



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

The work of Lepra

“Lepra”, the British Leprosy Relief Association was founded in 1924, and works to bring support to victims of leprosy through prevention, diagnosis, disability aids and mental health support. Their main work is in India, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, where they work closely with government to support local health care facilities in the diagnosis, treatment and care of people affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis.

India is the second most populous country in the world after China and holds the largest share of the world’s extreme poor.

A third of India’s 1.2 billion population live on less than £1 a day; a figure in stark disagreement with the country’s reputation for boasting a booming economy.

Almost 70% of the population live in rural areas meaning many communities lack sufficient health services, education and sanitation, making them more vulnerable to diseases.

India has the majority of leprosy cases globally. Last year 63% of the world’s 214,000 newly diagnosed leprosy cases were in India and it is estimated that two million more are living with the long-term effects of the disease.

Prejudice against people with leprosy still persists in India. There are over 17 laws which discriminate against people with leprosy, such as leprosy being grounds for divorce and people visibly disabled by leprosy are prevented from travelling on trains.

Lepra works in seven states of India including Seema Andhra and Telangana (formerly Andhra Pradesh), Jharkhand, Odisha (formerly Orissa), Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and New Delhi, some of which are the poorest and most populous states in the country.



In areas where government services are lacking, Lepra fills the gaps so that people do not resort to seeking treatment from unqualified and unregulated village ‘doctors’ and traditional healers.

They also work in collaboration with the government, national and international organisations to ensure people have access to good quality healthcare and are not discriminated against because of disease, disability or poverty.

St Joseph’s Leprosy Centre, Khargone in Madhya Pradesh was established in 1993, and is run by the Sisters of St Joseph. Reconstructive surgery is carried out at the centre to reverse the damage caused to hands and feet, and the sisters care and support people through faith and love.

St Joseph’s also provides activities including counselling and self-care services, ulcer care, screening camps, advocacy, the

teaching of new skills and protective footwear. These are important aspects of the wider holistic healthcare needs, which enable people with leprosy to support their families, particularly if they are unable to return to their old employment.

The photograph shows Sr. Nitha, who works as a physiotherapist at St Joseph’s Leprosy Centre; as well as helping patients after reconstructive surgery, she also has time to talk to patients. Many face prejudice and discrimination in their communities, and the relationship build up between patient and therapist is an important part of Lepra’s person-centred approach.

Today we have an opportunity to support this important work through the special collection at the end of Mass.

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for August 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. 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



We welcome into the family of the Church
Myla Chizitelu Anyaeji
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for her and her family.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be advertised here shortly. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Please watch this space for information. The programme will take a similar form to last year, in which a parent/carer will take a primary position in the teaching. The feedback from this system has been very encouraging.

Confirmation in 2023: Please watch this space for information.

The funeral of Tony Bull: This will be on Friday 19th August at 11.30 am. His body will be received into church on Thursday evening, 18th August, at 5pm. Family flowers only, but donations to 'Stella Maris' (The Apostleship of the Sea) may be made in memory of Tony, either directly or via Hollowell's Funeral Directors. **This is a correction from last week**

Lepra: The second collection this week is for Lepra. One new case of Leprosy is found, somewhere in the world, every three minutes. Despite being curable, misinformation and prejudice means that many children and adults will be unable to attend school or work. It costs Lepra £25 to change a life & if found early enough, and treatment provided, Leprosy can be halted & reconstructive surgery often restores the use of limbs & sight. See posters for full details or visit lepra.org.uk to find out more. Please give generously.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We have had a great year and our last session will be on Tuesday 19th July and we re-start on Tuesday 6th September!!

Our Top Priority: "The Church exists to evangelise". This is the message from Pope St Paul VI, and has been reaffirmed by every Pope since. This applies to every parish, & our main parish evangelistic work is through Alpha. Our next Alpha will be needing help in various departments: you may be specifically asked! Please remember that both Pope Francis & Bishop David are telling us that we must be 'Missionary Disciples' & that we must be 'permanently in a state of Mission'. Your parish needs you; your Diocese needs you; your Church needs you.

Choir Matters: Pilgrimage Mass: this is a new & exciting Mass setting by Teresa Brown. It is already in use at 9am & I hope to introduce it at 11am starting this Sunday & during the rest of August. I hope you soon pick it up & are able to join in: remember what one of the Saints said – "the one who sings prays twice". *Alec*

Vocations to Priesthood: Vocations weekends are planned three times a year. These are weekends for men who are discerning priesthood. You may be in the very early stages of discernment & don't worry - you don't have to sign anything! You can take your time & meet priests who can share more about this incredible life. Priesthood is a gift to our diocese, & we would love to connect with you as you continue your journey with God. At any point you can contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Andy Richardson – (01582 502400) or vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org.

