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 Visitation by the Bishop

Every five years all Diocesan Bishops have to make what is called their 'Ad Limina' visit to the Vatican and give a report on the state of their diocese. In order to do this, they are required to visit every part of their diocese during the course of each five-year period. That gives a bureaucratic understanding of the Bishop's visitation. However that understanding does not spring from the more Biblical way of seeing the Church.

Today we read as our second reading from Saint Paul's letter to Philemon, and next Sunday we will read from the first letter to Timothy, one of the 'pastoral epistles'. Pastoral is a key word in understanding the nature of the Church.

Paul speaks of Onesimus, a slave, as his child whose father he became in his imprisonment. The relationship of father to child, which is an echo of the relationship God has with all of us is how the Bishop relates to the people of his diocese. A Bishop's Visitation springs from this relationship.

The fact of the slave-status of Onesimus is a given reality; Paul has no power to change that, and in the early years of the Church, there was no thought of being able to change the secular laws. However Paul does seek to change the nature of the relationship between Philemon and Onesimus, from slave to 'beloved brother'. Not so much a change of law as a change of heart.

The teaching of the Gospels is equally a call to a change of heart. Our Gospel today speaks of exactly this:

> "Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." (*Luke 14:33*)

Jesus calls us to a change of heart from a love of possessions to a love of God. This change of heart is, for most people, a gradual and slow process rather than a sudden and complete change. While the decision to change can be instantaneous, the process of putting that decision into complete effect can take many decades.

The Pastoral Epistles, from which we shall be reading for the next two months are letters encouraging the pastoral care of Christians that they "may be complete, equipped for every good work". (*2 Timothy 3:17*, *which we hear in 19th October this year*)

The pastoral care of the Church was entrusted to Peter after the resurrection (*see John 21:15-17*), and this continues in the Church with the successor of Peter being the chief pastor, and the bishops making their 'ad limina' visit, in which the visit to the tombs of Peter and Paul is a focal point, as well as sharing with the successor of Peter the pastoral needs of the diocese.

Welcome to Bishop David

We are now in the Season of Creation

Pope Leo, in his message for the Season of Creation this year quoted the prophet Isaiah:

> Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high,
> and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,
> and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.
> Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,
> and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.
> And the effect of righteousness will be peace,
> and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust for ever.
> My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,
> in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places. (*Isaiah 32:15-18*)

He observes that when the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, justice will dwell there. From this is follows that destruction of nature is an act of injustice.

He writes: "Extreme natural phenomena caused by climate changes provoked by human activity are growing in intensity and frequency, to say nothing of the medium and long-term effects of the human and ecological devastation being wrought by armed conflicts. As yet, we seem incapable of recognizing that the destruction of nature does not affect everyone in the same way. When justice and peace are trampled underfoot, those who are most hurt are the poor, the marginalized and the excluded. The suffering of indigenous communities is emblematic in this regard."

The title, chosen by Pope Francis is "Seeds of Peace and Hope", and says that "in Christ, we too are seeds, and indeed, 'seeds of peace and hope', and prays "that Almighty God will send us in abundance his "Spirit from on high" (*Is* 32:15), so that these seeds, and others like them, may bring forth an abundant harvest of peace and hope."

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7th September 2025
Twenty Third Sunday Of the Year
CTS New Sunday Missal - Year C
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Priest:
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Carol McNeil ☎ 07906802615

Sunday *23rd Sunday Of the Year*	9.00 am 11.00 am 3.00 pm 4.30 pm	Mass Mass Confirmation Mass Mass (Syro Malabar Rite)	The Parish The Redmond Family's Intentions Confirmation Candidates
Monday Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00 am	Mass	Tim Heaohy RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am 4.00 pm	Mass Reception of the Body of	Josephine Redmond's Intentions Rita Barry RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am 10.30 am	Mass Funeral Mass	Brendan Moen Rita Barry RIP
Thursday Feria	9.00-11.00 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Mass	 The Roe Family's Intentions
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	A. Jones
Saturday St. John Chrysostom	9.00 am 1.00 pm	Mass Mass (Ukrainian Rite)	Joseph Sobiski & Family
Sunday *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*	9.00 am 11.00 am 1.00 pm 5.30 pm	Mass Mass Mass in Shona Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Tom Moran RIP The Parish

Your Offering to the Parish: Last Week Was £367.77. Thank you!
Standing Order gifts to the Parish: Each week £557 is given through standing orders.
Donations through the Diocese: An average of £75 is given each week.
Second Collection Last Sunday Gregory Care. £364.30. Thank you!
Gift Aid benefits to the parish: The value of Gift Aid averages £171 per week.
Cleaners This Week: The Church is cleaned & sanitised on a regular basis.
Counters this Week: CC & JH.

