



# 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

## A phoenix from the ashes!

St Clement of Rome used, in his First Epistle to the Corinthians, the symbol of the phoenix bird rising from its ashes as an illustration of Christ's bodily Resurrection from the dead. We too shall share in Jesus' defeat of sin and death by virtue of our own Baptism and through a life that is orientated only toward Him. St Clement also wrote that as death approached the phoenix made a nest composed of spices, especially frankincense and myrrh; we can use this image to recall how the same frankincense and myrrh were brought by the Magi and St Mary Magdalene to Jesus to prefigure His death. Let us be confident then that the fire damaged areas of St Gregory's Church will rise from the ashes and be even more glorious than it was before!

### From Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December

Sunday Mass will be offered at 9.00am & 11.00am  
in St Gregory's School, Grange Road. NN3 2AX



The Holy Bible contains over 500 references to fire.

Let us pray for the Northamptonshire **Fire and Rescue Service** & for the Northamptonshire **Police** who have assisted us over recent weeks.

Let us pray for all who are assisting us with restoring the damaged areas of our Church.

**Dear friends,**

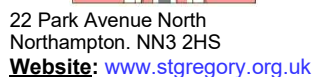
I know that I am not alone in thinking that we live in strange times as, once again, we find ourselves unable to gather for Mass in St Gregory's Church nor use the hall for refreshments, etc. Yet, amidst this wilderness experience we continue to receive an outpouring of love and support from both within and beyond our parish. You might like to be aware of the following:

- The diocesan Property Department are offering us invaluable support as we move forward.
- A second 'fire investigation' has taken place and the results will be shared first with our insurers.
- Quotes are being sought from several professional clean-up companies to deal with the affected areas.
- Electricity has been restored in a limited capacity whereas the gas and water remain disconnected.
- A gas safety certificate for the Presbytery has been issued and an electricity inspection is to be carried out; several other H&S works are ongoing.
- We pray that Mass will be celebrated in the Church from early 2026.



I know that Deacon Michael, Fr Wayne and our two retired Priests: Fr Tony and Fr Bennie, will join me in assuring you of our prayers and support as we make our way through Advent,

**Canon  
Christopher**



## Second Sunday of Advent

**CTS New Sunday Missal**  
**Year A Page 33**

**Parish Priest:**  
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**Deacon:** Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
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**Priest in Residence:**  
Fr Wayne Coughlin ☎ 713015  
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**Parish Secretary:** Caryll Comley ☎ 713015  
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**Safeguarding Representative**  
Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

<p>Sunday</p> <p><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i></p>	<p>Saint Gregory's Catholic School</p>	<p><b>HOLY MASS</b></p>	<p><b>INTENTIONS:</b>  <b>9.00 am</b>  The Parish    <b>11.00 am</b>  Robin Joseph, RIP</p>
<p>Gaudete Sunday</p> <p><i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i></p>	<p>Saint Gregory's Catholic School</p>	<p><b>HOLY MASS</b></p>	<p><b>INTENTIONS:</b>  <b>9.00 am</b>  Marcelle Brown &amp; Family    <b>11.00 am</b>  The Parish</p>

**Supporting Your Parish:** 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)**

Please remember that if you pay income tax, the Church can reclaim this on your giving: £2.50 for every £10 given; this is much simpler if you give by standing order.

**Gregory Care - Next dates for your diary:**

**28<sup>th</sup> February:** Table-Top Sale / **9<sup>th</sup> May:** Fun Day (Headlands celebration)

**Tiny Tots Party:** Sacred Heart Church - Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December from 9:30am.

Every Blessing for Advent from Gregory Care:

Many thanks to our Indian community for the brilliant event they treated us to on Saturday evening. It was much enjoyed by everyone! This was the last of our Unity in Diversity Events and we are delighted to be able to report back to the Town Council (who supported us) that they were all a resounding success so a big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to put on these 5 events. Over 700 people attended overall and no one went home hungry or lacking in a clearer understanding of the beautiful and diverse community we live in.

**The Giving Tree:** Once again you have stripped the tree!!! However, there will be a few more labels put on in time for the Masses this Sunday. Thank you all for your generosity, please bring your gifts back unwrapped as soon as possible so we can get them delivered.

**The Online Advent Retreat:** Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. Disrupted by Grace - Week 3 - Dr Avril Baigent will be joined by Fr Matt Blake to continue exploring Jesus' disreputable ancestors. Fr Matt Blake, a Discalced Carmelite priest, will be unpacking the story of Ruth for us whilst exploring the presence of grace in our lives. To register please visit: <https://northhamptondiocese.org/grace/>

**The Pastoral Area Penitential Liturgy (with individual Confession)** is to be held in the Cathedral on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. All welcome!

**Diocesan Mass for The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:**

Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December at 12.00noon in the Cathedral with Bishop Peter Doyle.  
This is followed by mince pies in the St Thomas Centre and all are very welcome!