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

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

The European Christian Mission are recruiting for a Support Services Administrator to work in their office in Moulton Park. This is a part-time job, & applications close at 9am on Tues 30th August. For more information, please visit: <https://www.ecmbritain.org/we-are-hiring>

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)**

Money Matters: The closing of churches during lockdown was a financial disaster for the diocese, with very little money coming in through parishes, but all the same bills needing to be paid. Although the furlough scheme was a great help, the situation remains very difficult. The diocese has asked every parish to set a budget for the year & to live within it. The increase in gas & electricity costs will be a challenge for us, but we must try to control our expenditure. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, & if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Young Catholic Adults (YCA) Weekend 7th - 9th October:

Theme: "The Communion of Saints' prayer & veneration of Holy Relics". During the weekend, Young Catholic Adults will run a retreat at Douai Abbey with Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge who will be holding Gregorian Chant workshops. There will also be a Marian Procession, Rosaries, Sung Masses, Confession, talks & socials. Prices: £12 (for the day) £55pp per night (residential). Book soon as places are limited! Please note, to guarantee your place Douai Abbey have requested that everyone books in 3 weeks before the start of the weekend (16th Sept). For info, go to <http://youngcatholicadults-latestnews.blogspot.co.uk/> or <http://www.youngcatholicadults.co.uk>. To book: <https://bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-douai2022>

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 7th August 2022, 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

The Wisdom of Solomon was the last book of the Old Testament to be written. It was written in Greek, not Hebrew, so not in the Septuagint nor therefore in the Protestant Bible. The final chapters meditate on the Exodus, contrasting the woes visited on the Egyptians at the first Passover with the gifts given by God to the Israelites.

The Psalm celebrates God's faithfulness, power and wisdom, justifying our confidence in him.

The 2nd readings in August from Hebrews describe faith, which gives assurance to our hopes. Abraham is the prime example of a man of faith: he obeyed God's command to go to a new land; he believed God's promise that he and Sarah would have a child in their old age; and he passed the supreme test of faith when God

asked him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. God's last minute reprieve for Isaac is seen as a return from the dead.

In Luke's Gospel, following the parable we heard last week about the rich man building a bigger barn, Jesus assures us that we will be given all the resources we need to meet the Lord's demands. He then urges us to have faith and to be prepared.

Psalm Response: **Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own.**

(Wis 18:6-9; Ps 32(33):1-22; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 12:32-48)

Chris Oliver

Repainting the Church — This Week

NEW START DATE: Monday 8th August, starting 10.00, after Mass and Rosary. Please, all who have already volunteered keep in touch with Cliff cliff.snelling@btinternet.com.

We also need more people to join the rota for refreshments after the Sunday Masses, especially after 11am. more people are needed for this important ministry!

Alpha in the Autumn

Each time we run the Alpha Course there are more people who speak of how much they have enjoyed it, and how it has deepened their faith and understanding of what life in Christ actually means. Please think about coming on the next one!

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which is 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. 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

Many people have found this valuable for themselves, but this is also an easy way for anyone to fulfil the wish of Pope Francis that we all become Missionary Disciples. Just come and bring a friend!

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?

Alpha in a Catholic Context

Sections of the Catholic press have carried articles on 'Alpha' in recent weeks. It is certainly true that when 'Alpha' first appeared there was considerable opposition from Catholics. This was mostly based on what it didn't teach than on what it did, and taken on its own, some of the omissions are quite serious. However, in 11 weeks and through 15 films, it would be unreasonable to expect it to cover everything. Jesus himself, the best of all teachers, took three years to train the Apostles, and even after that, they still failed to understand.

In 2004, Nicky Gumbel, the chief promoter and presenter of 'Alpha' was invited to Rome for an audience with Pope St John Paul II, and also to meet then Cardinal Ratzinger. Gumbel was extremely nervous as he entered the palazzo that houses the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. "Ah, Reverend," the German cardinal greeted him severely. Drawing his hands wide apart, he got straight to the point: "You should know that we have a

file this big on the Alpha course." Gumbel's heart skipped a beat as he waited for the tirade. But the Cardinal broke into a big smile: "And it is all positive!" This is related by Austen Ivereigh. 'Alpha' teaches the basic truths of the Christian faith which Catholic, Orthodox and most Protestants all hold. Where it is least good is in its understanding of the Church, but this is where the 'Catholic Context' is so important. 'Church' is not primarily a theological dogma; it is, first of all, our lived experience as Catholics. 'Alpha' delivered by Catholics will invite people, without saying anything, into a community of faith, within which they can experience love and acceptance, and can grow in knowledge and understanding of our Faith. One of the early Catholic advocates for 'Alpha' was Fr Peter Hocken, a priest of our Diocese, and now about 20% of Catholic parishes in the United Kingdom have run 'Alpha' courses. It seems to be an effective way of following the lead of Pope Francis that we become a "truly Missionary Parish".

