



The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234091



“A truly thriving Catholic community, confidently and humbly proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.”



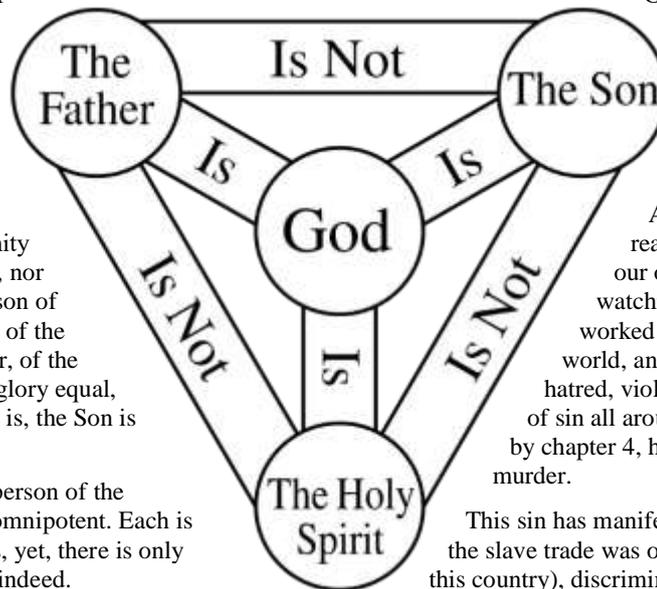
Trinity — the very nature of God

The Trinity is a mystery at the heart of our understanding of God. We know that God is One, but we also know him in three ways, as three persons. The diagram of the Trinity is an ancient way of depicting this mystery derived from a statement ascribed to St Athanasius, but actually dating from rather later.

“We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Essence. For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son and another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, is all one; the glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal. Such as the Father is, the Son is and such is the Holy Spirit.”

There are four specific attributes of each person of the Trinity, uncreated, immense, eternal and omnipotent. Each is described with each of these four qualities, yet, there is only One with these qualities. A deep mystery indeed.

God has been described as a ‘community’; a community of equals, each being their own person, yet bound to each other in eternal love.



God created humankind “in his own image” (*Genesis 1:26-27*), and in God’s plan, mankind would live as does the Trinity; a community of love, a community of persons bound to each other in eternal love.

As we all know, not just from reading *Genesis* chapter 3, but from our own experience and from our daily watching of the news, that is not how it all worked out. Tragically, sin entered the world, and there are so many instances of hatred, violence and so many other expressions of sin all around us. Sin enters in chapter 3, and by chapter 4, has escalated from disobedience to murder.

This sin has manifested itself in many different ways; the slave trade was one (which brought much wealth to this country), discrimination against ethnically non-white people was another, institutional racism is a third, and in particular the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis has brought all this to the headlines. George Floyd is far from the first, but maybe the worldwide protests might provoke action to prevent more.

Black Lives Matter

We should all be concerned that the BAME community are disproportionately affected by CoVid-19. While last week’s report on this by Public Health England recognising that those from black or Asian ethnic groups have double the likelihood of dying from CoVid-19 than white British people. One commentator observed that this is not a new reality, it is merely highlighting a reality that has been in our country for many years.

Any sort of racial discrimination should be of concern to us, especially as Catholics. We are not the Church of any particular country or ethnicity, we are the “Universal Church”; that is what the word ‘Catholic’ means.

One of the joys of our Church is its multi-ethnicity, as the Jesuit poet, Gerard Manly Hopkins expressed it: “Glory be to God for dappled things — for skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow.” (*Pies Beauty*).

As Catholics we must stand against not only against acts of racism, such as the murder of George Floyd, but against any society that tolerates racism and unjust discrimination.

The words of Pastor Niemöller come to mind: “First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me.”

Any form or unjust discrimination or racism is not just an offence to the immediate victims of this injustice, it is an offence to the whole of humankind, it is an offence to the Church, and most of all, it is an offence to God, not least because it offends against God’s very nature as the Holy Trinity, the universal community of love.