**Please Pray for the Sick:**

[illegible]

**Some Joyful News:** Whilst our focus is ensuring that we can return to St Gregory’s Church as soon as possible, two smaller projects remain underway! These are covering the sanctuary ‘platform’ and ambo in new carpet called: “Gilden Chalice” and the creation of a tabernacle veil, ambo fall and lectern falls in “**All Seasons fabric**”:



“The birds have a symbolic significance; they are the mediators between Heaven and Earth and in

early Christian art they signified saved souls. The elegantly decorated urn, a container for oils and perfumes, signifies Mary Magdalene, one of the most popular of Christian saints and consequently much depicted in Christian art. Amongst the many flowers in the design, it is possible to distinguish the Blue Iris, a floral symbol of the Virgin Mary and the Thistle, a symbol of the Passion of Jesus Christ and the sufferings of the Christian martyrs. Finally, the grapevine symbolises abundant life and the grapes, the Eucharist.”

*Please contact Fr Wayne for more details.*

## HYMNS FOR MASS (9:00am)

### Across the years there echoes still

The Baptist's bold assertion:  
The call of God to change of heart,  
Repentance and conversion.

The erring son He welcomed home  
When all is spent and squandered:  
He lovingly pursues the sheep  
That from the flock has wandered.

The word that John more boldly spoke  
In dying than in living:  
Now Christ takes up as He proclaims  
A Father all forgiving.

Forgive us Lord all we have done  
To You and one another:  
So often we have gone our way  
Forgetful of each other.

Forgetful of the cross they bear  
Of hunger, want, oppression -  
Grant Lord that we may make amends  
Who humbly make confession.

### Be still and know that I am God. x 3

I am the Lord that health thee. x 3  
In thee O Lord, I put my trust. x 3

### Be still, for the presence of the Lord,

the Holy One is here;  
Come bow before Him now  
with reverence and fear.  
In Him no sin is found,  
we stand on holy ground;  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One is here

Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire,  
with splendour He is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight,  
our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place;  
He comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister His grace.  
No work too hard for Him,  
in faith receive from Him;  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.



**St Michael the  
Archangel Prayer,**  
defend us in this  
day of battle.

Be our safeguard  
against the wickedness  
and snares of the devil.  
May God rebuke him,  
we humbly pray, and do  
thou, O Prince of the  
heavenly hosts, by the  
power of God, thrust down into hell Satan, and  
all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

### The Parish Litany:

Our Lady of Walsingham: **Pray for us!**

St Joseph: **Pray for us!**

Pope St Gregory the Great: **Pray for us!**

[Saint of the day: **Pray for us!**]

St Thomas of Canterbury: **Pray for us!**

### The Divine Assistance Prayer:

May the divine assistance remain with us always,  
and may the souls of the faithful departed, +  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



Over the coming months look out  
for further details regarding the  
founding of the '**Confraternity  
of the Holy House, Corby**' in  
our own parish. Janet Northing,  
its Founder & Lay Guardian, will  
also provide us with an update at  
the Sunday Masses very soon.

**Bambinelli Sunday:** On the IV Sunday of Advent,  
you are encouraged to bring the Baby Jesus from  
your Christmas Crib to Mass for it to be blessed.  
Once the 'Bambino' is back home you wrap it up  
and open the 'gift' on Christmas Day; when it can  
be placed in the Crib, often by the youngest child.  
This tradition was promoted by Pope John Paul II.



**'O Antiphon' Novena:** Receive the  
daily prayers in your inbox and  
join with people from the Diocese  
in praying these sacred texts from  
17<sup>th</sup> December to Christmas Day.

This is a simple and yet profound  
way to prepare for the Nativity of the Lord. This  
has been created by Janet Northing and is being  
promoted by our Diocese to unite us all in prayer.

[www.northamptondioocese.org/advent-novena/](http://www.northamptondioocese.org/advent-novena/)

# THE ORDER OF THE MASS

(Extracts)

## PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have  
failed to do,

*And, striking their breast, they say:*  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

## THE GLORIA

*This is omitted in Advent and Lent*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
the Virgin Mary, all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again  
from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*After each intention that is vocalised by the  
Deacon there is a short pause while the faithful  
pray. Therefore, the Deacon leads us in the  
Intercessions, but we do the praying, hence why  
it is also called "The Prayer of the Faithful".*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

*For Catholics, the Holy Eucharist is the source  
and summit of the whole Christian life. It is the  
vital centre of all that the Church is and does,  
because at its heart is the real presence of the  
crucified, risen and glorified Lord, continuing  
and making available his saving work among  
us. Holy Communion is the literal Body, Blood,  
Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.*

*After the Preface, the people sing:*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name**

**of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
of the world, grant us peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,

behold him who takes away the sins of the  
world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the  
Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy**

**that you should enter under my roof,**

**but only say the word and my soul shall be  
healed.**

## DISMISSAL

*Then the Deacon, or the Priest says one of the  
following:*

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Go in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

# The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham

*Called to the Fullness of Life and Love*



A new religious community dedicated to Our Lady of Walsingham offering talks, parish missions, retreat days, accompaniment and more, both in Norfolk and around the country. Retreats, both personal and guided are also available at their convent in Dereham, located thirty minutes from Walsingham and with good public transport links to Norwich.

## *Mary's House Appeal*

Help us to establish a place of prayer and  
service in Walsingham, our spiritual home.

Please support as we raise funds for the purchase of a  
mission house in Walsingham as our community  
continues to grow, visit the website to find out more.

Any donation you can give is appreciated!



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