



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

Mass — but not as we know it!

Actually, that is not true – the Mass is the same, but there will be differences

Limited capacity

Our building usually seats 300. However, during Corona Time our capacity will be very limited indeed - roughly 50 - 60 people depending on whether most come as individuals or as family groups. This is to allow space for safe distancing. If the church reaches 'COVID capacity' we'll offer the option of hearing the Mass from the garden; otherwise we have to say "come back later", which might mean coming on a different day (maybe a week-day).

No obligation

The restoration of public Mass does not bring with it the obligation to attend – which is good, because we won't be able to fit everyone in. So 'going' to Mass online or attending a weekday Mass is absolutely fine at this present time. Those who are shielding and any who feel unwell should not come, and those who are vulnerable may feel safer at home.

Mass online will continue

Mass will continue to be made available online and on Facebook. Each day's Mass will be posted, but this cannot happen until after the Mass is celebrated.

Safe distancing

The '1 metre plus' rule allows us to accommodate more people than we previously thought possible, but capacity will still be very limited. One metre is the equivalent of leaving two empty chairs or one empty row between persons not in the same household or 'bubble'.

Entry and Exit

Entry will be via the main doors (except for wheelchair-users and buggy-pushers). Exit is by the side door.

Face Coverings may be worn at Mass

As we are applying the '1 metre plus' distancing rule, with the 'mitigation' that people are sitting side-by-side, not facing each other. However, if you feel happier wearing a face covering over the mouth and nose, please do so.

Singing

Due to the increased range of infected droplets while singing takes place, we have been instructed that there is to be no singing during Mass. Music will continue at the 'online only' Saturday 6 pm Mass, which can of course be attended on catch-up the next day.

Tea and coffee after Mass

After Mass, while of course you are welcome to stay for prayer, otherwise leave by the side door. No refreshments yet!

Short and simple

As a large gathering is currently a high-risk environment, it's important to minimise the time we spend celebrating Mass – so Mass will be short. 'Every cloud...' you might be thinking, but some will miss the singing, ritual, and of course the homily. Mass will take around 30 minutes – but don't get too used to that, because it won't be like this for ever! (The homily will be available on-line as a separate recording)

Stewarding

At weekend Masses we will deploy a team of stewards. In order to maximise capacity within safe distancing guidelines, the stewards may ask you to sit in a specific place.

Cleaning

The church will need to be cleaned after every celebration of Mass – and we will need volunteers!

Holy Communion during Mass

Holy Communion will be distributed in the normal way, but with some small changes.

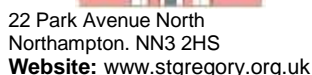
- At the invitation to Communion, the priest will say: "The Body of Christ", to which everyone replies: "Amen".
- Only come out to Communion one row at a time, and keep a safe distance from others.
- The minister will not speak – and nor will you!
- The minister will wash their hands before and after Holy Communion, and also in cases of accidental finger contact.
- Holy Communion will only be available on the hand (not the tongue).
- Holy Communion will only be available as the Body of Christ – the Blood of Christ will still not be available.

The Collection

The collection bags will not be passed around. Instead there will be an exit collection by the door. However, we encourage everyone who can to donate by standing order or direct bank payment – as this minimises cash handling. However, we're also grateful for every bit of money we get right now!

Problems

This will not be an entirely problem-free exercise. Things will go wrong, there's bound to be tears, and it may be that you are not able to go the Mass you intended. Please to be patient - it'll take 2 -3 weekends to tweak and bed down the new arrangements. Things may well change again — who knows!



Each day, Mass will be celebrated in church, but the times will not be the same as usual, and numbers limited. Mass will continue to be available on the Parish website, and on the parish Facebook page (StGregsNorthampton).

Your Offering To The Parish:
Standing Order gifts to the Parish:
Gift Aid benefits to the parish:
Cleaners This Week:

Offerings will be published when figures are known.
Each week £390 is given through standing orders.
The value of Gift Aid averages £133 per week.
There is no Church cleaning at the moment.

See now, your king comes humbly to you.

If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live

I am gentle and humble in heart.

Isaiah 55: 10-11; Romans 8: 18-23; Matthew 13: 1-23. (Page 53)

Human Life: Seafarers:

Victims of Persecution/Oppression:

Europe: Christian/Jewish Relations.

Are you new to the Parish? You are welcome!
Please introduce yourself to the Clergy
In hospital? Let the Chaplaincy know on 01604 714556
If you are in need, please ring Gregory Care on 07982 235379. Someone will respond as soon as possible. Please be patient.

