



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

Happy Easter

The first symbol and ceremony of the Easter Vigil — the opening of the Easter celebration — is the lighting of the new fire. By long tradition this is struck from flint; from a stone because the new life of Jesus came from the stone of the tomb. Fortunately, this is not as difficult for us to follow as it was for those in past generations as most cigarette lighters use flint as the means of ignition. (How we will manage when everyone has given up smoking remains to be seen; maybe stockpiling zip lighters!)

The candle is marked with signs which have already been painted, which include the year; 2023. “All time belongs to him and all the ages”, says the prayer, and “to him be glory and power through every age and for ever”.

In marking the date of this year, we are specifically dedicating this year in our age to him.

Five grains of incense are embedded in the candle. They are encased in brass enclosures with pins on the back to secure them and make them more noticeable. These represent the five wounds in Jesus’ body; caused by the four nails and the spear which pierced his side.

The candle will stand in the sanctuary through Eastertide, and then be placed near the font, to be used for Baptisms, and brought out to stand by the coffin at funerals until next Easter.

Our candle this year has been specially prepared, and the artist has given an explanation of the way in which the symbols have been represented.



Front of the Cross

The shape of the cross is taken from the Cross mosaic in the 10th Century Church of Saint Clement in Rome which represented The Tree of Life.

The ivy coming from the bottom of the cross represents Life Eternal due to its continual green colour and fidelity because of the way it clings to the support.



The first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet A and Omega used in the Christian church denote the eternity and infinity of God. It is often used in conjunction with another symbol, such as a cross or crown, to emphasise this meaning.

The current year 2023.

At the back of the Cross

The CHI RHO (XP) are the first two letters of the Greek word ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ (Christos) meaning Christ.

Angus Dei or the Lamb of God with the banner of victory. This is a common symbol for the Resurrection.

The pomegranate represents fertility, fruitfulness and prosperity, the hope of immortality and resurrection. The many seeds in one fruit represent unity and is also said to represent the Church. The red juice of the pomegranate symbolises the blood of Jesus and the bursting fruit and seeds - His resurrection.

We are baptised into the risen life of Jesus and are the seeds of the continuing life of the Church, a life which must be fruitful in good works, and in faithfulness to God, and to all his creation.



9th April 2023

Easter Day

Parish Mass Book - Year A

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Priest:
Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015
E-mail: frandrew.behrens@northamptondiocese.org

Deacon:
Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750
E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com

Parish Secretary:
Caryl Comley ☎ 713015
Email: parish.stgregory@northamptondiocese.org

Safeguarding representative
Carol McNeil ☎ 621807

Sunday Easter Day	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Malcolm Allen RIP The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Teresa Carroll RIP
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Barry Kirby RIP
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Charles Ruddick RIP
Thursday Feria	9-11.00 am 12.30 pm 7.00 pm	Holy Hours of Adoration Funeral Service Mass	Jane Loveridge RIP Rebecca Holt
Friday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Ollie Grimes RIP
Saturday Feria	9.00 am 9.45 am	Mass Confessions	Ollie Grimes RIP
Sunday 2nd Sunday of Easter	9.00 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm	Mass Mass Mass (Syro-Malabar Rite)	Richard Heron RIP The Parish

Your Offering to the Parish: Last Sunday's collection was £590.28. Thank you!
Collection next Sunday: The Easter collection is a gift to the priest.

Standing Order gifts to the Parish: Each week £590 is given through standing orders.
Donations through the Diocese: An average of £116 is given each week.
Gift Aid benefits to the parish: The value of Gift Aid averages £136 per week.
Collection on Maundy Thursday: Gregory Care for the needy of the parish. £300.19. Thank you.
Collection on Good Friday: Holy Places To be reported.

Cleaners This Week: The Church is cleaned and sanitised daily by the stewards.
Counters this Week: CC & EP

Readings for this Sunday (Readers 9am: to be determined; 11am: to be determined)

Acts 10: 34, 37-43— see inside for details: *We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection.*

Colossians 5: 6-8: *You must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.*

John 20: 1-9: *He must rise from the dead.*

Readings for next Sunday (Readers 9am: Joel Varghese & Kathleen Fisher, 11am: Mila Mazur)

Acts 2: 42-47; 1Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19-31. (Page 137)

During this season of Easter, We Are Asked to Pray For: New Members of the Church; Human Work; Priestly Vocations; Right Use of the Media; The Church.

The Ministry of Welcome

It is important that everyone is welcome in the Church, and that everyone knows that they are welcome. Some have no worries about Covid, and take no precautions against catching it. Others are still cautious, some because of their own health, in particular those with medical conditions which would make them vulnerable, others because they are carers for a vulnerable person.

Following the advice of the Bishops' Conference, we offered Communion from the Chalice at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, and also invited people to exchange a sign of peace. From Easter, there will be Holy Water in the stoups. However, there are still many who are sick; not just with Covid, but also with 'flu and other seasonal maladies.

The most important piece of advice is that if you feel unwell, please do not share your misfortune, but as far as you can, remain at home and do not pass on your infection, whatever it may be. Please remember that if you are ill or caring for an infant or someone who is ill, there is no obligation to do what is impossible! Please pray for all who are suffering in bad health.

Please Pray for the Sick:

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Marina Perrin	Cornelius Bowe
Theodosia Dix	Irmgard Hillyer
Derek Hodgkinson	Henry Archer
Frank Bullock	George Walsh
Eileen O'Sullivan	Hilary Green
Winifred Robinson	Anita Kaldunek
Carmella Ellul	John Fitzgibbon
Annie Morris	Peter Redmond
Kathleen Morris	Patrick O'Rourke
Frederick Barford	Kitty Markey
Sr. Margaret	John Brennan
Carmela Apicella	Joyce Malyszewicz
Patrick Moyles	Lorraine Teague
Mary Morris	David Frost
Dermot O'Connor	Lilian Storr
Norah O'Rourke	Mary Quest
Dominic Mullan	Bernard Reeves
Elizabeth Starmer-Winn	

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
FOR APRIL:**

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States & citizens.

