



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

You shall not kill

We are familiar with this commandment, and it is with absolute horror that we hear of the appalling events in Ukraine. The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives us the teaching of the Church in relation to a country being invaded by an aggressive neighbouring country.

All citizens and all governments are obliged to work for the avoidance of war.

However, “as long as the danger of war persists and there is no international authority with the necessary competence and power, governments cannot be denied the right of lawful self-defense, once all peace efforts have failed.”

*(Catechism of the Catholic Church §2308
quoting Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes 79.4)*

The paragraph in ‘Gaudium et Spes’ from which the Catechism quotes goes on to say:

But it is one thing to undertake military action for the just defense of the people, and something else again to seek the subjugation of other nations.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, there is a listing of the elements that make up the ‘just war’ doctrine:

The strict conditions for legitimate defense by military force require rigorous consideration. the gravity of such a decision makes it subject to rigorous conditions of moral legitimacy. At one and the same time:

- ✓ the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain;
- ✓ all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective;
- ✓ there must be serious prospects of success;
- ✓ the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated. the power of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church §2309)

This helps us to understand the circumstances in which a nation may start a war or enter a war. The Church also has teaching on how the nations should behave in the conduct of war. As well as the teachings of the Catholic Church, there are also international laws on the conduct of war, generally described as “The Geneva Convention”

This is a collection of international treaties which began in 1864 following the battle of Solferino in 1859 in the struggle of Italy to become a united and independent country, in which the inhumane treatment of wounded and captured soldiers led to a recognition that there was a need for protocols for the conduct of war. Since then, in the face of new forms of warfare, new treaties have been signed and new protocols adopted, but all follow after the event. There are currently no agreements regarding the use of cyber-weapons, drones, or thermobaric weapons, even though the use of these in themselves contravenes some of the Geneva Convention protocols.

The Church also has teaching on this subject:

Non-combatants, wounded soldiers, and prisoners must be respected and treated humanely.

Actions deliberately contrary to the law of nations and to its universal principles are crimes, as are the orders that command such actions. Blind obedience does not suffice to excuse those who carry them out. Thus the extermination of a people, nation, or ethnic minority must be condemned as a mortal sin. One is morally bound to resist orders that command genocide.

“Every act of war directed to the indiscriminate destruction of whole cities or vast areas with their inhabitants is a crime against God and man, which merits firm and unequivocal condemnation.” *(Gaudium et Spes §80)* A danger of modern warfare is that it provides the opportunity to those who possess modern scientific weapons especially atomic, biological, or chemical weapons - to commit such crimes.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church §2313 and 2314)

As we, hour by hour hear more of the horrors of the present war in Ukraine, we may feel powerless to help. There is a facebook page: “Northamptonshire Help for Ukraine”. **[Please use this to offer help, the Church cannot act as a collection point. We do not have the space. There is a collection point at Franklin’s Gardens.]**

It has been said in many different ways that “Truth is the first casualty in war”. We each may have our own favourite source of news; in response to whatever we are hearing and seeing, the one certain response must be one of prayer to the One who is Truth, and is the Prince of Peace and Saviour of Mankind.

Notices of Interest

The Crucifix facing the road: We hope it will be repaired and replaced before Holy Week.



We welcome into the family of the Church
Kevin Leonard Arva
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for him and his family.

Bible Alive for Lent 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.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass and there is a small supply of St. Patrick's Day & Easter cards. 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*

Easter Flowers: Envelopes are available for donations for Easter flowers on the table in the narthex. If you wish your flowers to be in memory of a particular person, please write their name on the envelope. This will appear in the Easter newsletter.

A Free Lunch? There is no such thing, but there will be a free dinner on Tuesday evening, March 8th at 7.30 pm. There really is no catch, except that if you enjoy the evening, you may like to become involved in the Alpha programme. If you don't, no problem! Please email to stgregoryalpha@gmail.com to reserve your place.

Next Alpha Dates: See opposite for full dates and subjects of the evenings.

Refreshment Donations: From the end of Christmastide until last Sunday £96.93 has been given for the work of Gregory Care. Many thanks for this. Through Lent and Eastertide, money is for CAFOD.

Annunciation of the Lord: 24 hours of Adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. In honour of the Annunciation of the Lord, there will be 24 hours of Exposition of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. Adoration will start after the 10.30am Mass on Friday 25th March. The 24 hours will conclude with the usual Saturday 9.30am Mass. There will not be any further Exposition that day. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet available at the Shrine and the Sacred Heart Church or contact either the office or Gillian on 07724337202.

Tots @ St Gregory's: TINY TOTS look forward to seeing you: if you have charge of a pre-school child, from 9:30- 11:30 on a Tuesday morning, you are most welcome!

