



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

Harvest & CAFOD

This summer we have all realised the significance of climate change, seeing wild fires all over the world, and then flooding in many places. The emergency services and aid agencies can never know when or where the next crisis will arise. Many of the areas struck this year have never known such weather in all their recorded history. This is why organisations like CAFOD seek to be prepared to move in even before an appeal can be launched.

Although our own weather this summer has been somewhat unusual, and, like most of the world, records have been broken, most of us have been spared the disasters of so many other places.

August 2022 brought devastating flooding to Pakistan, with over a third of the country under water. As well as the obvious catastrophe of homelessness, of the total loss of the harvest and the destruction of infrastructure, there was an immediate health crisis. A year later, researchers report that 40% of children had stunted growth and 25% were underweight due to malnutrition and insufficient healthcare.

CAFOD gives support wherever it is needed; it does not discriminate by religion although it remains our Catholic agency for aid and overseas development. Internationally it works with Caritas, and Charity can know no bounds.

Dr Nasha's Mobile Clinic

Dr Nasha's Mobile Clinic gets her and her team of doctors and nurses where they're needed – fast. Last year, when flooding hit Pakistan, the team travelled across hundreds of miles to treat people who needed medical help in the aftermath of the disaster.

That's how they met Meera. Meera gave birth just as her home was destroyed by the floods.

The family moved into a temporary shelter at the side of the road. And with little food and nothing but contaminated water to drink, diseases started to spread throughout the camp.

Meera told CAFOD: “Our children got sick, and we had no medicines.”

When Dr Nasha and her team arrived in her village, Meera hurried to bring her children to the clinic and got them the life-saving medicines and treatment they needed.

Meera's baby, Marwi, is now a healthy one year old. Together, she and her husband have rebuilt their home and are working to recover what they lost in the floods.

The tenants in today's gospel reading claim the vineyard and its harvest as their own. They will not hear otherwise from anyone –



not the landowner's servants or even his son. We are all tenants – here on earth a short while, taking care of God's wonderful gift of creation. Who are the messengers that we do not want to hear? Those who tell us about the climate emergency? Our sisters and brothers around the world who are already facing the effects of flooding? Let's think today about how we can produce the fruit of God's kingdom – caring for our world and all those who share it with us.

A gift to CAFOD will mean families like Meera's can get help from doctors and other local experts when they need it most. With extreme disasters like flooding happening more and more, the support of monthly gifts is needed now more than ever. CAFOD's Family Fast Day was last Friday, a day we can pray, give, and eat simply in solidarity with our global family. Please pick up a CAFOD envelope for the collection this week as you leave church to gift aid your donation, start a monthly gift or use the QR code on the envelope to give online.

We are, as a parish, consistently generous supporters of CAFOD, but the needs are great and growing

CAFOD is not only an aid agency, it is also a supporter of overseas development, helping local communities to become economically self-sustaining, although disasters like flood or fire can destabilise even the most secure business.

That is why CAFOD is also a campaigning agency, seeking to persuade our government to keep to the climate change targets and not reduce foreign aid. Please continue to support CAFOD financially, and, if you can, by getting involved in their work

Notices of Interest



We welcome into the family of the Church
Athena Ohagwu
who received Christian Baptism recently.
Please pray for her and her family.

Car Park Safety: Neither the Parish nor the Diocese are responsible for the safety of persons (adults or children), cars or their contents while in the car-park.

Repository: The Repository is open after every Sunday Mass wherever possible! 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.

Bible Alive for October is now available - only £3.00! If you wish to purchase a copy, they are in the narthex as you come into church.

Thursday Holy Hour & Adoration: Holy Hour remains as Holy Two Hours, from 9am until 11am. It is important that at least two people are present throughout the time of adoration.

Tots @ St Gregory's: St Greg's Tiny Tots runs each Tuesday in term time from 9:30-11:30 in the church hall. We charge £1 per group which includes snacks & coffee! If you have care of a pre-school child, please join us!!

Choir Notes: Yesterday we had our first Saturday morning practice. Next one will be 4 Nov when the focus will be on Christmas music.
Alec

Catholic Youth Ministry Internships: Castlerigg Manor (The Lancaster Diocese Retreat Centre) is looking for young Catholics aged 18-25 to join their Youth Ministry Internship Programme. The scheme gives participants wide ranging experience, skills, training, and qualifications as well as the opportunity to work with a fantastic team based in the English Lake District. For more information contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Bl. Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group continues to pray together online via Skype and by telephone and on the first Saturday of the month, here in the Church, from 10am-12pm.