Readings for this Sunday: see inside for details

Wisdom 9: 13-18: *Who can discern what the Lord wills?*
Philemon 9b-10, 12-17: *Have him back no longer as a bondservant but as a beloved brother.*
Luke 14: 25-33: *Anyone who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.*

Readings for next Sunday (*CTS New Sunday Missal Page 1175*)
Numbers 21: 4b-9; Philippians 2: 6-11; John 3: 13-17.

During This Season of Ordinary Time, Autumn, We We Are Asked to Pray For: Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest; The Spread of the Gospel; Victims of War; Prisoners & Their Families; Children & Young People.

Peter and Paul: twin inspirations for our Vision

St Peter was given the ministry of pastoral care after the resurrection "Tend my sheep, feed my lambs" (*John 21:15-16*); Paul deswcribes his commission: "I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth." (*2 Timothy 2:7*).

This twin commission to the founders of the Church in Rome is one that remains for the whole Church in every country, every diocese and every parish.

We are called to care for the sheep of Christ's flock and to proclaim the Good News to the people who have not yet hears it or not yet received it.

The Church is only fully authentic when both of these commissions are being fulfilled, but just as Christ appointed two people, Peter and Paul, so no single person is expected to fulfil the entire commission on their own.

Indeed, within each commnission there are many different functions: "God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues." (*1 Corinthians 12:28*) Together, we are the Body of Christ. Just as Peter and Paul worked together to build up the Church in the 1st century, so we are called to work together to build up the Church in the 21st. Doing this makes us a 'thriving Catholic community'.

Please Pray for the Sick:

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Maud Clarke	Thomas English
Audrey Teare	Margaret McCarthy
Bridget Hughes	John Ansell
Jean Van Arsdel	Viola Spring
Frederick Darby	Rosina Lombardi
Pantalina Dias	Patricia Flanaghan
Michael Dillane	Rosa Cabassi
Jane Roberts	Gertrude Clarke
Walter Barwell	Mary Kelliher
Walter Faulkner-Dunkley	Barbara Latham
Norah Freeman	Molly Cave
Nicholas Bamforth	Ashley Merlit
Johanna O'Dwyer	Aileen Tuller
Kathleen Loder	Edward Somers
Baby Julia Krupa	Sheila McGill
Albert O'Sullivan	Carmen Prendiville
Josefa Horn	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER
Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Prayer for Peace for Ukraine, the Holy Land and all places of strife.
Please continue to pray for an end to wars, and for all victims of war:

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.

Notices of Interest

Repository: The Repository is open after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards and religious goods. There is a small display of cards and items to commemorate Confirmation in September available at the Repository from this week. Any queries or volunteers please contact Kathleen on 01604 629103 or Kath.healey.789@gmail.com

Bible Alive: The new edition has arrived and is available in the narthex. **PLEASE NOTE:** Each edition now covers two months, and while the price per month remains unchanged, the two-month edition is priced at £6. It is extremely good value, and is a good way for you to enter into the daily Scripture readings at Mass or to follow them if you are unable to be at Mass. Please put money for Bible Alive into the 'Books and Papers' box in the narthex wall.

Parishioners With Young Children: Please, please, do not allow your child to play with/throw around pamphlets/leaflets/booklets etc which are displayed either in the Narthex or the Foyer. They are not toys. Thank you!

Church Cleaning: Helpers needed to clean the Church on last Sat. every month (**next – 27th September**), after morning Mass. All welcome, especially the younger, more energetic ones!

Parking: Our car-park is small, & many have to park on the road. We are in a residential district, & our neighbours also like to park. Please be considerate, & remember that there are laws regarding where you may park. It is illegal to block a drive to a house where there is a dropped kerb or where a white line is painted indicating the needs of a disabled driver. It is also illegal to park at a road junction. There is usually space on Wellingborough Road at the side of Abington Park opposite the bottom of Lime Avenue.

