



# 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

# Remember, Remember.

These words are the beginning of a rhyme relating to today’s date, but we must also keep in our minds the events of the present time. 418 years ago there was a terrible plan which would have resulted in the deaths of many innocent people. Such a plan cannot be justified, but it can be understood. When a section of society are oppressed and denied their civil rights, it is understandable that they should protest, and if that protest is ignored, or worse, results in increased oppression, it is understandable that there will be some who take matters into their own hands and turn to violence.

Such were the circumstances that led to the events of 1605, but this same chain of events has been replicated many times throughout history, and nearly always with the same result — the level of oppression is ratcheted up.

The raid by Hamas on Israel on 7<sup>th</sup> October cannot be justified, and has not in any way improved the situation in Gaza. While understanding the anger of the Palestinian people, acts of violence only serve to give justification to Israel to increase their level of protection against future atrocities, while ignoring the fact that increased level of security is actually provoking further violence.



“Remember, remember”. What we must remember is the sheer futility of violence. For many years we have had in the church lamps near the Tabernacle — prayer lamps — for peace. The top lamp burns for peace in the Holy Land. It was made in a Palestinian village; it is inscribed with the word ‘Peace’ in German, French, English, Italian and Spanish. Remembering past wrongs will never bring about a right; it will merely serve to stoke up resentment.

The lower lamp is sitting in a hand-made basket from Yemen, where the civil war has been going on for nine years, beginning with a rebellion in 2014, and leading to the present war which has resulted in over 21 million people in need of aid, including 11 million children, and with 4.5 million homeless.

Our lamps burn for peace, and our hearts must also burn for peace. The Global Conflict Tracker lists 27 areas of conflict at present, and the United Nations said last January that there were then the highest number of conflicts in the world since the Second World War.

The need for prayer for peace is urgent; we must all respond.

# Gregory Care and the Cathedral Larder

## Be an Angel to a Child this Christmas

There will be a board in church over the next few Sundays; if you are in a position to buy a gift for a child, please take a look at what you can do.

Gregory Care are trying to help as many families as possible over Christmas supplying gifts for children who otherwise may not receive any.

We thank you all once again, for your ongoing support donating toiletries.

The Cathedral Foodstore where the toiletries are distributed is one of the few food larder’s that offer toiletries, even though hygiene poverty continues. You may further support the Foodstore by purchasing ‘Gift Certificates’ again this year, for your family and friends - who are difficult to buy for! - See Catherine or Carole



# Notices of Interest

**New Office Email Address With Immediate Effect:** Due to circumstances beyond our control, I can no longer access ANY emails sent to [secretary@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stgregory.org.uk) or [caryll.comley@ntlworld.com](mailto:caryll.comley@ntlworld.com). Any emails should therefore, from now on, be directed to [parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org).

**Car Park Safety:** 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.

**Repository:** From Sunday Nov 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a small display of cards & mementoes for Confirmation. From Sunday Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> Christmas cards, books & items will be on sale. Catholic diaries with the order of the Mass are already available. **PLEASE** can anyone help with sales to help my loyal, but small group of helpers. Anyone with a calculator can do it - all items are priced! Contact [Kath.healey.789@gmail.com](mailto:Kath.healey.789@gmail.com).

**Bible Alive** for November & December is now available - only £3.00! If you wish to purchase a copy, they are in the narthex as you come into church.

**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 Sacristy.

**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!!

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

**An Advent Journey with John the Baptist:** 4 Monday evenings, 7.30-8.30pm, from 27<sup>th</sup> Nov, with Fr John Udris & Avril Baigent. Available on YouTube so does not require zoom & can be played via smart TVs. Here is last year's series to give a flavour of what to expect: [https://pastoralministryoffice.org/walking\\_by\\_starlight-2/](https://pastoralministryoffice.org/walking_by_starlight-2/)

**SPUC** has launched its latest campaign, which is in the form of a letter writing campaign asking the Health Secretary to stop 'pills through the post' (DIY abortion). SPUC has produced a card which is filled in & returned to SPUC, before presentation to the Health Secretary. We are therefore asking parishioners to fill in these cards after Mass on Sunday sometime in November. SPUC wants to be able to present 25,000 signed cards to the Health Secretary before Christmas.

