



# 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

## “Gathered together and became one”

One of the early Christian documents which was not included in the books of the New Testament is called “The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles”. It was omitted not because it was considered to have anything wrong with it, but because it was not actually written by any of the Apostles, but was simply a compendium of their teaching. It consists of sixteen short chapters on a variety of aspects of Christian life.

The chapter on the Eucharist contains this sentence:

“Even as this broken bread was scattered over the hills, and was gathered together and became one, so let Your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into Your kingdom; for Yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.”

*(Didache, Chapter 9)*

There is a picture of wheat growing in fields across the hills which is harvested, winnowed and milled to make flour, and then baked to produce a single loaf of bread.

Wheat contains an important protein which makes this possible; it is gluten. This has the property of binding the wheat together; its name comes from the Latin ‘*glutinum*’, which means ‘glue’. It is the glue that binds the flour together to make bread. That is why true bread must contain some gluten, and the Church uses ‘low-gluten’ for the Altar-bread for those with Coeliac Disease or gluten intolerance. The level of gluten is not enough to trigger an adverse response. There is evidence to suggest that the increasing number of people suffering from gluten intolerance is actually due to increased levels of gluten in bread which makes the fermentation process shorter and therefore makes the industrial production of bread cheaper.

Wine is similarly produced by bringing together many grapes from different vines; sometimes from different varieties of vine, and fermenting them together to fill a single bottle. It would be impossible to identify any individual grape from a single sip of wine.

The Feast of Corpus Christi, or to give it its full name, ‘Corpus et Sanguis Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ is the feast of thanksgiving for the Blessed Sacrament.

St Paul tells us that we are the Body of Christ (*1 Corinthians 12:27*), and also that we must recognise the Lord in the bread of the Eucharist (*1 Corinthians 11:25*). We are, in some way like the grains of wheat that have become bread for Christ. St Ignatius of Antioch, who was born only a few years after the crucifixion, and became one of the early bishops and then a martyr spoke of himself as “the wheat of the Lord” (*Letter of St Ignatius of Antioch to the Romans*).

In the great prayer that Jesus prays to the Father at the Last Supper, when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament, he says:

I pray not only for these, but for those also who through their words will believe in me. May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me. I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so completely one that the world will realise that it was you who sent me and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.

*John 17:20-23*

Jesus recognises that our unity is a powerful sign to unbelievers and a fundamental plank in our mission. Equally, it is true that disunity among Christians works powerfully against our mission.

The Holy Spirit has been described as the glue which binds together the Father and the Son, and it is the Spirit which binds us together as Christians. Our unity is a fruit of the Spirit, manifested in the fruits that St Paul speaks of: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control” (*Galatians 5:22-23*).

The second Eucharistic Prayer includes the petition: “Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.” Amen.



# Notices of Interest

**Bible Alive** for May & June 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.

**Repository:** A display of cards and items for First Communion has been added now that we know the dates. If you wish to buy anything, please come to the Church between 9 and 10am & speak to a Steward who will show you what to do & where to go.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place. The next preparation will be announced here shortly.

**First Holy Communion 2021:** The programme is running through 'Loom', an on line platform used by many schools. Parents need to 'home-school' children. The programme is called "Growing Up Catholic", and there are 6 sessions preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by six sessions preparing for First Holy Communion.

**Confirmation:** At last we have a date: 1<sup>st</sup> October; feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux! The Confirmation will be at St Gregory's.

**Readers at Mass:** If anyone wishes to become a reader at Mass (Sundays and Weekdays), please contact Deacon Michael, which will enable us to prepare rotas for when some sort of normality returns!

**Walsingham (Virtual) Pilgrimage:** This year there will be a 'virtual' pilgrimage to Walsingham, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June, led by Bishop David with Mass at 12 noon to be streamed live here... <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/event/northampton-pilgrimage/> also live on EWTN

**Bishop David** has produced a series of short talks focussed on 'The Church'. These videos can be viewed on the Northampton Diocese YouTube channel. Simply type 'Northampton Diocese' into the search bar on YouTube and click on 'The Church' playlist. All the videos in this series so far will be displayed.

**Mission Northampton:** Mission Northampton will be based at the new St Thomas Centre at Northampton Cathedral, but be a town-wide project involving all the parishes and Catholic schools in the town. It is being led by Fr David Donaghue, and there will be a variety of initiatives to seek to proclaim the Gospel, and make us all better missionary disciples. Please keep praying for it, and for our own parish, that we may become all that God wishes us to be, and that, like the first Christians, we may be devoted to the teaching of the apostles, to the fellowship, to the Breaking of Bread and to the prayers. May we all be truly missionary disciples, and this a missionary parish.

