

Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOUC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234091.



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



The Worship of God on Earth

The readings for this week carry on the theme from last Sunday. We were invited to consider the worship of God in heaven, as described in the Book of the Apocalypse. This week we are given a picture of a meeting at Antioch in Pisidia. [It is confusing that there are two places called Antioch both of which were significant in the life of St Paul; Antioch in Syria and Antioch in Pisidia (modern Turkey).]

The first reading tells us of a Sabbath Day meeting. St Paul would always first go to the Jewish community in each place he visited on his missionary journeys, and what happened at Antioch was typical; the leaders of the synagogue would oppose Paul, and he would then go to the Gentile population. However, there is no suggestion that the meeting that the meeting with the Gentiles (St Luke calls them 'pagans') was an occasion of worship. The first description of worship comes in Paul's third missionary ten years later, when we are told that they met to 'break bread' on the 'first day of the week'. (*Acts* 20:7)

St Justin, writing about 100 years later, describes the worship of the early Church:

No one may share the Eucharist with us unless he believes that what we teach is true, unless he is washed in the regenerating waters of baptism for the remission of his sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ.

We do not consume the Eucharistic bread and wine as if it were ordinary food and drink, for we have been taught that as Jesus Christ our Saviour became a man of flesh and blood by the power of the Word of God, so also the food that our flesh and blood assimilates for its nourishment becomes the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus by the power of his own words contained in the prayer of thanksgiving.

The apostles, in their recollections, which are called gospels, handed down to us what Jesus commanded them to do. They tell us that he took bread, gave thanks and said: *Do this in memory of me. This is my body*. In the same way he took the cup, he gave thanks and said: *This is my blood*. The Lord gave this command to them alone. Ever since then we have constantly reminded one another of these things. The rich among us help the poor and we are always united. For all that we receive we praise the Creator of the universe through his Son Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday we have a common assembly of all our members, whether they live in the city or the outlying districts. The recollections of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as there is time. When the reader has finished, the president of the assembly speaks to us; he urges everyone to

imitate the examples of virtue we have heard in the readings. Then we all stand up together and pray.

On the conclusion of our prayer, bread and wine and water are brought forward. The president offers prayers and gives thanks to the best of his ability, and the people give assent by saying, "Amen." The Eucharist is distributed, everyone present communicates, and the deacons take it to those who are absent.

The wealthy, if they wish, may make a contribution, and they themselves decide the amount. The collection is placed in the custody of the president, who uses it to help the orphans and widows and all who for any reason are in distress, whether because they are sick, in prison, or away from home. In a word, he takes care of all who are in need.

We hold our common assembly on Sunday because it is the first day of the week, the day on which God put darkness and chaos to flight and created the world, and because on that same day our saviour Jesus Christ rose from the dead. For he was crucified on Friday and on Sunday he appeared to his apostles and disciples and taught them the things that we have passed on for your consideration.

(From the first apology in defence of the Christians by Saint Justin, martyr)

We can see here a form of worship that we can recognise from our present-day celebration of Mass, with the significant exception that only Baptised believers were allowed to share in worship. Hence the importance of the process of Mystagogia, the continued instruction of the newly-Baptised. This also suggests why the Saturday meeting at Antioch was missionary and not an occasion of Christian worship.

What we know is that we do not always remember what we were taught many years ago, which is why the Church is very concerned with what we now call 'adult formation'. The Mystagogia is important for us all today — not just for new Christians but for us all. We also know that simply teaching a dogma without explaining the reason and meaning of the dogma is inadequate.

Our worship on earth is both related to the worship of heaven, and historically to the pattern given by Jesus at the Last Supper. Words from a 9th century Latin hymn translated by John Mason Neale are appropriate: "A ladder set up to heaven on earth".

It is, really much more than a ladder: in our earthly worship we are united with the worship of heaven. We are among the number 'impossible to count' who are singing the praise of God. For all of us, however long we may have been coming to Mass and however frequently, there is always more to understand and more to experience.