The Feast of St Gregory, our Patron

We will celebrate our Patron on Friday 2nd September with Mass at 7.00 pm followed by a social gathering in the hall. There will soon be lists to sign up to for the provision of food for the occasion. Please make a note of this date in your diary (or 'phone)

Adult Faith Formation - Autumn

There has been some interest already shown in resuming face-to-face courses in the autumn; anyone with particular requests is asked to email to Fr Andrew to indicate what they would like to study.

There are a number of courses that are available on video for us, but we can also devise courses to meet local needs. One of the requests that came from the Synod conversations was that there should be more opportunity for people to grow in their faith.

If the autumn allows us to resume face-to-face sessions, it would be good to offer opportunity for study in any area of the Faith that people want. Anyone who has a particular request, please send an email to Fr Andrew as soon as possible.

One which has been suggested is a Timeline of Church History, with particular reference to the saints whose days we celebrate through

the year, and connecting them to the era in which they lived and the historical circumstances of their life.

We also have an excellent course on the Mass, as well as several from Bishop Robert Barron.

Among the blessings that flow from these courses is the building up of confidence in the faith. Many who would like to be able to speak of their faith to others are reluctant, thinking that they don't know enough and might say something wrong. But in addition to this, most people enjoy the experience, and make new friends, building up the social life of the Church.

Details of what will be planned will appear soon, but NOW is your chance to influence what will be on offer.



Novena to pray for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi

Thursday 18th August 2022 marks the beginning of the annual Novena to pray for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi.

The Novena of Prayer lasts for nine days and concludes on his feast day on Friday 26th August.

Dominic Barberi (22nd June 1792 – 27th August 1849) was an Italian theologian and a member of the Passionist Congregation prominent in spreading Catholicism in England. He contributed to the conversion of John Henry Newman. In 1963, he was beatified by Pope Paul VI.

Blessed Dominic arrived in Britain in February 1842. He spent the next seven years based at Aston Hall in Staffordshire, from where he celebrated Mass, preached Missions, heard confessions, and received many people into the Catholic Church, the most famous being St John Henry Newman in October 1845.

Newman relates in his *Apologia* how Barberi arrived soaked from the rain and as was drying himself by the fire when Newman knelt and asked to be received into the Catholic Church. This event is marked by a sculpture in the Catholic Church of Blessed Dominic Barberi at Littlemore. Two of Newman's companions at Littlemore were also received, and Barberi celebrated Mass for them the following morning.

On 27th August 1849, Barberi was travelling from Paddington, London to Woodchester, when at Pangbourne he suffered a heart attack. Because in London "the cholera was then prevalent", there were no hotels that would take him in, and so it was decided to bring him back at Reading (in the *Railway Tavern*, later the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel, now demolished). The up-train arrived more than hour later, while "he remained in great agony but in peace and with 'Thy will be done' ever on his lips".

Barberi is buried in St. Anne and Blessed Dominic Church, Sutton, Merseyside, which is also the shrine of Elizabeth Prout and Ignatius Spencer.

"Blessed Dominic had a well known reputation for sanctity and holiness of life. He is also remembered for his love for the poor, and those in need of prayer and help."

“In Birmingham his memory is held in special regard and each year there is a Novena of Prayer asking God to grant a miracle of healing through the intercession of Blessed Dominic, which could further his cause for Canonisation.

“Please pray the Novena during the nine days from August 18 until August 26. It can be prayed in the parish or at home.”

Novena Prayer for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi

O God, who so lovingly raised Blessed Dominic
to the heights of holiness, learning and apostolic zeal
and made him a powerful minister of your mercy,
listen to our humble request.

We pray that you will in your goodness,
grant a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Dominic,
so that the Church may further honour him on earth
and that many more people will come to know
and invoke the help of this faithful servant of the Church.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of Holy Hope, Pray for Us.
Saint John Henry Newman, Pray for Us.
Blessed Dominic Barberi, Pray for Us.