



# The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



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

OUR  
VISION

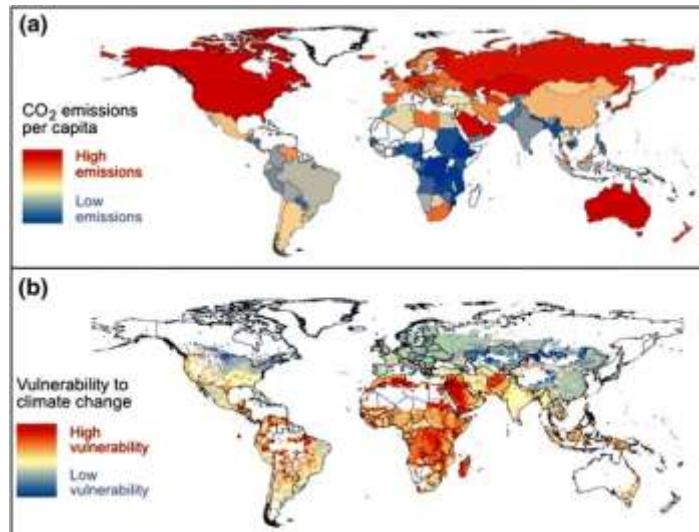
**"A truly thriving Catholic community  
confidently and humbly proclaiming the  
Good News of Jesus Christ."**

OUR  
VISION

## Gracious listening and gracious speaking

It is clearly stated that the Synodal process is not a parliamentary exercise. After the events in the United Kingdom parliament last week, we can rejoice in that!

The tone in Glasgow at the COP26 appears to have been better, and there seems to have been genuine gracious listening to the pleas of those who are at risk from climate change. While there are still a few who deny that the climate is changing at all, the data shows a different story, and it is fundamentally a story in two parts. The first part is the story of the areas where since the beginnings of the industrial revolution there has been a growth in the burning of fossil fuels and a sharp increase in average wealth; the second part is the story of those parts of the world which did not industrialise and have remained less wealthy. Ironically, those poorer areas have often been the very areas where the raw materials of industrialisation were produced and from which they were exported.



(source: Saraswat & Kumar, 2016 via BlueOrchard Academy Rethinking Climate Finance)

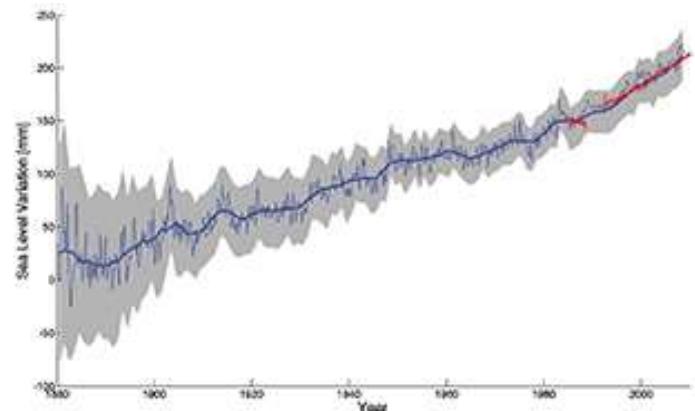
The top map shows in red the areas that produce the highest emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> while the bottom map shows in red the areas that are most vulnerable to climate change.

There are many ways in which this vulnerability is shown. The most obvious is in the rise in temperature, although this is naturally a seasonal effect. Frequently hotter summers can be followed by cold winters. However, the extremes of heat can lead to drought in some places, while in others it can lead to cyclones and devastating rainfall, bringing floods, landslides and utter devastation. In both instances, this leads to increased migration and the devastation of communities. The increased temperature has an immediate impact on the health of the population, and an increase in wildfires which further devastate communities.

It is not only at a global scale that this is shown. While average earnings increased substantially in industrialised countries, this increase was not distributed equally. [In reading statistics, beware of terms like 'average' or measures in 'percentages' — they can be used to hide the truth!]

In this country the problems related to air pollution are most severe in the most deprived parts of the nation. It is easy to understand this; people who can afford to will move away from the source of the pollution, leading to lower house prices and rents in those same places, which brings to them those already most deprived.

However, there is another devastating effect of climate change and that is the rise in sea level.



Source: Shum and Kuo (2011)

There are two causes of the rise in sea level; the first is that as water gets hotter it expands and occupies more volume, the second is that as the polar ice caps melt, there is more water in the oceans. Here it is not only the poorest who will be affected; high on the list of vulnerable cities are Miami, New Orleans and New York in the USA, Tokyo and Osaka in Japan, Rotterdam and Amsterdam in Europe. Enormous sums of money have been spent on the Thames barrier to protect London, and similarly, Venice has been protected, but areas of Bangladesh and India remain at severe risk, not just from the rising sea level but also from cyclones and high rainfall. The Nile delta, including the city of Alexandria is also at risk.

However, it is again the poorest who will be unable to protect themselves in the way that London or Venice are protected. We must listen graciously to the cries for help from those who are suffering most, and speak graciously to them. But we must not forget the third part of the Synodal process, which is to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying, and then, to act upon it.



# Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Nicholas Mocanu  
who received Christian Baptism recently.  
Please pray for him and his family.

**Repository:** From next week, Nov 14th, a display of Christmas cards & other items will available in the Hall foyer. Due to Covid & the continuing lack of new staff this will be in reduced form. Please take care to observe Covid recommendations. I am grateful that my small but very loyal helpers will try to be available, but if there is no-one to help, please put money into wall box to the right of the Sacristy door. *Kathleen Healey (01604) 629103*

**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.

**Office Diary 2022:** The new diary has now arrived for 2022 and dates are filling very quickly – there are very few dates available now throughout the first two months of the year. If you know that there is a specific date you need for a Mass Intention, please don't delay as you may be disappointed and not get the date you wanted. *Caryll*

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** The next preparation will be in the Sacristy on Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 7pm. Please note that you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

**First Holy Communion 2022:** We have enrolled as many children as we are able to prepare for First Holy Communion in 2022. Please keep the children and their parents in your prayers. Increasingly we are emphasising the importance of parents in the growth in faith of their children; it would be worth-while for parents to look out for the next Alpha course.

**Confirmation in 2022:** The next Confirmation programme will be announced soon, but there will be a time of reflection before any definite plans are made. Please keep looking at this space where information will appear.

**Parish Finances:** Continued thanks for the wonderful generosity that you are showing to the parish.

**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)

**SPUC - Silent Prayer Vigil:** Please note that the Pro Life Vigil planned for 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. will now start on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. from 10am to 12pm. In St. Giles Terrace. Further info from William on 07393965643 or [wpcurrie@btinternet.com](mailto:wpcurrie@btinternet.com). The plight of the unborn child and the horror of abortion is the preeminent moral issue of our time. As Catholics we all have a duty before God to do all we can to save unborn children from abortion. Please consider joining us and if you are unable to do so then please support all Pro Life organisations and keep them in your prayers.

**SPUC - Tiny Feet Coffee Morning:** You are invited to our SPUC 'Tiny Feet' coffee morning, 10am-12pm, Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, in the Parish Hall. Please come & give your support to our Pro Life event. Money raised will go towards the work of the SPUC. Every little thing we do, with God's grace, will make the world Pro Life & reject the horror of abortion. Thank you.

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

**Vianney Mission Prayer Group** will not meet during this time.

**News from the Foodstore!** Thank you for the magnificent supply of toiletries last week. This was much appreciated, and the need continues. We as a parish continue to support the Cathedral Foodstore by supplying toiletries to add to food bags. The Cathedral supply these provisions each week to families in need from around Northampton. Please donate what you can, & continue to pray for this work. Remember that as the weather gets colder, the need becomes greater. Many Thanks, *Gregory Care*.

**Choir Matters:** Choir Practices in preparation for Christmastide will be after evening Mass every Thursday starting 4 November, 7:45-9 pm. *Alec*

**Catholic Mental Health Workshop:** For all who serve young people - you are invited to join us on Sat. 20th Nov. for a Catholic Mental Health & Wellbeing workshop where we will explore what our faith has to say on this topic & how to support young people at this time. The workshop is just £5 & can be paid on the day. The workshop will take place in the parish hall of St. Martin De Porres Catholic Church, 366 Leagrave High Street, Luton, LU4 0NG. To book, please email [fiona@nymo.org](mailto:fiona@nymo.org).

**Tots @ St Gregory's:** We will be in the hall from 9:30-11:30 each school week Tuesday! If you have care of a baby or pre-school child Tuesday mornings why not join our very friendly & fun group? We only charge £1 for an adult & however many children they bring & this includes snack & all activities!

**Courses for Readers:** The Bible Timeline course has started on Zoom on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7.30 pm. on 13<sup>th</sup> October. All are welcome, but those who proclaim the Scriptures at Mass are particularly encouraged to take part. Please email to Fr Andrew for further details. It is not too late to join!

**Love Christmas Campaign:** The diocese is putting on an online workshop on Thursday 18th November, 7.30pm to explore a number of practical ways that we can reach out into our community, from outdoor cribs to bags of kindness, including the ecumenical Love Christmas Campaign. We will explore Ideas for every parish and school community to get involved. If you are interested in joining, please contact Fr. Andrew ([priest@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:priest@stgregory.org.uk))

**Diocesan Safeguarding Administrator:** The Diocese is currently recruiting for a Safeguarding Administrator to provide admin support to the Safeguarding Office. Hours will be 4 hours per week. Full info for the position & application form can be found at <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/> or via email [hadmin@northamptondiocese.com](mailto:hadmin@northamptondiocese.com). Closing date for applications Friday 19th Nov. Interviews to be the following week.