**Pro Life Chain - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May:** Northampton Branch of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children would like to thank those parishioners who attended the second Pro Life Chain to be held in Northampton. Twelve people stood in silent witness on St Peters Way in order to remember the millions of unborn babies killed by abortion since the Abortion Act 1967. The event started and finished with prayers said by Father David Donaghue, who joined us for the second year running. It is important that we never stop fighting for the lives of Unborn Children who are dying every moment of the day from abortion. We should also remember the Mothers who need our support and prayers. Abortion is the preeminent moral issue of our time and as Catholics in particular we have a duty before God to do all we can to put an end to abortion: to this end please consider joining SPUC Northampton to help us achieve this. Please contact William on 07393965643 or [wpcurrie@btinternet.com](mailto:wpcurrie@btinternet.com)

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

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

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** will not meet during this time.

**Re-Envisioning Catechesis:** The Church has recently produced a new version of the "Directory for Catechesis", which makes clear the link between evangelisation & the teaching of the Faith. One fruit of this is that the diocesan department for catechesis has been moved from NORES to the new department for Mission. To help those engaged in Sacramental preparation, there will be an on line course over 5 consecutive Thursday evenings, starting 17<sup>th</sup> June 7.30 pm (ending at 8.45 pm) on Zoom. If anyone would like to take part, please let Fr Andrew know (by email, please), and the parish will make the booking.

**Gregory Care Toiletries appeal update:** Thank you for your continued support. Many thanks again for your generosity. We will keep you updated!

**Broadmead Community Church** is looking for a cleaner, 18-20 hours per week. Please see poster for full details.

**CAFOD:** As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with Caritas India to provide vital support to poor communities. Already £200,000 has been pledged. This helps to distribute PPE kits to health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, & set up safely run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: [cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/give). Please pray for the people of India & all those affected by the pandemic.

**Lifeteen Summer Camp 2021:** From Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July, 3pm to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August till 2pm. Cost £225.00 for camping (provide own tent), £275.00 for dormitory, £50.00 for online camp. £50.00 non-refundable deposit when booking, final payment by 1<sup>st</sup> July. Alton Castle, Staffs (transport NOT be provided). Summer Camp is 5 days of fun & activities where young Catholics gain formation & friendships. Included in price is accommodation, food, daily Mass & Reconciliation, activities including a day at Alton Towers, biking, trekking, climbing, archery, campfires and much more. More info and to go to the bookings page visit <https://nymo.org/summerncamp/>

**Parish Finances:** We have received the return from the Diocese showing our parish account in full. There has not been time to prepare a full statement of accounts yet, but we have benefitted from a substantial legacy from Violette Caillebotte, which will go a long way to pay for the building of the parish office when the diocese eventually gives permission for this. This must wait until the diocesan finances have recovered from COVID. St Gregory's has weathered this storm thanks to your wonderful generosity. The diocesan office does not have a parish to support it, but its essential work has to continue in supporting the parishes, schools and chaplaincies.

**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)**

**Track and Trace:** The government have now released their app to support track & trace & we have a QR code which can be scanned to record your presence at church. This is not obligatory, but should help in the important task of controlling the spread of the virus. As responsible members of society, we should comply with this request.

# Scripture Readings 6th May 2021, Corpus Christi, Year B

After rescuing the Israelites from Egypt God gave Moses the Law, including the Ten Commandments. The animal's blood thrown over people and altar symbolises the people's agreement to this covenant.

The Psalm gives thanks to God for answering prayers in time of need. And renews our promise to keep God's laws.

The blood which ratified Israel's covenant with God foreshadowed the people's suffering before they could build their kingdom in the Promised Land. So the Letter to the Hebrews sees Jesus Christ's suffering and bloody sacrifice as marking the new covenant, which enables the new people of God to enter their eternal inheritance. But, as "co-heirs with Christ" we must share in Christ's suffering "so as to share his glory". God's kingdom can be built only through suffering: the Cross is the only way. Like the apostles, we must also drink the

cup Christ has drunk, as well as eating the heavenly food we celebrate today.

Mark's gospel brings us back to the Passover blood of the lamb, with which the exodus began, then forward to the Last Supper, when Jesus' own blood was drunk to initiate the new covenant. But Jesus postpones drinking the fourth, final cup of the meal until just before dying on the Cross. Jesus commanded us to repeat the Eucharistic meal "until he comes".