**Choir Notes:** our next practice will be on Saturday Nov. 11 from 11am till 12:30. The main focus will be on Christmas music & preparing for Remembrance Day. After that we will practice at the same times on Saturdays Nov 18 & 25 & Dec 9 & 16. Come & join us & get in the Christmas spirit. *Alec (also known to some as Father Christmas)*

**Helpers Needed to clean the Church** on the last Saturday of every month, after the morning Mass. All welcome, especially the 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 Church, from 10am-12pm.

**URGENT NOTE ON FINANCES** If you have transferred to standing orders and pay income tax please contact Fr Andrew (preferably by email) so that the Gift Aid can be linked to your donation. Claims can only be made for up to three years, so there is some urgency about this.

**Fewer Electrical Hazards:** There are still a few small jobs needing to be done, but mostly we have put right things that were required. Part of safeguarding is to ensure that in every respect the church is as safe as possible for all who come here.

**Missio Matters:** Anyone wishing to become a supporter of missionary work over the year – no matter how small the donation – should contact Dorothy (9) or Alec (11) after Mass or phone/email: 01604 622153 [a.unsworth@ntlworld.com](mailto:a.unsworth@ntlworld.com).

**Safeguarding:** Safeguarding in our community is the responsibility of us all. If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger.

It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased. If you are in any role within our Church, you must refer allegations directly to our diocesan safeguarding office, or directly to the Police.

**Fire Safety – Important notice.** We have had trays made to go under the racks where candles burn to prevent the possibility of a naked flame falling on unlit candles below. Unlit candles **must not** be placed on these trays & must not be stacked one on top of another.

**Parish Requiem:** There will be a Mass for the souls of all whose funerals have taken place from St Gregory's over the past year and any others whose names are given in at the beginning of the Mass. This will be on Monday evening, 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00 pm

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next session will be on Monday evening, 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. at 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

**First Holy Communion 2023:** There will be a welcome to the children who are registered & their parents at the 11am Mass on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. All sessions will be on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates, times will be available at registration. Because of the large number of children, there will be separate sessions for the oldest. All the families concerned have been notified

**Confirmation in 2023:** Confirmation sessions have resumed, and those enrolled should have received an email with details.

**Alpha in the Autumn:** Alpha is now running weekly on-line, Tuesday evenings. For more info visit [www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha](http://www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha)

## 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:	<b>The Hope Centre</b>
From the Second Sunday in ordinary time to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:	<b>Gregory Care</b>
Through Lent and Eastertide:	<b>CAFOD</b>
Ordinary Time until the end of August:	<b>Refreshment Fund</b>
September until the Harvest collection:	<b>CAFOD</b>
<i>After harvest until the beginning of Advent:</i>	<i><b>The Bible Society</b></i>

## Mission Prayer

Heavenly Father  
it is your will that we should make disciples of all nations.  
We ask you to bless the mission of our Diocese of Northampton and guide our hearts and minds  
so that your will might be done  
and your kingdom be build up here on earth.  
We pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit,  
without which our work is in vain,  
and we entrust ourselves to your beloved Son,  
for we know that he is with us for all time, now and for ever.  
Amen

## 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

# 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Malachi, which means “My Messenger”, was written about 500 BC, after the return from exile and shortly before the reforms by Ezra and Nehemiah. The Priests will be cursed because they despised the Lord’s Name by sacrificing imperfect animals. They were allowing mixed marriages and divorce, and leading the people astray by their bad example. They have broken the Lord’s covenant of peace, truth, integrity and honesty.