**Climate Change Conference, COP26:** The destruction of our land, oceans and forests is threatening people's homes and their ability to earn a living. From October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 12<sup>th</sup>, governments from across the world meet to discuss how to tackle the climate emergency at COP26. It's vital for the Catholic community to demand that our leaders act now to protect our common home. Join CAFOD on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00 pm to hear live from Glasgow. Neil Thorns, Head of Advocacy, Communication and Education and a Vatican representative from the Vatican delegation will present a webinar on the progress made at the COP26. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and listen to the latest discussions at the global United Nations summit about climate change and how countries are planning to tackle it. To register and for more information, visit: <https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/COP26-update>. The webinar will be recorded, and can be watched later.

# Scripture Readings 7th November 2021, 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Ahab, the king of Israel “did evil in the sight of the Lord more than any of his predecessors” by worshipping false gods, introduced by his wife, Jezebel. Elijah told Ahab the Lord would punish him with a drought lasting many years. In today’s reading a widow gives Elijah the last of her food, and is rewarded with food until the drought ends.

The Psalm advises us not to put our trust in princes, but in our God, who is kind and good.

The Letter to the Hebrews shows how Jesus Christ is our eternal high priest, “mediator” of the new covenant, which replaced the old covenant. The high priest no longer goes each day into the sanctuary of the Temple, where God dwells on earth, to mediate between man and God. Christ has entered heaven, so he can intercede directly with God on our behalf. Christ died and offered

himself as a sacrifice once only, perfectly confirming man’s agreement to the new covenant for ever.

Like the first reading, today’s gospel also involves a widow who gives her all. The widow exemplifies loving God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength, instead of meaningless ritual.

Psalm Response: **My soul, give praise to the Lord.**

(1 Kings 17: 10-16; Psalm 145(146): 7-10; Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark 12: 38-44)

Chris Oliver

## A WEEKEND JOURNEY TO EMMAUS Hosted by Mission Northampton

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

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00 am–8.00 pm and

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 10.00 am–4.00 pm:

**a commitment to the whole weekend is essential.**

**Venue:**

**St. Thomas Centre, Northampton Cathedral, Primrose Hill,  
Kingsthorpe Rd, Northampton, NN2, 6AG.**

**Details of how to register & pay coming soon.**

Please email your interest to: [maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk)  
to reserve your place.

## More New Expressions this week:

**“Catholicism — The New Evangelisation”**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm  
and running for 4 weeks on Mondays at 2.00 pm**

“The Catholic Faith is not about myths or legends, symbols or literary devices. It’s about an encounter so overwhelming that you want to tell the whole world. It’s an encounter with Jesus Christ. Throughout history the call of Christ has sent people to the corners of the earth with a message of great joy - a message that has built civilisations, inspired cultures & even sent some believers to prison & others to their graves.

**We have the same call. That is evangelisation**

*A course by Bishop Robert Barron, delivered by Zoom!*

This week is the second of two in which we examine new expressions of evangelisation, and this is based in recognising barriers to faith. This week the barrier is ‘relativism’, an idea that Pope Benedict XVI frequently criticised. It is the idea that there is no such thing as absolute truth or morality, and that every different lifestyle or way of living is of equal value. If every religion is of equal value (including atheism), then there is no reason to seek to evangelise — indeed, if relativism is correct, evangelisation would be morally wrong; except that if relativism is correct, there is no such thing as a moral wrong!

We believe Jesus to be **THE WAY, THE TRUTH and THE LIFE**, and that God gives us a sure rock on which to stand. Relativism is standing on sands, which are actually quicksand.

**Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.**

## 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

## For a synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission



Pope Francis described the upcoming Synod as a journey in which the whole Church is engaged. It will take place between now and October 2023, and the itinerary has been conceived as “a dynamism of mutual listening, conducted at all levels of the Church, involving the whole people of God”. The first stage of the process (now until April 2022) is the one concerning the individual diocesan Churches. He explained that “synodality expresses the nature of the Church, its form, its style, its mission”. The word “synod”, in fact, contains

everything we need to understand: walking together and listening to the totality of the baptised. Walking together we discover that we are part of one great people who are the recipients of the divine promises open to a future that awaits everyone to participate in the banquet prepared by God for all peoples. We must listen graciously, speak graciously, and above all, listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

With the people of God journeying together, listening to one another, and to the Holy Spirit, the entire Church will be strengthened to be the Body of Christ and to fulfil the mission given by Christ himself, to “proclaim the Good News”.

# St Gregory's next Alpha:

To the right are the dates of the next Alpha course which we are hoping will be able to 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](http://www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha)

<b>First session:</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> September 2021:</b> Is there more to life than this?
<b>Second Session:</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b> Who is Jesus?
<b>Third Session:</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b> Why did Jesus die?
<b>Fourth Session</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b> How can I be sure of my faith?
<b>Fifth Session</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b> Why and how do I pray?
<b>Sixth Session</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> How does God guide us?
<b>Seventh Session</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> Why and how should I read the Bible?
<b>Away-Day</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> Who is the Holy Spirit?
<b>Eighth Session</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021</b> How can I resist evil?
<b>Ninth Session</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b> Why and how should we tell others?
<b>Tenth Session</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b> What about the Church?
<b>Eleventh Session</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b> What about the rest of my life?