URGENT NOTE ON FINANCES If you have transferred to standing orders and pay income tax please contact Fr Andrew (preferably by email) so that the Gift Aid can be linked to your donation. Claims can only be made for up to three years, so there is some urgency about this.

Fewer Electrical Hazards: There are still a few small jobs needing to be done, but mostly we have put right things that were required. Part of safeguarding is to ensure that in every respect the church is as safe as possible for all who come here.

Fire Safety — Important notice. We have had trays made to go under the racks where candles burn to prevent the possibility of a naked flame falling on unlit candles below. Unlit candles **must not** be placed on these trays & must not be stacked one on top of another.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday evening, 6th Nov. at 7pm. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Enrolment for 2024 will be Sunday 8th Oct. after the 11am Mass. There will be a welcome to the children who are registered & their parents at the 11am Mass on Sunday 5th Nov. All sessions will be on Saturday afternoons at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell. Details, dates, times will be available at registration. Please see the separate article on the way the programme works.

Confirmation in 2023: Confirmation sessions have resumed, and those enrolled should have received an email with details.

Food Parcels: Please contact Gregory Care (07434 669011) if you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving a food parcel.

Alpha in the Autumn: Alpha is now running weekly on-line, Tuesday evenings. For more info visit www.stgregory.org.uk/alpha

Parish Finances: 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)**

Refreshment Donations:

Below is the schedule for refreshment donations through the year:

From the first Sunday in Advent	The Hope Centre
to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:	
From the Second Sunday in ordinary time	Gregory Care
to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:	
Through Lent and Eastertide:	CAFOD
Ordinary Time until the end of August:	Refreshment Fund
September until the Harvest collection:	CAFOD
After harvest until the beginning of Advent:	The Bible Society

Missio Matters: Anyone wishing to become a supporter of missionary work over the year – no matter how small the donation – should contact Dorothy (9) or Alec (11) after Mass or phone/email: 01604 622153 a.unsworth@ntlworld.com.

An Advent journey with John the Baptist: 4 Monday evenings, 7.30-8.30pm, from 27th Nov, with Fr John Udris & Avril Baigent. Available on YouTube so does not require zoom & can be played via smart TVs. Here is last year's series to give a flavour of what to expect:

https://pastoralministryoffice.org/walking_by_starlight-2/

The Healing Garden: The Northampton Male Voice Choir will be performing at Northampton Cathedral to raise funds for the Healing Garden. Please join us for a fantastic evening of music and entertainment. Concert starts at 7.30 pm Fri 20th Oct. All welcome. Tickets £15 and can be purchased by calling 01604 714556 online using www.ticketsource.co.uk/northamptoncathedral or by visiting the Cathedral Parish Office within the St Thomas Centre.

Mission Prayer

Heavenly Father
it is your will that we should make disciples of all nations.
We ask you to bless the mission of our Diocese of Northampton
and guide our hearts and minds
so that your will might be done
and your kingdom be build up here on earth.
We pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit,
without which our work is in vain,
and we entrust ourselves to your beloved Son,
for we know that he is with us for all time, now and for ever.
Amen

Prayer 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.
Amen

8th October 2023, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Isaiah was writing before 700 BC, when Assyria threatened and eventually overwhelmed Israel, the northern kingdom. Isaiah insists that only being faithful to God will protect the nation from disaster. The unproductive vineyard is the house of Israel, where, in spite of the care lavished on it by the Lord, there is bloodshed and injustice.

The psalm beseeches the Lord to protect his vine, Israel. Transplanted from Egypt, it has been severely damaged, but Israel promises not to forsake the Lord again.

In his affectionate farewell to the Philippians, Paul urges them to "rejoice in the Lord always", not anxious, but thinking about all that is good, letting the Lord know all their needs. They should imitate Paul in the way he relies on the Lord. Then God's grace will bring them peace. Our God is the God of peace. He is not

seeking to catch us out, but longs for us to accept the peace he offers and to rely on him totally.