The psalm protests our humility and freedom from worldly ambitions.

After being treated “insolently” in Philippi, Paul, “with much struggle”, “drew courage from God” to speak the gospel to the Thessalonians. He neither flattered nor sought praise or payment, So great was Paul’s love for the Thessalonians that he shared his life with them, and took care to work hard to support himself. He is

relieved that the Thessalonians’ faith is now strong even in the face of persecution.

After the last challenges to Jesus by the Jewish leaders in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus has now abandoned them. The Priests’ false teaching and bad example criticised by Malachi has returned. No-one should follow their example. He now talks to his disciples only, and goes on to direct seven “woes” against the scribes and Pharisees, detailing their wrongdoing. He ends by lamenting the coming destruction of Jerusalem.

Psalm Response: **Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord**

Mal 1:14-2:2. 8-10; Ps 130(131); 1 Thess 2:7-9, 13; Matt 23:1-12

*Chris Oliver*

## **Our Safeguarding Commitment:**

**Every human being has a value and dignity  
which we as Catholics acknowledge as coming  
directly from God’s creation of male and female in his own image and likeness.  
We believe therefore that all people should be valued, supported  
and protected from harm.**

**In the Catholic Church this is demonstrated  
by the provision of carefully planned activities for children,  
young people and adults;  
supporting families under stress;  
caring for those hurt by abuse in the past;  
ministering to and managing those who have caused harm.  
It is because of these varied ministries  
that we need to take all reasonable steps  
to provide a safe environment for all which promotes and supports  
their wellbeing.**

**This will include carefully selecting and appointing those who work with children,  
young people or adults at risk  
and responding robustly where concerns arise.**

## **Parish Finances**

We have received our half-yearly financial return from the Diocese, which shows that we have made a surplus of £4,254.91. This represents the two summer quarters; last winter our fuel bill was over £9,000 more than it was through the summer.

We are trying to go carefully in the use of gas and electricity, and most of the lights are now LED which use much less power than fluorescent or incandescent bulbs.

When it gets really cold the Thursday Adoration will be in the Sacristy and weekday Mass may also move into the Sacristy, though the church will continue to be heated on Sundays.

Please help by making sure that doors are kept closed as much as possible. Thank you to all our generous givers and all who help in any way.

## **Preparation for First Holy Communion — Growing Up Catholic**

Today at the 11.00 Mass we are welcoming those who will be in the First Holy Communion programme from St Gregory’s parish this year. We welcome the children and their parents. As a mark of this important step in their family life, we are giving them a picture of the



Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. There is a prayer on the back of the card which is in Italian, but translates:

O God, our Father,  
who in your family  
gave us a true model of life,  
let the same virtues and love  
flourish in our families,  
so that  
reunited in your home  
we can one day enjoy  
endless joy.  
Through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen

Please pray this prayer with the intention for our First Holy Communion families.

We have not made definite plans for next year, but anyone who would like to join the team will be very welcome, there is no need for previous experience or any particular knowledge; all that is needed is a love for Jesus, a love for the Church and a willingness to work with children and their parents. This year all sessions are on Saturday afternoons and are held at Sacred Heart church near the Weston Favell shopping centre, but if next year we need to run parallel sessions, a decision will need to be made about when and where that would be. All helpers and leaders are required to have DBS clearance

A key part of our preparation is that parents/carers have a vital role in the process. They cannot just drop off their child and go shopping! The Baptism Rite calls parents the ‘first teachers of their child in the ways of faith’, and the Second Vatican Council restated the traditional teaching of the Church that it is the parents who have the primary responsibility for the Christian education of their children. “The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute” (*Vatican II Gravissimum Educationis* §3)

[DBS is the ‘Disclosure and Barring Service’, a government body which helps Voluntary Sector organisations to make safer recruitment decisions by identifying candidates who may be unsuitable for certain types of work, especially involving children or vulnerable adults through access to criminal record information.]