



# The Catholic Parish of Saint Gregory the Great Northampton



PART OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF NORTHAMPTON, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 234951

OUR  
VISION

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

OUR  
VISION

## You should comfort one another

What a year this has been! At the beginning of the year we knew that the question of our trading relationship with the European Union would be an important issue to be resolved. Little did we know what was to come.

It has been Covid-19 that has dominated this year, and looks as though it will continue through the coming winter. We were warned about a ‘second wave’, but the new lock-down has come as a very unpleasant reminder of the power of a microscopic virus. On top of that, we are now told that the security level of the country has been raised to ‘severe’ is the face of the terrible events in France and Austria. During the year the terrible plight of refugees and asylum-seekers has been a continuing problem, and as winter approaches, the appalling news of people (including children) drowning in the English Channel while trying to get to this country strikes to the heart. Through all of this the whole world has been going through an economic crisis due to the pandemic, and many have tragically lost their jobs and livelihoods.

Where in all of this can we find comfort? Some are looking for comfort in the hope of a vaccine, and indeed, that would be some comfort in the face of the infection, but that does not address the underlying problem; the problem of death.

St Paul calls death ‘the last enemy’ (*1 Corinthians 15:26*). It is an enemy which has been conquered by the resurrection of Christ, and ultimately will be destroyed altogether. “Death will be no more.” (*Apocalypse 21:4*) “And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith” (*1 John 5:4*). “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for” (*Hebrews 11:1*).

In this month in which our focus of prayer is on those who have died, it is to our faith that we turn for comfort, and we remember that we are called to ‘comfort one another’ (*1 Thessalonians 4:18*).

One of the cruelties of lock-down is that we are unable to offer comfort in the conventional way. The most natural way to offer comfort is by physical presence. When Job was plunged into tragedy, his three friends responded:

“Now when Job’s three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home . . . to go and console and comfort him” (*Job 2:11*)

The passage continues:

“They sat with him on the ground for seven days and seven nights and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great” (*Job 1:13*)

It wasn’t until they started to speak that trouble began!

There seems to be an almost irresistible compulsion to speak; to utter words. Yet we know that “the Word was made flesh” (*John 1:14*), and it is our very presence that speaks louder than any word we could utter that counts for more.

To bring true comfort we need to bring more than just our own presence, we need to bring the presence of the Word — note, **THE WORD**, not words! The Word who was made flesh in the person of Jesus lives in us through the Holy Spirit, and this is a manifestation of our faith.

However, lockdown makes this impossible; we are not allowed to visit one another’s homes (though to accurately read the story of Job, they actually sat in an ash-pit; presumably outside, but the weather may have been warmer!). Even if we could, an elbow-bump is not really a way of expressing the sort of comfort we want to show.

The first way in which we express comfort to one another is through our prayer. When Gonville French-Beytagh, the Anglican Dean of Johannesburg was arrested in the middle of the night and placed in solitary confinement by the apartheid regime in South Africa, he realised that he was being sustained by the prayers of many people whom he could not see. Even if we cannot be physically present with people, our prayer has value to them. “Pray for one another”, St James tells us (*James 5:16*). He continues: “The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective”.

We are blessed in having modern technology at our disposal, and many people are keeping in touch with one another through simple telephone calls, or using the internet and smartphone technology. Some are fearful or reluctant to use these means, but simple precautions are all that are required for safety. If you need help, there is usually a teenager in most families who knows.

However, the comfort, which may be transmitted through the medium of the telephone or other technology, does not actually reside in the technology itself. The true source of the comfort lies in Jesus Himself.

“And they’ll know we are Christians by our love” is the chorus of a hymn popular in the 1960s, written by Fr. Peter Scholtes. It is not so much by our words as by our actions that we show the love of Christ.

Maybe through this coming lockdown, if each of us could think each day of someone and pray for that person, and then, having prayed, made contact with that person by telephone or in some other way, bringing comfort and the love of Jesus into their life.