This parable in Matthew's Gospel about a vineyard owner follows immediately after last week's story of the two sons. Matthew has brought Isaiah's tale up to date with the murder of the prophets and even the Lord's son. As with Isaiah's prophecy, Israel would again be devastated, in AD70.

Psalm Response:

**The vineyard of the Lord
is the house of Israel.**

Isa 5:1-7; Ps 79(80); Phil 4:6-9; Matt 21:33-43

Chris Oliver

Dei Verbum — The Word of God

In this short document, *Dei Verbum* succinctly addresses the Catholic Church's beliefs in regards to Sacred Scripture. First and foremost, Sacred Scripture is truly divine revelation; God revealed who He is to us so that we might know Him. "The invisible God...out of abundance of His love speaks to men as friends...and lives among them..., so that He may invite and take them into fellowship with Him." The Word made flesh united deeds and words so that "the deeds wrought by God in the history of salvation manifest and confirm the teaching and realities signified by the words." Jesus Christ was the fullness of revelation and there is no new revelation. What was revealed two thousand years ago was everything. Any further understanding is just that; a further maturity and understanding of God's Truth, but not a new truth. Even though His revelation "totally transcend[s] the understanding of the human mind," God "can be known with certainty from created reality by the light of human reason (see Rom. 1:20)." However, such knowledge is very difficult for man to attain and, as such, very few would attain it and of these, most would have mixed in some serious error. His revelation then is necessary to make "truths which are by their nature accessible to human reason...known by all men with ease, with solid certitude and with no trace of error."

Now, the source of Sacred Scripture is from Christ's commissioning of the Apostles "to preach to all men that Gospel which is the source of all saving truth and moral teaching." The bishops are the successors to the Apostles and were given the authority by them to teach in their place.

This sacred tradition which is handed down "includes everything which contributes toward the holiness of life and increase in faith of the people of God; and so the Church, in her teaching, life and worship, perpetuates and hands on to all generations all that she herself is, all that she believes." The Church is not, however, left alone as some would claim to forge a purely humanistic institution. Instead, she is protected and guided by the Holy Spirit whom Christ sent to the church from her infancy.

From tradition the Sacred Scriptures spring forth—see the various councils defining the canon of the Bible—and, as such, the "task of authentically interpreting the word of God, whether written or handed on, has been entrusted exclusively to the living teaching office of the Church." Importantly, all aspects of this teaching office, including the pope, college of bishops, etc. are not creators of the word of God, but mere servants to it and "teach only what has been handed on, listening to it devoutly, guarding it scrupulously and explaining it faithfully in accord with a divine commission and the help of the Holy Spirit."

Now, "all the preaching of the Church must be nourished and regulated by Sacred Scripture." That being the case, the Sacred Scriptures should be accessible to all the Christian faithful through careful translations and through the liturgy itself. And, "prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture, so that God and man may talk together; for 'we speak to Him when we pray; we hear Him when we read the divine saying.'"

Growing Up Catholic

Today is the date for enrolling in next year's preparation for First Holy Communion, after the 11.00 Mass. The programme is one which we have been using for a few years now, and has proved to be popular with families and effective. It is, however quite different from the programmes in use even 10 years ago.

The first difference is that it honours the role of parents in being "the first of teachers of their child in the ways of faith" (*from the Baptism service*). Many parents who were themselves prepared for first Holy Communion fifteen or twenty years before remember little of what they were taught, and it is unreasonable of the Church to expect them to, and yet we ask them to teach their children. Our programme is designed to help parents in this responsibility, and to help parents themselves to grow in their own faith.

The second difference is that the sessions are big community events, where children and parents/carers meet together, and together explore the basic truths of our faith in an atmosphere of fun and discovery.

At every session there are handouts which are worked through, and then taken home, so that the conversation can continue in the coming week after the session.

The title of the programme gives away the underlying thinking: it is to help the children to grow up as Catholic Christians, with a living relationship with Jesus; not simply knowing *about* Jesus, but having a love for him, and understanding of him that is not just based on knowledge, but on a real experience of him in their life.

It is about community; the community of faith which the children are entering in a new way. It is a Christian equivalent of weaning; it is where the children are prepared to be given the solid food; the Bread of Life. It is where they can share in the meal with the grown-ups.

For the parents, it is a time when they can renew their own faith-commitment, as well as a very special time for parent and child to bond in a shared love for Jesus and faith in God.