8th May 2022 Fourth Sunday of Easter Parish Mass Book - Year *C* Page 134

| Sunday | 9.00 am | Mass | Antonietta & Trofimena |
|------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 th Sunday | | | Mansi |
| Of Easter | 11.00 am | Mass | The Parish |
| - J = | 5.00 pm | Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite) | |
| Monday | 9.00 am | Mass | Fran O'Hanlon RIP |
| Feria | | | |
| Tuesday | 9.00 am | Mass | Neil Cramphorn RIP |
| St. John of Avila | | | |
| Wednesday | 9.00 am | Mass | Chris Lynch RIP |
| Feria | 10.00 am | Funeral Mass | Joseph Timlin RIP |
| Thursday | 9-10.00 am | Holy Hour of Adoration | |
| St. Pancras | 7.00 pm | Mass | Roseanne Ogbata & Family |
| Friday | 9.00 am | Mass | Neil Cramphorn RIP |
| Our Lady of Fatima | | | |
| Saturday | 9.00 am | Mass | Special Intentions |
| St. Matthias | 9.45 am | Confessions | |
| Sunday | 9.00 am | Mass | Fr Michael Bingham RIP |
| 5 th Sunday | 11.00 am | Mass | The Parish |
| Of Easter | 5.00 pm | Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite) | |
| | | | |

Normal opening times: Due to the relaxation in restrictions, the Church will be open every day from 8.45 am until 5.00 pm, except on Thursdays when it remains open until 7.45 pm

Your Offering to the Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £252.01. Thank you! Standing Order gifts to the Parish: Each week £486 is given through standing orders.

Donations through the Diocese:An average of £77 is given each week.Gift Aid benefits to the parish:The value of Gift Aid averages £88 per weekSecond Collection Recently:CAFOD -Lent amount so far £1013.13.Second Collection This Week:Diocesan Priests' Training Fund

Cleaners This Week: The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.

Counters this Week: CC & LA

Readings for this Sunday (Readers 9am: Lorna Heron, 11am: Maureen Moriarty)

Acts 13: 14, 43-52: We must turn to the pagans.

Apocalypse 7: 9, 14-17: The Lamb will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living

water.

John 10: 27-30: I give eternal life to the sheep that belong to me.

Readings for next Sunday (Readers 9am: Jehanne Houghton, 11am: Diane Phillips)

Acts 14: 21-27; Apocalypse 21: 1-5; John 13: 31-35. (Page 136)

During this seasonNew Members of the ChurchOf Easter, we areHuman Work; Priestly Vocations;Asked to pray for:Right6 Use of the Media; The Church.

Infection numbers in Northampton

As expected, the number of positive tests reported is reduced, as also is the number of tests reported. However, although the hospital remains very over-stretched, the number of COVID patients is declining, which is good news. While it would be irresponsible to act in any way which might increase patient numbers, we can make small relaxations in our precautions. From last week we started the collection in the way in which we were accustomed before the pandemic, by passing the collection bag round the church, starting from the front. In the trend downward continues, further relaxations can take place, although we remain guided by advice from the Bishops' Conference. There is a supply of masks in church, but please, bring one with you if you can.

We continue to urge responsibility & sensible caution. Please, everyone, think of the well-being of others.

If you feel unwell, DO NOT COME!

Priest:

Fr Andrew Behrens \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 713015 E-mail: frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org

Deacon:

Parish Secretary:

Caryll Comley \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 713015 Email: parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org

Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 621807

Please Pray for the Sick:

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

| William Weston | Samuel Howerd |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Eileen Lillyman | Michael Quigley |
| Michael O'Hara | May Moan |
| Bryan Slinn | Douglas Carter |
| Doreen Harding | William Flynn |
| Patrick Walsh | Catherine Troop |
| Margaret Mitchell | Ian Cooper |
| Sarah Byrne | Peter Doherty |
| Fitzroy Burrell | Georgina Boyle |
| Madge Spice | Len Warrington |
| Elizabeth Wartmann | Augustine Keeffe |
| May Lewis | Herbert Butters |
| Betty Finn | Alexander Albon |
| Arthur Mawby | Mary Kinirons |
| Anthony Dwyer | Violet Gibson |
| William Nicholson | |

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for Easter & June 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 and there is a display of First Communion and Confirmation cards and mementoes. 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



Diocesan Pilgrimage, Walsingham: 4th June: A coach will leave from St. Gregory's at 8am on Sat. 4th June, leaving Walsingham at about 5.00pm. Cost £16 per person (payable in advance). Please see poster for full details. To book, please speak to Caryll in the Office, or add your details to the list in the Lobby area and see one of the Clergy to pay.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: Next date to be in the Sacristy on Monday 30th May, 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2022: The preparation now turns to the receiving of Holy Communion for the first time, and we look forward to this in May. Thanks also to the parents in providing support and becoming catechists for their own children.