22 Park Avenue North  
Northampton. NN3 2HS  
Website: [www.stgregory.org.uk](http://www.stgregory.org.uk)

**8<sup>th</sup> November 2020**  
**Thirty Second Sunday**  
**Of the Year**  
**Parish Mass Book - Year A**  
**Page 91**

**Priest:**  
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015  
E-mail: [priest@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:priest@stgregory.org.uk)  
**Deacons:**  
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
E-mail: [mvf@btinternet.com](mailto:mvf@btinternet.com)  
**Pastoral Assistant:**  
Maria Heath  
E-mail: [maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk)

**Please note that no public celebrations of Mass are permitted Until 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020. Mass is said each day in the Presbytery, and is normally available on the Parish website, & on the parish Facebook page: (StGregsNorthampton) by midday.**

<b>Sunday</b> <i>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Victims of Conflict & The Parish
Monday The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	9.00 am	Mass	Tony Refoy RIP
Tuesday St. Leo the Great	9.00 am	Mass	Carlo Marchese
Wednesday St. Martin of Tours	9.00 am	Mass	Victims of Conflict
Thursday St. Josaphat	9.00 am	Mass	Sean Johnson RIP
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Michael Dooley RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	The Rosary Group – for their blessings & prayers.
<b>Sunday</b> <i>33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Carlo Marchese RIP & The Parish

**The Church is open every day from 9.00 am until 10.30 am**

**Your Offering To The Parish:** Last Sunday's collection was £208.89. Thank you!  
**Standing Order gifts to the Parish:** Each week £551 is given through standing orders.  
**Gift Aid benefits to the parish:** The value of Gift Aid averages £133 per week.  
**Cleaners This Week:** There is no Church cleaning at the moment.  
**Counters This Week:** Please see notice.

**Readings for this Sunday**

**Wisdom 6: 12-16.** *Wisdom is found by those who look for her.*  
**1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18.** *God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus.*  
**Matthew 25: 1-13.** *The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.*

**Readings for next Sunday**

**Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6; Matthew 25: 14-30.**  
**(Page 93)**

**During this season** Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest;  
**of Ordinary Time, Autumn.** The Spread of the Gospel; Victims of War;  
**We are Asked to pray for** Prisoners & Their Families; Young People.

Are you new to the Parish? You are welcome! Please introduce yourself to the Clergy
In hospital? Let the Chaplaincy know on 01604 714556
If you are in need, please ring Gregory Care on 07982 235379. Someone will respond as soon as possible. Please be patient.

**Instructions for places of worship.**

Parliament has passed into law the Regulations governing many aspects of activity in the whole of England until **Wednesday, 2 December**. These Regulations prohibit the gathering of people for communal worship in churches and other religious buildings. Churches remain open and in use for activities other than communal worship, including personal prayer and support for those in need. Funeral Masses and funeral services may be held. Despite profound misgivings it is important that we, as responsible citizens, observe these Regulations, which have the force of law:

**"Remind them to be obedient to the officials in authority; to be ready to do good at every opportunity" Titus 3:1**

**Please pray for the sick:**

Debbie	Jean O'Neil
Fr Philip Swingler	Khanh Phan
Michael Spowart	Matt Murphy
Owen	Deacon Rory
Fr Ed Worthy	Aileen Hasdell
Margaret Farragher	Paul Greaves
May Murtagh	Sr. Margaret
Richard Redmond	Teresa Redmond
Catherine Stratten	Mary Morgan
Leo Bell	Maureen Bell
Michael Rowback	Margaret M
Marion Gilbert	Bridget Devane
May Cramphorn	Andrew Stewart
David Pick	Liam Murphy
Agnes McLoughlin	Breda Coleman
Mark Coleman	

**Anniversaries:**

**May they Rest in Peace**

Giovanni Triore	Muriel Williams
Richard Partridge	Colin Mays
Patrick Simpson	Stefani Martyniak
Kathleen Williams	Joyce Harold
William Coulton	George Lewin
Margaret Coll	Margaret King
Eileen Loughran	Stephen Folon
Anthony Refoy	Hilary Graney
Edward Naylor	Jeremiah Buckley
Jack Norris	Elizabeth Ryan
Patrick Berrey	Jane Aneke
Daniel Aneke	Diana Cornwell
Arthur Coleman	John Callinan
Paddy Streeter	Larry Scicluna
Rosie Augustine	Francis Pilsbury
Roslyn Thompson	Jaroslav Picuno
Marie Williams	Lianan Dolan
Anne Rafter	Hynek Hlustik
Jacqueline Sohal	Bartley Folon
Martin Callaghan	Arthur Cannell
Mary Barnell	Bridget Lalor
Grace Pond	

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS  
FOR NOVEMBER**

**that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind..**

**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 in life and in death.  
Jesus, I believe in You, I hope in You, I love You.  
Amen.