Choir Notes: next practices are from 11-12 on the 2nd Saturday of the month: Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8. *Alec*

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group prays together online via Whatsapp & telephone on the 1st Saturday of the month, in the Hall: 10 am-12pm.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be in the Sacristy, 7pm, on Monday 13th October. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2025/6: First Holy Communion 2026 Registration will be on Sunday 19th October after the 11.00 Mass. If you know that you cannot come on that date, there is an alternative after the 10.30 Mass at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on Sunday 12th October. Whichever day you register, it is for the same course, and makes no difference to where First Holy Communion is received.

Confirmation in 2025: The Confirmation will be in the afternoon of Sunday September 7th 2025.

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

Gregory Care: dates for your diary:-
20th September 11-3pm African Unity in Diversity Event.
15th November (time to be confirmed) Indian Unity in Diversity Event
On both days the host community will be sharing their culture through food and entertainment.
11th October Parish Quiz and Supper Evening.
28th February Table top Sale.
9 March St Gregory's Fun Day as part of Headlands celebration.
6h June Picnic in the Park.
We hope as many people as possible can join us at these events.

Tots @ St Gregory's: We start again on Tuesday 9th September!! If you have care of a pre-school child on a Tuesday morning we would be delighted to welcome you. Looking forward to seeing you!

Ceili Dancing: Dancing started again on Wednesday 3rd September at 7.30pm & continues every first & third Wednesday of the month in the Parish hall. All welcome.

24-hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in honour of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Sun 7th - Mon 8th Sept. There will be the usual 9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's Shrine, Great Billing on that Sunday. This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will continue until 9am on Monday at Great Billing. Sign-up sheets for the Exposition will be available at the back of both churches.

Missio Matters: It seems only recently that the summer mag became available but now is the time for you to collect your autumn version! The focus here is to prepare for World Mission Sunday on Oct 19. Copies will be available at the church main entrance, on the left hand side as you come in, & are in alphabetical order to make it easier. Your generous support for the work of missionaries continues to impress: God bless you all for that. New donors most welcome, if only to replace others who are now deceased - at least four in the last year. Speak to Dorothy (9am) or Alec (11am) or the clergy for further details.

Refreshment Donations: This is the last week-end of collecting for the refreshment fund, and next week-end the donations given will go to CAFOD.

Alpha in the Autumn 2025 — Dates and Subjects

First session:	September 16th	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session	September 23rd	Who is Jesus?
Third Session	October 7th	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session	October 14th	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session	October 21st	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	November 4th	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session	November 11th	How does God guide us?
Eighth Session	November 18th	Does God heal today?
Alpha Away-Day	November 22nd (Saturday)	Who is The Holy Spirit?
Ninth Session	November 25th	How can I resist evil?
Tenth Session	December 2nd	Why and how should I tell others?
Eleventh Session	December 3rd	What about the Church?

Alpha is a basic introduction to faith in God, in Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is not a complete teaching scheme for the entire Christian faith.
We need to recruit more helpers; if you are able to help in any way, please contact Daniel Davighi or speak to Fr Andrew.
For more information and to book please see:
https://stgregory.org.uk/alpha

Scripture Readings: For the Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church

The Book of Wisdom was written in 1st century BC. Greek and other pagan religions gave inadequate answers to life's questions, especially why the wicked prosper and the just suffer. How does a just God mete out justice? Wisdom's solution, distilled from all Jewish Scriptures, is that the just continue to live with God after their deaths: a developing Jewish belief in resurrection, though not of the body. Man's knowledge and powers of reasoning are inadequate compared with God's Wisdom. So we ask God to give us Wisdom for our guide.

The Psalm contrasts God's eternity with our short lives, confident that God cares for us and that some good will come from our trials.

In this moving letter Paul asks Philemon to accept back the slave Onesimus and forgive him. But Paul is pleading for something more: Onesimus means "profit", and Paul wants Philemon to see the "profit" of forgiving Onesimus out of Christian love, and not because Paul could "force this act of kindness". In this way Philemon can gain wisdom and spiritual benefit.

In Luke's gospel, after a parable about "I'm too busy" excuses, Jesus insists we must "hate" our parents: not emotionally but in our actions. We must weigh our options carefully and willingly carry the Cross.

Psalm Response: **O Lord, you have been our refuge from generation to generation.**

(Wisdom 9:13-18; Ps 89(90):3-17; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33)

Chris Oliver

Please pray for the soul of Chris Oliver who died on 22nd June. May he rest in peace and may God reward him for all the good he has done.