Confirmation in 2022: Registration for confirmation preparation & confirmation this year is now closed, no further applications can be accepted. The sessions will run on Sunday mornings from 10.15 - 11.30. Please join us for 9am Mass as part of this course. Confirmation Mass is Saturday 2nd July at midday.

Dachau, Germany 1933: The first concentration camp set up by the Nazi regime. As the trains rolled through Dachau filled with people about to die, the local population suspected what was happening at the camp. 2021 the United Kingdom: nearly 200,000 babies were killed by abortion & we KNEW.... But what did we do? Thank you to the eight people who did something on Sat. 30th April at St Peters Way at the pro-life chain. You witnessed to the nearly 10,000,000 babies killed by abortion since the 1967 Abortion Act in Britain. What as Catholics have you done to combat this evil? This is what we will be asked at our judgement. Please consider joining the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. For further details 07393965643 contact William Currie on wpcurrie@btinternet.com. Thank you. William

Pope Francis' message for the 59th World Day of Prayer for Vocations on the theme "Called to Build the Human Family,"

and encourages each vocation in the Church to give the very best of themselves "in this great divine plan!"

Gregory Care Update on Toiletry Donations: Thank you for the gifts of shampoo & washing up liquid over the past few weeks. Gifts of shower gel and household hygiene products would be welcome. If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from this please get in contact with Gregory Care through Fr Andrew.

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

Choir Matters: Practices start after evening Mass on 1st Thursday of each month: 7:45-9pm. By popular demand, the June practice is moved one week earlier to coincide with Ascension Thursday's evening Mass, May 26. Other dates are July 7, Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6. Old age & infirmity are catching up with some familiar voices including myself - & new members are needed... the view from the Gallery is great. *Alec*.

<u>Vocations to Priesthood</u>: Many priests speak of a niggling call from God rather than a definitive word, others say they knew from childhood. However you receive your call from God, in the first instance share it with those you trust. Speak of it in a normal way and preferably tell your parish priest or spiritual director, if you have one. At any point you can contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Andy Richardson – (01582 502400) or <u>vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org</u>. You may, at this stage not be sure what the specifics of your call are; diocesan priesthood or a Religious order, it is still good to connect.

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 and don't worry — you don't have to sign anything! You can take your time and meet priests who can share more about this incredible life. Priesthood is a gift to our diocese, and we would love to connect with you as you continue your journey with God.

<u>Parish Finances:</u> 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)

<u>Planned Giving Envelopes:</u> If you use envelopes, please take your new box from beside the confessionals. Apologies to any who have transferred to standing orders but have still been issued with envelopes. Standing orders are managed by the Diocesan Finance Office, and the parish does not always have full details.

Parish and Diocesan Finances: A new financial year has begun, and as soon as we have the complete accounts from the Diocese, they will be published. One significant help would be to make your giving through standing order; the details of our account are above, and if you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Help for refugees from Ukraine: If you want to find out more about how you could help or be involved, please visit: https://northamptondiocese.org/ukraine/

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

<u>Wednesday evening Bible Study by Zoom:</u> 8 week course on Romans led by Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, subtitled "The Gospel of Salvation".

Session 1, 18th May
Session 2, 25th May
Session 3, 1st June
Session 4, 8th June
Session 5, 15th June
Session 6, 22nd June

Introduction:
Chapters 1-2:
Chapters 3-4:
Chapters 5-6:
Chapters 7-8:
Chapters 9-11:

No session on June 29th Feast of SS Peter and Paul, Mass at 7.00 pm No session on 6th July Diocesan 'Year of the Word' Webinar on the

Sunday readings through the summer

Session 7, 13th July Chapters 12-13:

Session 8, 20th July Chapters 14-16: The End of the Story.

Please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

<u>Tots @ St Gregory's:</u> TINY TOTS look forward to seeing you: if you have charge of a pre-school child, from 9:30- 11:30 on a Tuesday morning, you are most welcome!

Monday evening Zoom session: Through Lent there have been sessions on Monday evenings looking at 'pivotal players' in the life of the Church. This Monday there will be a film of the life of St Paul; please email to Fr Andrew for the Zoom link.