# Notices of Interest

## An Important Notice Regarding the Celebration of

**Mass:** We are instructed that there will be no public Masses during the next four weeks; however, Mass will continue to be said privately, daily, and this will be on the parish website and our parish Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StGregsNorthampton>.



We welcome into the family of the Church  
Stephanie Ann Nyaley  
Sarah Susan Lilly Connors  
And Daniel Gavin  
who received Christian Baptism last week.  
Please pray for them and their families.

**Repository - First communion and Confirmation:** I have put a small display of cards & mementoes in the Foyer. People can help themselves whenever the Church is open & put payment in the wall box on the right of the Sacristy door. A member of staff will be present after Sunday Masses. **Please remember to observe the regulations on masks & spacing. Only touch items you intend to buy. Items will be cleaned & sanitised regularly. Stay Safe.**

**Counters:** As we are now, once again, in lockdown, counting will cease until such time as we are cleared to have public services again. Hopefully the next count will be on 9<sup>th</sup> December!

**Bible Alive** for November is now available. The cost is £3.00. If you want to purchase a copy, they are near the hand-sanitiser in the narthex as you come into church.

**Prayer Course:** Are you interested in finding out more about prayer? Whether you're new to it or whether you've been praying for years, there's always more to experience. Join us for the prayer course on zoom from Thurs 22 October, 8.00 to 9.30 pm, then every 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at the same time. To register & receive zoom details please email Maria: [maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk)

**St Gregory's Catholic Primary School.** If you have a child due to start primary school in September 2021, St Gregory's are welcoming parents to visit the school and see it in action. Contact 01604 403511 to arrange a visit. Closing date for place applications is 15th January 2021 at 5pm.

**The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC),** of which CAFOD is an active member has launched a nationwide appeal for funds.

Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal> or use a CAFOD envelope and give through the parish.

**Face masks:** Wearing face masks are compulsory in churches, & you should wear one if you can. Stewards are not responsible for policing this, but may remind you that this is the law.

**Exploring the Post-Lockdown Church: week 8.** For our final session we have Fr Matthew Nunes, one of the Moderators of the Liverpool Synod. The Archdiocese has done a massive listening exercise which took in 20,000 conversations. What have been some of the main topics that have arisen? And what learning do they have to help us take next steps? How can we respond to our current situation – even when stuck at home, and with much to be anxious about.

David Wells' webinar, "Holding onto joy in troubling times", is now available to watch on the Pastoral Ministry Office website. It's a really beautiful talk, tracing how joy is central to the teaching of the last four popes, and giving practical suggestions for finding joy, particularly in our current circumstances. You can find it here right at the bottom of the page: <http://formationpathways.co.uk/exploring-the-post-lockdown-church-webinar-series/>

**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.

**Track and Trace:** The government have now released their app to support track & trace, & we have a QR code which can be scanned to record your presence at church. This is not obligatory, but should help in the important task of controlling the spread of the virus. As responsible members of society, we should comply with this request. For the time being we are asked to continue to fill in a paper form, but this may change when the electronic system has bedded in.

**Financial Support for Self-Isolation:** Please see the following article regarding financial help available for those who are self isolating:

<https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/health/coronavirus/how-apply-self-isolation-financial-support-now-available-across-northamptonshire-3004756>

**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/>

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Baptism Preparation:** Please contact Deacon Michael direct (01604) 647750, E-mail: [mvf@btinternet.com](mailto:mvf@btinternet.com) for information.

**First Holy Communion 2020:** We are happy to announce that enrolment for next year's programme for any child wishing to make their First Holy Communion who is in school year 3, 4, 5 or 6 will take place soon. The enrolment will be on line in December, so watch this space! At the moment we can't give any more details of how or when the preparation will take place but rest assured, it will!

**Confirmation:** Yet again we are thrown into confusion! We await more information. This continues to be difficult!

**Parish Finances:** As colder weather is here & we need to turn the heating on, our finances will come under a bit of strain. We have kept solvent through the lockdown; great thanks to all who have been so generous.

**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)**

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

**Tip No. 110 Solidarity with the Poor: [worldgifts.cafod.org.uk](http://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk) OR phone 0800 14 000 14** What could be better than to help some of the world's poorest this Christmas "Give Food and water to the hungry" "Give help to the Sick" in this PANDEMIC.

