



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

Pray that the Lord’s message may spread quickly

It would be a tragedy if people had become inured to the insistence of Pope Francis that we become a Missionary parish and that we all become Missionary disciples. We have heard the message so often that there is a risk that it passes over the head without making any impact.

It is worth taking note that this is not a new teaching, and in today’s second reading, we hear St Paul writing in the same vein. One of the important documents of the Second Vatican Council is entitled “Apostolicam Actuositatem”; on the “Apostolate of Lay People”. Successive Popes have spoken of this, but only a small number have fully responded to this call.

St Paul speaks to us today about praying for the spread of the Gospel, and that is a very good place to start. Prayer is a two-way conversation with God, and when we pray for some particular outcome, we should listen to God’s response, in which we may well hear his call as to how we can co-operate with him in achieving that outcome.

Prayer is not just ‘saying prayers’. There are many prayers that have been written that we can say, and should say, but the deepest prayer comes from the heart, and is not read from a prayer-card or book. The prayer that is most authentically ‘ours’ is in our words, rather than those of someone else. When we have no words with which to pray, the Holy Spirit prays in us (*Romans 8:26*) and we can simply leave it to the Spirit to find the words.

We can start our praying that the Lord’s message may spread quickly in several different ways. One way is to start with thinking of people we know, maybe within our own families, who have not yet received the message of the Gospel. Some may believe but not attend Mass with any regularity; others may be indifferent to the Gospel, and yet others may be hostile. Lift them up before God in prayer and in love. He may not immediately tell you what to say to them or how to relate to them, but by doing this, when the time comes, he will help you to bring them to faith in God.

Another way to start is to think of the people who occasionally come to Mass. They may well feel slightly uncomfortable and unsure of what they think is expected of them. You probably will not know them or their name, you will not be able to picture them. Yet you can lift them up to God in prayer without knowing their name or recognising their faces. Again, you may not receive an instant answer, but the prayer will help you to give them a welcome in the name of Christ when the opportunity arises.

A third way is to look around at empty seats, and to imagine those seats occupied with some of those who are being called by God to faith in him. It is not so much the empty seats that need lifting up, but those whom God is calling to fill them. Imagine those seats filled, and pray that those whom God is calling will hear the call. But whose voice will they hear that call through?

Be warned! Prayer leads us to action.

Show Hospitality to Strangers *(Hebrews 13:2)*

The picture shows a copy of the sculpture entitled “Angels Unawares” which stands in St Peter’s Square in Rome. It is the work of Timothy Schmaltz, and was made for the 105th World day of Migrants and Refugees in 2019, and was blessed by Pope Francis on September 29th in that year.

The sculpture depicts a group of migrants such as might land on the Kent coast in this country or on Lampedusa in the Mediterranean. They are dressed to show that they come from different countries and in different circumstances, including a Jew fleeing from Nazi Germany, a Syrian escaping from the civil war, a Pole getting out from the Communist regime, an Irish boy emigrating at the time of the potato famine, and



even the Holy Family on their way to Egypt because of the cruelty of Herod.

Above the figures can be seen angel’s wings reminding us of the passage from the letter to the Hebrews. We may not see angels in that way now, but each of the figures is a person willing and able to work. While the issues of migration and asylum are complicated, it is a sad irony that so many of those determined to reduce immigration today are the children of people who were welcomed here a generation ago, and who have worked for the benefit of our country.

This copy of the sculpture stands outside St Paul’s Basilica, also in Rome.

Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church
Ayrton Donald Simson,
Maria Lavrinovich
And Mark Lavrinovich
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for them and their families.

Bible Alive for November 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.

Mgr Tony McDermott RIP. Please pray for the soul of Fr Tony McDermott who died last week. Funeral arrangements are not known yet. Both he and Fr Ken Payne, who died the week before began their priestly ministry in this parish. May they both rest in peace.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass – Catholic Diaries for 2023 are now available! 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*

Thursday Holy Hour and Adoration: As a trial, Holy Hour will be a Holy Two Hours, from 9am until 11am. However, this can only continue if there are sufficient numbers to sustain it. No one is expected to remain for the entire two hours, come for as long as you can or want to.

Church Heating: 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. Please come in warm clothing! We will heat the church and hall on Sundays, but the extra cost of this will be more than the saving on weekdays.

The God who Speaks: The ‘Year of the Word’ continues and the Diocesan Bible Study sessions for the Sunday Mass readings are continuing. There will 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 14th Nov at 7pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Important Dates for First Communion Families: Congratulations to all children who have enrolled on the First Holy Communion programme. You will now have all the dates of sessions. Please try to attend them all, and please enjoy the course!

Confirmation in 2023: Please watch this space for information.

Choir Matters: Rather than be in a cold church on Thurs evenings I have switched practice dates & times to Sundays after 11am Mass till no later than 1pm. This gives us less practice time to check Sunday music & prepare for Christmas but the programme for this year is shorter than previously & much of it should be familiar. We have vacancies for new singers & membership of the choir is free. Give it a try. You will enjoy it even if I have to get out my tickling stick. *Alec*

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

Safe Haven is starting a Monday Coffee Morning group at Great Houghton Village Hall for the Afghan ladies who are living in Northampton, The Holiday Inn. We would appreciate some volunteers to assist on a rota basis. If interested please contact Aideen Fogarty. Firstaid.k@btinternet.com Tel 01604630546

Memorial Mass: On Saturday 17th December, 11am. there will be a Celebratory Mass for Philip Ndekwe RIP. All welcome.