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)**

Parish and Diocesan Finances: We have been asked to draw up a budget for the coming year and submit it to the Diocese. This has been done, and we are hoping for an increase in giving as more people come back to Mass week by week. If this materialises, we forecast a very small surplus. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, and if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Ukraine Emergency Appeal

This Sunday there will be a special collection for the Ukraine Emergency Appeal through CAFOD who are part of the 'Disasters Emergency Committee' who have launched a national appeal. Please be generous in this appeal. We will welcome Debbie Purfield who is the CAFOD Diocesan Coordinator for Northampton who will speak to us at all the Masses about this vital need. Aid to the Church in Need also has an appeal: To support the ACN Ukraine emergency appeal, visit www.acnuk.org
Next week there will be the usual Fast Day CAFOD collection.

Gregory Care Update on Toiletry Donations: Thanks to all who have donated toiletries & hygiene products to the Cathedral Food Store. If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from this please get in contact with Gregory Care through Fr Andrew.

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 4th April, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: Congratulations to those who have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time during the past week. The preparation now turns to the receiving of Holy Communion for the first time, and we look forward to this in May. Thanks also to the parents in providing support and becoming catechists for their own children.

Confirmation in 2022: Application forms now available from the Sacristy after Mass. Please submit form with fee and hand it to a helper on 14th March or 20th March after 9.00 am or 11.00 am Mass. There will not be an option to join after this time. The sessions will run on a Sunday morning from 10.15 am - 11.30 am. Please join us for 9.00 am mass as part of this course. Confirmation Mass is on Saturday 2nd July at midday.

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

Choir Practice in Lent: Fridays 1:45 - 3 pm: Mar 11, 18, 25, Apr 1 & 8. We are now blessed with a strong contingent of men singers but we need more ladies to keep the men in check & to replace others who have become unwell or simply had enough of me. *Alec*

Courses for Readers: The Bible Timeline course continues on Wednesdays, starting at 7.30 pm. on Zoom. Last week we had a week off for Ash Wednesday. This week we will be studying the first nine chapters of St Luke's Gospel which takes us up to the Transfiguration of Jesus, a turning-point of the Gospel narrative, as from then on he journeys towards Jerusalem, his passion, death and resurrection. Please email to Fr Andrew for further details. New people are welcome to join!

Hold the Date! There will be a Seder (Passover) meal in the hall on Tuesday April 5th starting at 7.00 pm. This is a wonderful way of growing in understanding of the Mass. More details soon.

Pivotal Players: We are having a week off this Monday! Please email Fr Andrew for the Zoom links for future sessions.

Repainting in the church: If you can help, please can you contact Cliff Snelling at cliff.snelling@btinternet.com, indicating which weeks (when weather is warmer) you would be available to help.

Scripture Readings 6th March 2022, 1st Sunday of Lent, Year C

Deuteronomy, the “second law”, repeats the law given on Sinai. It describes events just before the Israelites crossed the Jordan from the desert into the promised land. In today’s reading Moses uses an ancient formula to prescribe how the first fruits of the harvest are to be offered in gratitude for the gifts God has given to a landless people. As with our offerings during Mass, the priest’s role is to begin the celebration by setting the offerings “before the Lord your God”.

The Psalm describes benefits of trusting in God: protection from evils and terrors as God goes with us in our distress.

Paul has lamented to the Romans that the works and rituals of the Mosaic Law did not bring Israel righteousness, and they cannot

justify us, that is make us right with God. Everyone can be saved, but only by confessing faith in God from their heart.

In Luke’s gospel we hear how, after his baptism, Jesus was tempted in the desert. The devil’s power is real. Perhaps Jesus was often tempted during his ministry to use lavish gifts, force or exhibitions of supernatural power to convince people. But Jesus remained faithful to his Father. The only way to God is by service and suffering. The devil is routed for now, but will return during Jesus’ passion.

Psalm Response: **Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.**

(Deut 26:4-10; Psalm 90 (91); Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13)

Chris Oliver

Prayers for Ukraine: The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has already cost the lives of many, and threatens the peace of much of Europe. There will be a prayer for peace and for the victims of war included in Mass each day. Please use this prayer yourself.

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

A Weekend Journey to Emmaus (Milton Keynes): Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th March 2022 (£35)

A heart warming journey with Jesus as he explains the Scriptures.

The road to Emmaus must be walked by all who wish to evangelise, since our hearts must be burning with the fire of the Word, in order to touch others with our words.

‘Emmaus’ will:

- Deepen your appreciation of the Scriptures.
- Enable you to experience the power of the Word of God.
- Take you on a journey through the Old Testament and show how it is fulfilled in Jesus.
- Give you a burning desire to return from ‘Emmaus’ to ‘Jerusalem’ to announce your encounter with the Risen Lord.

To book please go to:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/a-weekend-journey-to-emmaus-march-2022/>

James: Discerning God’s Will

The course will take place over seven Wednesday evenings on Zoom, from 7.30 to 9.30 pm on: 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March, 6th, 20th, 27th April 2022. (£5)

The Letter of James is full of inspiration and practical wisdom which enables believers to discover and discern the way God calls them to live each day. Everyone who wants to share their faith with others needs to grow in their ability to hear God clearly.

