentations on the Scriptures inviting us to look at the

readings through Advent and Christmastide. 2nd November is All Soul's Day, and there will be an evening Mass, and 5th October there is another meeting which Fr Andrew needs to be at.

After Christmas there will be a new course starting: "What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith". This is from the Ascension Press.

Discover the Amazing Riches of the Catholic Faith

What is the Catholic Church all about? What does it mean to be Catholic? What do Catholics actually believe?

The Catholic Church is extraordinary. Founded by Christ himself, the Catholic Church is where we encounter God in his Word, his sacraments, and his saints. The Church faithfully proclaims the fullness of faith, leaving no truth out. It proclaims the fullness of life, leaving no person out. It calls all to repent and to believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the source of all life and salvation.

Maybe you've been Catholic your entire life. Maybe you're just beginning to explore the Catholic Faith. Wherever you may be in your journey, you will be profoundly moved by the beauty and the richness of the Catholic Church.