**Tip No. 111 Living sustainably with creation:** We are to stay at home except for exercise walks, Could you (walk your children to school some days) (walk to get your food) (walk to work)? Pick your exercise and save on pollution. Just imagine you are poor and act accordingly. Happy are the poor in spirit.

**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.

# Scripture Readings 8th November 2020, 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The Book of Wisdom was written in Greek, probably in Alexandria during the century before Christ. It seeks to strengthen faith by recalling the ways in which God rewards his people. But our just God also punishes individuals who act unjustly. We must learn wisdom to live justly in accord with God's justice, and so imitate and be drawn into the life of God.

The Psalm expresses our homesickness for God's sanctuary, our true home, confident that God will help us overcome all our enemies. Good advice: when our minds are empty, as at night – fill them with thoughts of God.

The parousia, when Christ will return – or be revealed in glory – was expected almost daily by the early Christians. But some believers had

already died, so Paul reassures the Thessalonians that they will not “miss out” – they will join everyone else in the resurrection of the dead. Two thousand years later we may now see the parousia at the end of time being anticipated by Jesus revealed to us in every Mass.

Matthew's gospel links the two readings together: we must live justly every moment of our lives so that we may be ready when the Lord calls us to him. We cannot rely on a last chance to repent.

Psalm Response:

**For you my soul is thirsting,  
O God, my God.**

(Wisdom 6:12-16; Ps 62:2-8 r.2; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Matt 25:1-13)

*Chris Oliver*

## Statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

We obey the Government Regulations in solidarity with so many others on whom are being imposed restrictions which impact severely on their lives and livelihoods.

It is important to recognise that these Regulations are not an attack on religious belief. However, they do demonstrate a fundamental lack of understanding of the essential contribution made by faith communities to the well-being, resilience and health of our society.

At this difficult moment, we ask that, as a Catholic community, we make full use of our churches as places of individual prayer and sources of solace and help.

### Daily Prayer

We must sustain each other in our patterns of prayer, joining a national shared moment of prayer **each day at 6 pm**, and observing the Vigil of Christ the King (21 November) as a day of prayer for the ending of this pandemic.

## 6.00 pm. Daily Prayer

In union with the Church of England and other Christian denominations, we are asked to join in daily prayer during this lockdown, and daily intentions are suggested. We have a tradition of saying the Angelus at 6.00 each evening. We could make these prayers after saying the Angelus:

### **Sunday:**

Family, friends, and loved ones;

### **Monday:**

Schools and colleges, children, and young people;

### **Tuesday:**

The elderly, those who are isolated and vulnerable;

### **Wednesday:**

Businesses, the workplace, and economic wellbeing;

### **Thursday:**

The NHS and other key workers;

### **Friday:**

National and local governments;

### **Saturday:**

All who are grieving, those suffering with physical and mental health.

### **A Prayer to say each day this week**

Loving God,  
at this time of crisis  
when so many are suffering,  
we pray for our nation and our world.  
Give our leaders wisdom,  
our Health Service strength,  
our people hope.  
Lead us through these parched and difficult days  
to the fresh springs of joy and comfort  
that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.



On a visit to Kingsthorpe Cemetery in Northamptonshire, Bishop David “called to mind all those who have died in the in the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the world.”

“Memory is fundamental to our human experience. During the month of November, we remember those who have gone before us, our loved ones in particular. The month begins with the Solemnity of All Saints, reminding us that we were created for heaven. Our eternal destiny encourages us to persevere as pilgrims of faith, hope and love here in this life. This year, we remember the faithful departed at a particularly challenging time. We call to mind all those who have died in the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the world. As the Body of Christ, we intercede for them and their loved ones. May we be encouraged to visit our local cemetery and to pray with the conviction of hope for those who have died and rest there until Christ returns in glory.”



## SECOND COLLECTIONS

13<sup>th</sup> September

4<sup>th</sup> October

11<sup>th</sup> October

18<sup>th</sup> October

15<sup>th</sup> November

29<sup>th</sup> November

13<sup>th</sup> December

20<sup>th</sup> December

Holy Places

CAFOD

Peter's Pence

World Mission

World Communications

Day for Life

Home Mission

Sea Sunday