Scripture Readings 8th May 2022, 4th Sunday of Easter, Year C

The Antioch church sent Barnabas and Paul on mission. After visiting Cyprus, Barnabas' birthplace, they arrived at Perga on the south coast of what is now Turkey, and travelled north to Antioch in Pisidia. Everywhere they went they spoke first to the Jews about Jesus as the climax of the whole Jewish history. Jesus who was killed by the Jewish leaders, but raised from the dead by God. At first many Jews listened attentively.

The processional Psalm sings joyfully of God: "he made us, we belong to him".

In the Book of Revelation John sees events in heaven which mirror events on earth. Witnesses persecuted for their beliefs do not suffer in vain: they will be vindicated and evildoers punished. Not vengeance, but God's justice. And a message of hope: the faithful of every nation will be rewarded with perfect life in God's renewed creation.

In John's Gospel, after Jesus had healed the man born blind, the Jewish leaders argued about Jesus, and asked him to say plainly if he was the Messiah. Jesus says the healing he does in the Father's name testifies to him. He ends with a clear statement: "I and the Father are one" The Jews picked up rocks to stone Jesus: they understood Jesus was claiming to be God.

Psalm Response: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

(Acts 13: 14, 43-52; Psalm 99(100); Rev 7: 9, 14-17; John 10: 27-30)

Chris Oliver

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.

LIFETEEN SUMMER CAMP 2022

Sunday 24th to Thursday 28th July 2022 Alton Castle: For more information and to go to the bookings page visit https://nymo.org/summercamp/

40 Hours Adoration

There will be our annual 40 hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for 2022, from 7.00 am on June 24th until 11.00 pm on Saturday June 25th. Please keep this date in your diary.

ALPHA IS NOW RUNNING

The current Alpha course is now in progress, but there will be another starting in the autumn.

There is a small team of leaders and helpers. Now is not too soon to be thinking about whether you could join them. Catherine Mulligan leads the catering team, and offers of help in the kitchen and in the preparation of the hall on Tuesday afternoons is always welcome.

The Pastoral Care of the Flock

When Jesus met Peter by the shores of the Sea of Tiberias, three times he asks: "Do you love me". Three times Peter replies "yes", and three times Peter is given a new commission: "Feed my lambs", "Tend my sheep", and finally "Feed my sheep". (*John 21:15-17*)

It is generally recognised that the threefold commission is a healing of the threefold denial by Peter as Jesus is facing trial in the house of the high priest. (*John 18:15-27*) There is disagreement among scholars about the significance of 'feed' and 'tend' or between 'lambs' and 'sheep', but what is agreed is that this is a pastoral commission for the whole Church, and the successors of Peter down the centuries have seen their role as first of all, the chief Pastor of the Christian flock.

This is a task that cannot be that of one person alone, any more than the missionary commission which was given to the Apostles is not theirs alone, but is shared by all Christian people. The pastoral commission is also one which is delegated to the bishops throughout the world, and within each diocese, to the priests.

The task of feeding with the Bread of Life is one which fundamentally is a responsibility of the bishops and priests, but the entire task of tending the flock in a parish cannot fall exclusively on the shoulders of one person. It is recognised that in schools, there is a duty of pastoral care which falls on the staff generally, and part of the responsibility of parents is a pastoral care for their children.

However there is a need for priests to fulfil the command of Jesus that the lambs and sheep be fed. On this Sunday each year we are asked to pray that those whom God is calling to the Priesthood may respond to that call.

We are living in an age in which the life of a priest is counter-cultural in almost every respect. The priest cannot expect to become financially rich, he cannot expect to have a family life with wife and children; he cannot expect fame. But God does care for his priests, and the joys that come from the fulfilment of one's vocation far outweigh the sacrifices. God <u>is</u> calling people to priesthood; pray that they will <u>hear</u> and <u>follow</u> the call.

At the end of the account of Peter's pastoral commission, Jesus' final words to Peter were "Follow me" (*John 21:19 and 22*). May all whom God is calling to priesthood hear and respond.