Coming Up

Today
Bishop's Visitation
Mass at 9.00 and 11.00 am
Come and talk to the Bishop in the hall after either Mass
Confirmation Mass at 3.00 pm

Saturday 20th September
African Cultural Experience

Sunday 28th September
Season of Creation Event
5.00 pm, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Tuesday 30th September
"Vale et Salve"
(Farewell and Welcome)
Farewell to Fr Andrew;
welcome to Fr Christopher
Mass at 7.00 pm

Inspired by Carlo Acutis, is anyone interested in taking over the preparation of the PowerPoint presentations for the 9.00 Sunday Mass and / or looking after the parish website?

Carlo Acutis — Our newest Saint

Carlo Acutis was born in London of Italian parents on May 3, 1991. Because of work reasons, the Acutis family moved back shortly afterward to Italy, settling in Milan. The young Carlo settled into his new school quite well, and rather than waiting for friends to come to him, he is remembered for being a friend to all. In 2005, he began studies at a new school, run by the Jesuits. During this time, Carlo showed himself skilled in all things to do with information technology, computers, and the internet. He was inspired by Steve Jobs, former CEO of Apple. The wisdom Jobs shared struck a chord with the young Carlo: "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living the life of someone else." Another piece of wisdom from Steve Jobs resonated with Carlo: "It is only by saying 'no' that you can concentrate on the things that are truly important."

Jobs' warning not to live the life of someone else or live another's expectations also impacted him strongly. In fact, he rephrased this wisdom in his own way using the memorable analogy of a photocopy: "All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies." Here, Carlo warns against the slavery of conformity. He understood that God made us unique and that each of us needs to discern the vocation the Lord has entrusted to us within the family of the Church.

For Carlo, this highest good of all was God and his will for his life. "Happiness is looking towards God," he said. "Sadness is looking towards yourself." One of his best-known pieces of wisdom says it all: "God and not me." In Italian, the phrase has an even greater effect: "Dio, non io." He also shared, "Money is only ragged paper. . . . What counts in life is the nobility of the soul, that is, the way that one loves God and loves one's neighbour."

At a time when excessive screen time is a worry for the parents of teenagers, Carlo is a great example of someone who used modern technology to good effect without wasting time or being distracted. During the autumn of 2004, he accepted the responsibility of being deputy catechist, accompanying candidates for First Communion and Confirmation. During that time, Carlo used his skills to update and develop the websites and communication platforms of his parish and school, opening up new ways to evangelize and share the Good News using new media. Not being naïve about the dangers of the internet, he warned his fellow students about the evils of pornography that "hypnotize" its victims and dehumanize both its producers and consumers. He gently but firmly counselled his fellow students about the importance of the will and the capacity to master it with God's grace. For Carlo, information technology must be seen for what it is: a tool to share good news, to connect, and to do good. In this regard, he is a role model for young people and indeed for all of us of how to use technology without being manipulated or controlled by it.

From a young age, Carlo grasped the teaching of Jesus about the importance of interior disposition as the key to what we say or act. He knew that a deep and beautiful spirituality on the inside is the secret of a serene, consistent, and joyful disposition that presents itself on the outside. Carlo often repeated, "Why do people worry so much about their physical beauty but don't worry about the beauty of their souls?" Carlo exemplified this beauty as a person of great holiness on the inside and with the charity he showed in how he lived. He helped immigrants, beggars, the disabled, and the elderly. He was a friend to those his own age whose parents had separated.

Another distinct feature of Carlo's young life was his love for the Eucharist. At a time when many of his contemporaries were walking away from the Mass, Carlo found something beautiful in it that attracted him, something divine that he experienced. For Carlo, the Eucharist was a threshold experience that enabled him to transcend the border of this world and touch a world beyond. He famously said, "The Eucharist is my motorway to heaven," and that "with each Communion we come closer to the goal of sanctity."

Carlo Acutis died on 12th October 2006 after a short illness caused by acute leukaemia, aged just 15. He faced his death with great courage, as did his suffering parents. Though they prayed for the miracle of his survival, they all came to realize that while God doesn't always save us *from* death, he saves us *in* death. Carlo was declared a blessed of the Church on October 10, 2020. Since then, there have been countless witnesses who have come forward who testify to his intercession and to the amount of good that continues to pour from this young man's life. He is a wonderful example of how living a life of joyful faith takes nothing away from our desire to be free and happy. Today he is declared a Saint, his feast day will be on 12th October