Weekday morning Mass times will continue to be different, this is a clear indication that things have not returned to 'normal'. It is important that we all play our part in preventing the spread of the virus, and social distancing', hand-washing and general hygiene are the best ways we as individuals and as a Church community can do this.

The obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Mass is lifted and those who are shielding and those who feel unwell (whether with 'official' CoVid-19 symptoms or not) should not attend Mass. Those who feel vulnerable (whether officially so or not) should also not attend. The on-line Mass cannot be made available until after it has been celebrated, most days this will be by midday, but not on Thursdays (or Monday this week).

Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015

E-mail: priest@stgregory.org.uk

Deacons:

Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750

E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com

Pastoral Assistant:

Maria Heath

E-mail: maria.heath@vahoo.co.uk

[illegible]

May they Rest in Peace

Clara Johnson	Maureen McGrath
Vincent Crowley	Frank Staples
Maria Ortuno-Piera	Michael O'Brien
Ellen Baxendale	Maria Hriatyszyn
John Kingston	Christine Edmunds
Helen Cooke	Michael Cawkwell
Dennis Stanton	Regina Savalkus
Eileen Ostent	Eliza West
Borys Runc	Mary Boulemier
John Smith	Cecylia Kelly
Joanna Sigwart	William Shortt
Anne O'Neill	Joseph Davies
Basil Willett	Winifred Kaye
Ellen Murray	Michael O'Kane
Martin Keegan	William Mulcahy
Bishop Michael Evans	Elizabeth Milton
Mabel Keohane	Ellen Skinner

FOR JULY

**We pray that today's families may
be accompanied with love, respect
and guidance.**

My Jesus.

I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already
there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from
You.
Amen.

Notices of Interest

Confession: Confession will be available between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm daily, but please email first to arrange a time to ensure that Fr Andrew is free.

Supporting CAFOD and the Hope Centre: Please see the respective websites to make donations for CAFOD and / or the Hope Centre:
<https://cafod.org.uk/>
<https://northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

The Office: Now that the Church is finally allowed to open, I am happy to see people during office hours. However, I must ask you to stay at the office doorway so that social distancing can be maintained. Thank you. *Caryll*

Out of Date Contact Details: I have been working through contact telephone numbers to make sure that as many Parishioners as possible are contacted & are not in need of anything. However, I have found that many phone numbers are unobtainable, & I should appreciate it if you would take the time to email me with your up to date phone numbers/email addresses. Rest assured that your messages will be deleted as soon as I have checked that we have your correct contact details, & our 'address book' is securely password protected. My email address is secretary@stgregory.org.uk. Many thanks *Caryll*

For Parents and Teachers. Last week, CAFOD launched a [National Assembly](https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Summer-hope-assembly) for schools. This amazing assembly can be used both in the school setting for collective worship, as well as at home. It is all about CAFOD's 'Summer of Hope' and informs, inspires and encourages children, at a time when children may really need it. It is led by passionate youths and is a real must-watch! <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Summer-hope-assembly>

CAFOD Corona Virus online petition: Unite against the Corona Virus. We are living through the biggest Public Health Crisis in a century. Right across the UK it has been having a devastating impact on all our lives. Many people have lost loved ones. This is not a time for divisions. The world should unite in love & compassion. Out of love for our brothers & sisters please sign the online petition to our Prime Minister asking him to ensure the most vulnerable people are a priority in the UK's international efforts as well as at home. Visit <https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1> to sign the petition online.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Please contact Deacon Michael direct (01604) 647750, E-mail: myf@btinternet.com for information.

First Holy Communion — 2020: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established.

Confirmation — 3rd Preparation Session: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established. There is a provisional date for Confirmation of 20th November (Note change).

Fairtrade: Nestlé have decided to stop using fairtrade chocolate in their KitKat chocolate bars. This has come as a great disappointment to up to 27,000 farmers in Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji and Malawi. There is a petition asking Nestlé to reverse this decision: <https://www.change.org/p/ulf-mark-schneider-nestle-global-ceo-keep-kitkat-fairtrade> (Otherwise, have a break from KitKat.) So far over 24,000 people have signed, but Nestlé have not responded. As a Fairtrade parish, we should all be signing this.

Bible Alive for July 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. Please help yourself to a copy of The Crusader.

Notice from the Diocese

Online Donation: The Diocese has an online donation facility on the main Diocesan website through Virgin Money Giving (link below). If you use this option we ask that you please indicate in the notes section **which parish, including the parish name and area (St Gregory's, Northampton)** that you would like your donation to be attributed to. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donation <https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/>

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)**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: The regular Thursday adoration is not taking place during this present emergency.