Psalm Response:

**The cup of salvation I will raise:  
I will call on the Lord's name.**

(Exodus 24:3-8; Ps 115(116); Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 14:12-16, 22-26)

*Chris Oliver*

## Kitchen Makeover Update: It's taking shape

With the work going on it's possible to envisage how the new kitchen will look. Construction work is complete and plastering has started and will be finished by next Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> June. It will need about a week for the plaster to dry before it can be painted. Two coats of paint will be needed, the first a very thin coat to provide a seal for the plaster, then a second, normal coat to give full protection and colour. We will provide the type of paint needed to meet the standards required. So now is the time to look out your paint brushes and rollers. And we really do need help with this as we can't afford a professional painter. It is very important that we do it between Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June as the flooring contractor will start to lay the flooring on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Please do let me

know if you can help at [cliff.snelling@btinternet.com](mailto:cliff.snelling@btinternet.com). We are ready to move stuff back into the store room, thankfully there is far less than was taken out, again your help will be appreciated. The cooker is due to be delivered next week although installation will have to wait until the wall painting, flooring and some plumbing is complete. After that we can begin to install the professional standard worktops and equipment that has been donated, again help will be appreciated. As with any job of this nature and size there will be many odd jobs to be done, so please let me know at [cliff.snelling@btinternet.com](mailto:cliff.snelling@btinternet.com) if you can help in any way.

*Cliff Snelling*

## G7 interfaith event - Building a better world after the pandemic

### What is CAFOD calling for from the G7 Summit?

- ✓ G7 countries must lead the way in tackling the immediate global health crisis, the economic consequences of the pandemic and the ongoing climate crisis.
- ✓ Urge private banks to cancel the debt
- ✓ CAFOD is urging G7 leaders to support the poorest nations by cancelling all debt payments owed by low-income countries so that those countries have the money they need to recover and rebuild from the pandemic. This must include debts owed to private lenders.
- ✓ Many of the world's poorest countries are currently having to choose between paying those debts and helping their communities recover from the coronavirus.
- ✓ The G7 must also provide support to poorer countries to tackle the immediate health crisis and poverty caused by the pandemic.
- ✓ And the nations at the summit must set out urgent cuts in greenhouse gas emissions given that the countries in the G7 are amongst those with the greatest historic responsibility for the climate crisis. This includes ending all support for fossil fuels and adequate financial support for the hardest hit nations.

The pandemic means we can't all travel to Cornwall.

But that doesn't stop us coming together online in an act of witness. So, instead of travelling to Cornwall, join us at a livestreamed event from Truro Cathedral where we'll reflect on how we need to rebuild from the crisis and send a message to the G7 leaders.

Liam Finn said:

"Boris Johnson has a crucial opportunity this year to set the tone for how the world rebuilds from the pandemic.

"CAFOD supporters will be demanding he use that opportunity to ensure that people worldwide are included in the plans for the recovery – not just those living in the world's richest countries.

"Pope Francis has implored leaders to fix the injustices in our economies and societies which have made the effects of this current crisis so much worse.

"The Prime Minister has an obligation to make sure that any recovery from the pandemic genuinely builds a 'better normal' rather than reinforcing the problems of the past."



**Tuesday 8 June 2021, (7.30-8.30pm)**  
**The Year of St Joseph**  
**How does St Joseph model fatherhood for us today?**



Please register in advance to secure a place by e mail or phone: email [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone: 01582 723312 (ext. 1) Once your booking is received you will be sent details of how to join the online Zoom sessions. Thank you.

**Tuesday 13 July 2021, (7.30-8.30pm)**

**Mark and John and the Word of Life**

**'The Church draws her life from the Eucharist'**

**Pope St John Paul II**



*Each session will include input, prayer and the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.*

**Cost: No charge but there will be the opportunity to make a donation**

Please register in advance to secure a place by e mail or phone:

email [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone: 01582 723312 (ext 1)

Once your booking is received you will be sent details

of how to join the online Zoom sessions. Thank you. (Photo from [www.pexels.com](http://www.pexels.com))

## SECOND COLLECTIONS 2021



28 <sup>th</sup> February	CAFOD (Lenten Fast Day 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb)
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Good Friday Collection for the Holy Places
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Diocesan Priests' Training Fund
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Mass Media
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Day for Life
27 <sup>th</sup> June	Peter's Pence
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Apostleship of the Sea
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Home Mission Sunday
3 <sup>rd</sup> October	CAFOD (Harvest Fast Day 1 <sup>st</sup> October)
24 <sup>th</sup> October	Mission Sunday
7 <sup>th</sup> November	Bishop's Maintenance Fund
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Sick & Retired Priests' Fund