Notices of Interest

Supporting CAFOD and the Hope Centre: Please see the respective websites to make donations for CAFOD and / or the Hope Centre:
<https://cafod.org.uk/>
<https://northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/get-involved/donate/>

The Office: Unfortunately at this time I can't speak to you face to face, but I will be available by phone or email at the usual times.
God bless and stay safe. *Caryll*

Out of Date Contact Details: I have been working through contact telephone numbers to make sure that as many Parishioners as possible are contacted & are not in need of anything. However, I have found that many phone numbers are unobtainable, & I should appreciate it if you would take the time to email me with your up to date phone numbers/email addresses. Rest assured that your messages will be deleted as soon as I have checked that we have your correct contact details, & our 'address book' is securely password protected. My email address is secretary@stgregory.org.uk. Many thanks
Caryll

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: The regular Thursday adoration is not taking place during this present emergency.

CAFOD Corona Virus online petition: Unite against the Corona Virus. We are living through the biggest Public Health Crisis in a century. Right across the UK it has been having a devastating impact on all our lives. Many people have lost loved ones. This is not a time for divisions. The world should unite in love & compassion. Out of love for our brothers & sisters please sign the online petition to our Prime Minister asking him to ensure the most vulnerable people are a priority in the UK's international efforts as well as at home. Visit <https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1> to sign the petition online.

Hope Centre: The needs of the homeless are not changed during this emergency Please see the separate notice about the Hope Centre.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Please contact Deacon Michael direct (01604) 647750, E-mail: myf@btinternet.com for information.

First Holy Communion — 2020: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established.

Confirmation – 3rd Preparation Session: The present course is suspended until the normal programme can be re-established. There is a provisional date for Confirmation of 30th October.

Bible Alive for June is now available. As well as the commentary on the daily readings for Mass, this edition carries an article on "Faith in a Pandemic" and an article on Nicky Gumbel who devised the 'Alpha' course. The cost is £3.00. If you want to purchase a copy, they are on a table outside the fire door to the foyer during the daytime, with a box of (out of date) green envelopes. You can put the payment in an envelope and post it through the presbytery door.

Notice from the Diocese

Online Donation: The Diocese has an online donation facility on the main Diocesan website through Virgin Money Giving (link below). If you use this option we ask that you please indicate in the notes section **which parish, including the parish name and area (St Gregory's, Northampton)** that you would like your donation to be attributed to. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donation
<https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/>

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)**

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group will not meet during this time.

Becoming a Catholic: For adults interested in becoming a Catholic, the parish runs Journey in Faith process (RCIA). Also offered for adults who are Catholic, but have not received all the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist. Please speak to Alex Heath (07963032175) or Fr Andrew.

Forthcoming Alpha Course: The next Alpha Course was due to start on Tuesday April 21st. In view of the current projections for the Coronavirus pandemic, we have to postpone this course. However, those who have registered will be kept informed about any change of date. Much the easiest way to enrol is through the web-site at <http://stgregory.org.uk/alpha/>.

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

Online Prayer resources during this time

Live-streamed Mass from the Cathedral
<http://northamptoncathedral.org/live/>

Live-streamed Mass from Walsingham
<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

Live-stream Mass from Lourdes
https://www.directfromlourdes.com/lourdes_live_tv

Fr Nicholas King leads Stations of the Cross
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/3785948>

Readings, homily and Spiritual Communion
<https://www.lentinisolation.com/videos>

EWTN
<https://www.ewtn.com/tv>

Sacred Space guided prayer
<https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Cardinal Nichols leads Stations of the Cross
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_16s7Nt_P2E

On participating in Mass on-line or through television

For most of us, it is a new experience to participate in Mass over the internet or on television. It is important not to be in the mindset of simply "watching television" or "watching a film". The Church as always asked for "active participation", and the medium of television make this quite difficult.

It is better if you can avoid sitting in an armchair or on a sofa, and try to adopt the same postures as you would in church (sitting, standing or kneeling), and to speak the responses; please do not simply be a viewer. On the back page of this newsletter is a simple prayer of Spiritual Communion.

Scripture Readings 7th June 2020, Holy Trinity, Year A

Seeing the Israelites dancing round the golden calf, Moses was angry and had thrown down and broken the tablets on which the Lord had written his covenant. The agreement with God was literally broken!