Taking part in ‘James’ will:

- Deepen your knowledge and understanding of the Letter of St. James.
- Help you to learn how to discern your daily life in the light of the Word of God.
- Deepen your ability to hear and recognise the voice of the Lord.
- Provide principles for approaching the art of discernment.

To book please go to:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/james-discerning-gods-will/>

LIFETEEN SUMMER CAMP 2022

Sunday 24th to Thursday 28th July 2022

Alton Castle

For more information and to go to the bookings page visit <https://nymo.org/summercamp/>

St Gregory’s next Alpha:

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which will be 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. It is good to have established believers as well as potential converts and those who simply want to know more about our faith. 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

A way to say ‘Thank you’: An Invitation to all who volunteer in the Parish

The parish could not function without the help of many, many volunteers who help in a vast number of different ways. Some are very obvious and can be seen; but others are ‘behind the scenes’ and less visible. We have been going through a tough time in many different ways, and this is a way of saying ‘thank you’. On Friday March 18th there will be a dinner in the hall, to which all volunteers

for the parish are invited. There is no charge – this is not a fund-raising occasion, no raffle, no collection plate, just an occasion for the parish to say thank you to all who give so generously. The only condition is that you RSVP to this invitation by email to Helen at helentme00@hotmail.com so that we know the numbers. This week is the last chance to book a place!

First session:	April 26 th 2022:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	May 3 rd 2022:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	May 10 th 2022:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	May 17 th 2022:	How can I be sure of my faith?
Fifth Session:	May 24 th 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	June 7 th 2022:	How does God guide us?
Seventh Session:	June 14 th 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Away-Day:	June 16 th – 17 th 2022:	Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session:	June 21 st 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	June 28 th 2022:	Why and how should we tell others?
Tenth Session:	July 5 th 2022:	What about the Church?
Eleventh Session:	July 12 th 2022:	What about the rest of my life?

How Alpha Works — and Why

Alpha works because it uses the same methods that Jesus himself used. It uses personal contacts. Jesus said to Andrew: “Come and see” (*John 1:39*), and it is the same invitation that we make. Like Jesus, who so often in the Gospels is seen at a meal with others, Alpha is set in the context of a meal. It is not Mass, but could be seen as looking forward to when everyone at Alpha can share in the Eucharistic meal — what theologians call an ‘allegory’ of the Mass. St Paul speaks of ‘children in the faith’ not being ready for solid food (*1 Corinthians 3:1-2*), and Alpha is like coming to see Jesus in the person of some of his disciples. Having ‘come and seen’, people are free to make their own decision. Thankfully, many decide to get to know Jesus better. Alpha is also ideal for the Church community as it uses so many different talents and skills, and does not force people out of their ‘comfort zones’. It needs the talents of the cooking team; the team who prepare the room, the table hosts and table leaders. It needs the skill of the technicians, and of musicians. Above all, it needs the support of prayer, and it needs people to invite others to ‘come and see’.

DIocese of Northampton Liturgy Commission- LITURGICAL FORMATION

The God Who Speaks - Our Liturgy of the Word



A Series of online Zoom Sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year. A valuable opportunity to develop our engagement with the Scriptures that we hear proclaimed at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass.

Led by the Liturgical Formation Team with presentations by Liz Clark, Fr Allan Jones CRIC, Mgr Kevin McGinnell & Fr Andrew Behrens

Wednesday 23 February 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)

Preparing for Lent

Wednesday 6 April 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)

Preparing for the Triduum

Wednesday 20 April 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)

Celebrating Eastertide

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 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)

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen

*It's a huge undertaking,
but the Synod is getting
underway in our diocese.*

Synod 2021-23

- How we will manage our conversations in the parish will be announced soon. Pope Francis is clear that the voices of the loud and powerful and those with an axe to grind or a bee in their bonnet should not drown out the voice of the quiet and the marginalised.

Recently, Revolution Zero have opened a community food larder (social supermarket) in the former UCR Church, The Headlands. Their aim is to make food accessible to everyone & reduce the amount

of food going to landfill. 15 items of choice for £5. Please take a look at the link-<http://www.revolutionzero.org/> They have a Facebook page & are open Tues 1-3pm, Wed 1-4pm, Thurs 1-3pm & Sat 11-12 noon.

Thank you again for amazing contributions and please keep this initiative in your prayers.

An act of Spiritual Communion

I prostrate myself at your feet, O my Jesus,
and I offer you the repentance of my heart,
which abases itself in its nothingness
and in your Holy Presence.

I adore You in the Sacrament of your Love;
I desire to receive You in the poor abode
that my heart offers You.

While awaiting the happiness of Sacramental Communion,
I wish to possess you in spirit.

Come to me, O my Jesus, that I may come to You. May
your Love inflame my whole being
in life and in death.

Jesus, I believe in You, I hope in You,
I love You. Amen. *Pope Francis [20 March 2020]*