Our Lady of Fatima

On Friday 13th May it will be 105 years since the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917, the first of six apparitions in consecutive months all on the 13th. Fatima is extra special for Ester because her grandmother, Aurora, was present at the Cova da Ira during the last apparition in October and witnessed first hand the events of that day. The apparitions and miracles were a

turning point with so many people from all over Portugal seeing and believing. The events at Fatima re-invigorated Catholicism and the Church became much stronger leading to Portugal in the mid to late 1900s becoming the most Catholic country in Europe and this is the something more I believe came out of the events at Fatima, plus today it continues to be so inspirational for so many

Are you curious about Christianity?

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

| First session: Second Session: | April 26 th 2022: May 3 rd 2022: | Is there more to life than this? Who is Jesus? |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Third Session: | May 10 th 2022: | Why did Jesus die? |
| Fourth Session: | May 17th 2022: | How can I be sure of my |
| faith? | • | , |
| Fifth Session: | May 24th 2022: | Why and how do I pray? |
| Sixth Session: | June 7th 2022: | How does God guide us? |
| Seventh Session: | June 14th 2022: | Why and how should I read |
| the Bible? | | , |
| Away-Day: | June 17th - 18th 2022: | Who is the Holy Spirit? |
| Eighth Session: | June 21st 2022: | How can I resist evil? |
| Ninth Session: | June 28th 2022: | Why and how should we tell |
| others? | | • |
| Tenth Session: | July 5th 2022: | What about the Church? |
| Eleventh Session: | July 12th 2022: | What about the rest of my |
| life? | - | • |

How Alpha Works — and Why

Alpha works because it uses the same methods that Jesus himself used. It uses personal contacts. Jesus said to Andrew: "Come and see" (*John 1:39*), and it is the same invitation that we make. Like Jesus, who so often in the Gospels is seen at a meal with others, Alpha is set in the context of a meal. It is not Mass, but could be seen as looking forward to when everyone at Alpha can share in the Eucharistic meal — what theologians call an 'allegory' of the Mass. St Paul speaks of 'children in the faith' not being ready for solid food (*I Corinthians 3:1-2*), and Alpha is like coming to see Jesus in the person of some of his disciples. Having 'come and seen', people are free to make their own decision. Thankfully, many decide to get to know Jesus better. Alpha is also ideal for the Church community as it uses so many different talents and skills, and does not force people out of their 'comfort zones'. It needs the talents of the cooking team; the team who prepare the room, the table hosts and table leaders. It needs the skill of the technicians, and of musicians. Above all, it needs the support of prayer, and it needs people to invite others to 'come and see'.

DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON LITURGY COMMISSION- LITURGICAL FORMATION



The God Who Speaks - Our Liturgy of the Word



A Series of online Zoom Sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year. A valuable opportunity to develop our engagement with the Scriptures that we hear proclaimed at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass.

Led by the Liturgical Formation Team with presentations by Liz Clark, Fr Allan Jones CRIC, Mgr Kevin McGinnell & Fr Andrew Behrens

Wednesday 20 April 2022, (7.30-8.30pm)

Celebrating Eastertide

Each session will include input, prayer and the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

Cost: No charge but there will be the opportunity to make a donation

Please register in advance to secure a place by e mail or phone: email admin@nores.org.uk or phone: 01582 723312 (ext 1)

Once your booking is received you will be sent details of how to join the online Zoom sessions. Thank you.

(Photo from www.pexels.com)

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

Recently, Revolution Zero have opened a community food larder (social supermarket) in the former UCR Church, The Headlands. Their aim is to make food accessible to everyone & reduce the amount of food going to landfill. 15 items of choice for £5. Please take a look at the link-http://www.revolutionzero.org/ They have a Facebook page & are open Tues 1-3pm, Wed 1-4pm, Thurs 1-3pm & Sat 11-12 noon.

Thank you again for amazing contributions and please keep this initiative in your prayers.

An act of Spiritual Communion

I prostrate myself at your feet, O my Jesus, and I offer you the repentance of my heart,

which abases itself in its nothingness and in your Holy Presence.

I adore You in the Sacrament of your Love; I desire to receive You in the poor abode that my heart offers You.

While awaiting the happiness of Sacramental Communion, I wish to possess you in spirit. Come to me, O my Jesus, that I may come to You. May your Love inflame my whole being Jesus, I believe in You, I hope in You,

I love You. Amen. Pope Francis [20 March 2020]

Repainting in the church: If you can help, please can you contact Cliff Snelling at cliff.snelling@btinternet.com, indicating which weeks (when weather is warmer) you would be available to help.