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Becoming a Catholic: For adults interested in becoming a Catholic, the parish runs Journey in Faith process (RCIA). Also offered for adults who are Catholic, but have not received all the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist. Please speak to Alex Heath (07963032175) or Fr Andrew.

Forthcoming Alpha Course: The next Alpha Course was due to start on Tuesday April 21st. In view of the current projections for the Coronavirus pandemic, we have to postpone this course. However, those who have registered will be kept informed about any change of date. Much the easiest way to enrol is through the web-site at <http://stgregory.org.uk/alpha/>.

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

Online Prayer resources during this time

Live-streamed Mass from the Cathedral
<http://northamptoncathedral.org/live/>

Live-streamed Mass from Walsingham
<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

EWTN
<https://www.ewtn.com/tv>
Sacred Space guided prayer
<https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Please pray for the soul of Clare O'Rourke whose funeral will be on Monday and Amelia Woolmore whose funeral will be on Wednesday 15th July. May they rest in peace.

Scripture Readings 5th July 2020, 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the fifth century BC, after the return from the exile, Zechariah's apocalyptic oracles look forward to the restoration of Israel, when all the nations will look towards Jerusalem. The Davidic king to be restored by God will bring release from captivity, but repentance must come first. Later Matthew misinterprets the idiomatic repetition of "riding on a donkey, on a colt" and has Jesus riding into Jerusalem on two animals at once (Mt 21).

The Psalm praises the Lord's kindness and care for creation and exhorts all creatures to thank the Lord.

Over the next few weeks Paul's letter to the Roman describes "life in the Spirit". Unable to "do the good I want!", Paul sees that we serve sin through our "flesh", our weak, earth-bound, human nature. But by coming in the likeness of sinful flesh, God's Son has enabled us to

walk "according to the Spirit". The Spirit of God dwelling in us enables us to participate in divine life.

After Jesus' proclaimed the gospel in Galilee, he went on to preach "in their cities" but met opposition to his teaching, and he upbraided them for their lack of repentance. Those reputed to be wise do not understand, but those with the simple trust of children do. Learn from him, for his "burden is light".

Psalm Response:

**I will bless your name for ever,
O God my King.**

(Zech 9:9-10; Ps 144(145); Rom 8:9,11-13; Mt 11:25-30)

Chris Oliver

The Season of Creation

Tip No. 75: **Living Sustainably with creation:** cattle eat many times as much barley, wheat, cereal and corn than white meat animals and non meat foods. Try to only eat beef once a week to allow others, around the world, to not go hungry for bread, pasta, soya and cereals.

Tip No. 74: **Solidarity with the poor:** doctors are asking us to consider if we 'just want' or 'really need' a holiday flight; that will increase Covid 19 risks and damage climate change.

Actions to LiveSimply : Communication regularly (telephone) with of our , 'family in faith,' can cheer our predicament, or with eye contact using WhatsApp, Messenger or Skype.

Many thanks to Harry and Helen Charles who have offered to co-ordinate our parish's work towards the "Living Simply Award". Anyone who is interested is being involved in this, please contact them, or speak to Fr Andrew

An important note on finance

Since lockdown began in March, the total loss in parish income across the whole diocese has been just over £1.5 million. This is made up of Sunday Mass collections, hall rentals, votive candle offerings and other income. This is in spite of many people transferring to standing orders and £55,833 that has been given to parishes on-line or through 'Giving Tuesdays'.

That figure is for the entire diocese. What the figure is for this parish is not yet known, but this year we received in collections £658 in the 13 weeks of April, May and June, compared with £4,305 in the same weeks last year. While it is true that we have saved money on heating and lighting, and the two figures for collections are not directly comparable since many people have transferred to standing orders, which is paid directly into our account with the diocese, and will not

show until quarterly accounts are available, nevertheless there has been a considerable shortfall.

A very big thank-you to those who have helped through standing orders or additional donations, or have been posting envelopes through the presbytery door. Thank too to those who have given in their blue (Easter Offering) envelopes or made special personal donations to Fr Andrew.

Many people will have been on a reduced income during this time, and some may have been made redundant, or be at risk of this. We have sufficient reserves to keep us afloat, but any who might have a collection of green envelopes going back some while; please do help the parish as much as you can!



CAFOD coronavirus appeal

CAFOD is working in the most deprived areas of the world, helping local communities survive by:

- Delivering food to where it is needed most.
- Improving hygiene, handwashing and sanitation at the community and household level.
- Producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention.
- Training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns.

Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal> or use a CAFOD envelope and give through the parish.



**During this time of restricted public worship, please keep reading the Bible.
The July “Bible Alive” is now available — see the note elsewhere in this
newsletter.**