Would You Like to Join (online) for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies or Diocesan Certificate in Religious Studies? Both courses offer the same 8 modules in Scripture & Catholic Theology with the CCRS leading to a nationally recognised qualification. Those who follow the CCRS/DCRS say they gain a great deal from the course, deepening their knowledge & understanding of their faith.

To find out more about the course, contact Ann Collon Email: educationserviceadmin@northamptondiocese.org or visit our website: www.northamptondiocesescchools.org

Tots @ St Gregory's: We have re-started: tots and their carers welcome, 9.30-11.30 on Tuesdays during term-time £1 per adult!!

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

Save the Date: Saturday 18th March 2023 Encounter Northampton, a day hosted by Mission Northampton in St Gregory's Hall from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. More details later!

Job vacancy: Lay Chaplain for St. Gregory's & St. Mary's Catholic Primary Schools - a dedicated & highly motivated Lay Chaplain required to work in a high quality, vibrant & caring environment where we share a rich vision for our pupils & for the communities in which we work. Post is 22.5 hours pw, working 4 days across both schools. Deadline is midday on Wed. 9th Nov. Further info: <https://www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=31>

Flame 2023: The theme of Flame 2023 – which is exactly 150 days before World Youth Day in Lisbon – takes the WYD Scripture “Mary arose and went with haste” and crystallises it into the theme, “Rise Up!” Rise up after the pandemic, Rise up as young Catholics, Rise up – as Mary did – for the surprising and beautiful adventure that is our Catholic faith. **Sat 4th March 23 - book the date - more details soon**

A course on the Psalms: It is sub-titled “The School of Prayer”, with the invitation to ‘learn to pray like Christ’. Resumes this week.

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)**

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 6th November 2022, 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

The second Book of Maccabees relates events from about 180 to 160 BC, including the martyrdom stories of Eleazar, and of this family of a mother and seven brothers, written to encourage God's people in times of persecution. The Syrian king Antiochus imposed Greek culture on the Jews, prompting a revolt led by Judas Maccabeus. The brothers each profess aspects of their faith, including confidence in individual bodily resurrection. The Jews later succeeded in throwing off their oppressor.

The Psalm asks for God's favourable judgement, confident He will help us against our enemies.

The second letter to the Thessalonians was written to calm a community startled by claims that "the day of the Lord" was upon them. As long as they love and believe in the truth given them originally they should stand firm and have no fear. They should continue to pray confidently for Paul and all preachers.

In Luke's gospel, after meeting Zacchaeus Jesus entered Jerusalem, cleansed the Temple and responded to challenges about his authority. Then he is asked about resurrection, with another example of seven brothers. He says those worthy to attain resurrection will no longer die or marry, "they are children of God", the living God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, whom Moses called "Lord".

Psalm Response:

**I shall be filled, when I awake,
with the sight of your glory, O Lord.**

(2 Macc 7:1-2,9-14; Ps 16(27); 2 Thess 2:16-3:5; Lk 20:27-38)

Chris Oliver

Prayer leads to Action

It can seem to be a daunting task — this business of spreading the Gospel. Standing on a soap-box and preaching is not something that everyone feels drawn towards. Alpha makes it easy! Not only that, there are parts of the Alpha process which are 'behind the scenes'. There is a rota system such that many of the team do not need to be there for every session. Much the best way to find out more about this means of spreading the message of the love of God is to experience it for yourself. Alpha will run again in the spring in the spring, if you have not already experienced the course, come and see, and if you can, bring a friend. The evening starts with a meal; a real meal cooked in our kitchen, two courses and always delicious. All special dietary requirement can be catered for; vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, nut-free. If your prayer moves you to action, please contact Daniel on StGregoryAlpha@gmail.com. There is no charge, but donations are cheerfully accepted. For catering purposes, please register at www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha

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?

Congratulations to the Life Charity

The Life Charity has been awarded a "Trusted Charity Mark" by the Growth Company sponsored by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, a nationally recognised quality mark. It indicates that Life operates efficiently and effectively. It is good that we have the LIFE house in our parish, and that we are strong supporters of it.

A Celebration of British Folk Song

There will be a concert on Friday 11th November in the St Thomas Centre at Northampton Cathedral, starting at 7.30 pm, given by the Northampton Concert Orchestra with guests Elizabeth and Richard York. Admission, £10 at the door.

Warm Welcome

As fuel bills increase, many find it impossible to heat their homes in the cold weather. There are a number of places offering a 'Warm Welcome' to any who would like to come; it is open to all without question. Offers of help should be made to Rayner Willnecker or to Daniel Davighi.

Every weekday (Monday to Saturday) there will be somewhere in this area open and offering a warm welcome during the morning; some offering lunch as well. The detailed plan will be published soon, but for St Gregory's, the plan is for the hall to be open and heated on Mondays from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm, and on Wednesdays from after Mass until 12.00 noon. On both days there will be the offer of hot drinks and simple food (probably soup and a roll). St Gregory's will start this on Monday 14th November.

Other places offering welcome on other days are: Abington Avenue United Reformed Church, Abington Library, Broadmead Baptist

Church, St Alban's, Broadmead Avenue and Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. This list may be added to as time goes by.

On the front page there is a picture of the sculpture of the migrant ship, and whatever our view on immigration may be, our hearts go out to those who risk their lives in the cold of the English Channel. The sculpture reminds us that there are angels among them.

Much closer to home are people who are unable to pay the price of gas or electricity, and are risking their life in the cold of their homes. Then there are those who have no homes at all. In the great description of the last judgement Jesus tells us that when we helped those in need, we were helping him. Not angels, but Christ himself.

It is good that this initiative is being made by many different churches; it is a sign that we are pilgrims on the same journey to God, and our acts of mercy are inspired by Him.