Now the Lord, a God of compassion, tells Moses to prepare two more tablets. After "passing before" Moses, the Lord declares that He is "a God merciful, ... forgiving iniquity". Moses asks the Lord to forgive his people, and the Lord re-affirms his covenant and again writes the Commandments on stone tablets.

Today's psalm comes from the hymn of thanks in the story of Daniel, set in the 6th century BC but probably written about 165 BC. Daniel's three companions refused to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's statue and so were thrown into a furnace so hot their guards were killed. But God protected the three men, who

walked about inside the furnace with their clothes intact but their rope bindings burned off.

After Paul's stern instructions to his beloved Corinthians, his second letter ends with this fond farewell, including the Trinitarian grace used widely by Christians.

At the beginning of John's Gospel, after the wedding at Cana and the cleansing of the Temple, Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be "born again". Nicodemus cannot understand this, but Jesus insists that those who refuse to believe and trust in Jesus condemn themselves.

Psalm Response:

To you glory and praise for evermore.

Chris Oliver

The Season of Creation

Tip No. 69: *Living Sustainably with creation:* Pope Francis reminds us that 'the throw away' culture is detrimental to Nature. We have to escape the idea of changing things because they do not look good this year e.g. kitchens, bathrooms, settees and furniture.

Tip No. 70: *Solidarity with the poor:* in *Laudato Si* it suggests that internet /media sometimes shield us from the life realities of pain, fears and joys of others and the complexities of their experiences; which we need to be open to, as in personal relationships.

Actions to LiveSimply : Communication regularly (telephone) with of our , 'family in faith,' can cheer our predicament, or with eye contact using WhatsApp, Messenger or Skype.

Many thanks to Harry and Helen Charles who have offered to co-ordinate our parish's work towards the "Living Simply Award". Anyone who is interested is being involved in this, please contact them, or speak to Fr Andrew

Re-opening churches

During Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday, Boris Johnson revealed concerns about the rate of infection going up if places of worship open to the public right away.

He was asked about the re-opening of places of worship by Jane Hunt, Conservative MP for Loughborough, who said she had been contacted by church leaders in her constituency about access to their buildings "both for services and to help to tackle homelessness".

In reply, the Prime Minister said: "I very much understand the urgency that many people in this country feel about the need to reopen places of worship.

"It is a tough one: every time we do something like this, we push up the risk of infection and the risk of pushing up the R again."

He added: "We are not there yet. We are getting there, but we are not yet there. It is vital that the people of this country understand the continued need to push down on the infection rate."

The Government has said that places of worship must remain closed until July 4 at the earliest, but this has been criticised by some leaders as restrictions on other places, like shops, markets and car showrooms continue to ease. (*Reprinted from 'Christian Today'*)

Saints this week

This week there are three saints, St Columba, St Barnabas and St Anthony of Padua. They vary in date from Barnabas in the first century , Columba in the sixth and Anthony of Padua in the thirteenth. All three of them were missionaries, Barnabas was companion with St Paul on his first missionary journey, but then went to Cyprus to proclaim the Gospel there.

Columba was born in County Donegal in Ireland, and after founding several monasteries in Ireland, in 563 AD he travelled to Scotland, where he settled on Iona, which was then under Irish jurisdiction. From Iona many missions went throughout Scotland, and seventy years later, it was from Iona that St Aidan travelled to Lindisfarne to begin his mission to the north of England.

St Anthony of Padua was actually born in Lisbon, and joined the Augustinian community at a young age. However, he was impressed with the holiness and missionary zeal of a group of Franciscans who had just arrived in Portugal, and received permission to join them. He went to join the Franciscan mission to Morocco , but ill-health prevented his remaining there, and he intended to return to Portugal, but his ship was seriously blown off course, and he ended up in Sicily. In Italy he became known as a preacher and teacher, and particularly was noted as a lover of and expert on the Scriptures.

All three speak to us of the importance of Christian missionary work. This must continue in our century, and we ask the prayers of the saints to assist us in the same work that they carried out in their centuries.



During this time of restricted public worship, please keep reading the Bible. The Easter “Bible Alive” is available — see the note elsewhere in this newsletter.