Notices of Interest

Car Park Safety: Please remember that Parents/Carers are responsible for children in their charge whilst using 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. PS: There are still some Diaries available.

Grief to Grace: Grief to Grace is a specialised 5 day residential programme of spiritual & psychological healing for anyone who has suffered sexual, physical, emotional or spiritual abuse in childhood, adolescence or adulthood, including those who are the victims of rape, incest or abuse by a member of the clergy. For details please see www.griefftoGraceuk.org, email info@griefftoGraceuk.org, contact 02081542719 or see posters in the Narthex.

The repair of the Crucifix outside the Church: It was a year ago that the crucifix outside the Church was replaced after repairs were done, and a generous donation was given by members of the Indian community. This was more than the actual cost of the repair. Many thanks for the additional money given which had helped us through the rising costs of the year.

Church Heating: Weekday Mass is now back in the church but Thursday adoration is in the Sacristy. We heat the church and hall on Sundays, but the extra cost of this will be more than the saving on weekdays.

Thomas Becket Catholic School have a number of job vacancies, please look on their website for details.

Fire Safety – Important notice. Some years ago in response to instructions relating to the fire risk associated with votive candles, we had trays made to go under the racks where the candles burned to prevent the possibility of a naked flame falling on unlit candles below. Unlit candles **MUST NOT** be placed on these trays in any circumstances & must not be stacked one on top of another. This has been happening in recent weeks, and must not continue.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be at 7pm, Mon. 24th April in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book a place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Congratulations to all children who have enrolled on the First Holy Communion programme. You will now have all the dates of sessions. Please try to attend them all, and please enjoy the course!

Confirmation in 2023: Those interested in Confirmation preparation should have spoken to Helen and will know the plan for the coming months.

Pro Life Chain: On Sat. 29th April, SPUC Northampton is holding a Pro-Life Chain on St Peters Way Northampton. This act of silent witness is to remember the millions of lives lost to abortion since the Abortion Act 1967. It will take place between 11am & 1pm. Please consider joining us at this important event. We will stand together to proclaim the pro-life message. Abortion is a tragedy for babies, Mothers, Fathers, and society as whole. We have a moral duty to speak out against the horror of abortion. If you can join us or want more information, please contact William on 07393965643(text is fine) or wpcurrie@btinternet.com. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Are You Interested in the Diaconate? If so, there will be an information morning as follows: Sat. 13th May, 10am - 12.30pm, St. Mary's RC Church, 82 West Street, Dunstable, LU6 1NY. Entitled: 'Opportunity to find out more about the diaconate in our Diocese.' Please contact Fr. Tony on 01582 662710 for more details.

Tots @ St Gregory's has restarted: tots and their carers welcome, 9.30-11.30 on Tuesdays during term-time £1 per adult!

Thursday Holy Hour & Adoration: Holy Hour is now Holy Two Hours, from 9am until 11am. This will continue while there are sufficient numbers to sustain it.

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

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

Divine Mercy holy hour: Divine Mercy holy hour will take place at the Shrine of our Lady of Perpetual Succour on Sunday 16th April at 3pm.

Big Lent Walk: Kevin and Aileen have completed their Big Lent Walk. A great big thanks for the marvellous support from everyone both near and far away. Over £ 800.00 has been raised for CAFOD which will be used to aid people in countries such as Bangladesh dealing with the adverse effects of local climate change.

Gregory Care Thank you so much to those who donate toiletries for your great response this week. Some weeks our supplies are really low but then thanks to your generosity we can manage to give every family (now over 60) toiletries along with their food bag. Don't forget we have gift certificates for the Cathedral Food Store if you need a charity gift for Easter!

Choir notes: Now that the warm weather is here (or should be), practices will resume after evening Mass 7:45-9pm: Thursdays 20 April, 18 May (Holy Day: The Ascension), 29 June (Holy Day: St Peter and St Paul), Tues. 15 August (Holy Day: The Assumption). New members always welcome especially ladies as, in recent times, we have "lost" four or five for one reason or another. *Alec*

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)**

Vacancy - St. Mary's & St. Gregory's Catholic Primary

Schools: Lay Chaplain: Permanent – Part Time 4 days/week (22.5 hours) 38 weeks/year + 5 training days. We wish to appoint a dedicated & highly motivated Lay Chaplain. Opportunity to work in a high quality, vibrant & caring environment where we share a rich vision for our pupils & for the communities in which we work.

Job description, candidate pack & application form available from www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk & downloading from the Trust website: www.olicatschools.org. Email completed applications by 12pm Sun 16th April, to Executive Head Teacher, Mrs Yuen's office at nduffy-pieterse@sg.nor.olicatschools.org/. Interview date: Friday 21st April.

The Universe Catholic Weekly Online Newspaper: In order to keep high standards going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription. Order your Digital 2 weeks free introductory offer by emailing michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk.

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.
Amen

Scripture Readings 12th April 2020, Easter Sunday Year A

Luke's Book of Acts describes Jesus' continuing activity on earth through his Holy Spirit. A vision shows Peter that all animals and birds are suitable for eating – the restrictions of the Jewish Law are ending. He can then enter the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. The Holy Spirit interrupts Peter's speech by welcoming the Gentile community into the church. Peter then realises that forgiveness of sins is offered to "everyone who believes" in Jesus' name.

This dramatic psalm gives thanks when the Lord responds to prayers for salvation. Verse 26 is the "Benedictus" of our Sanctus.

The short reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians draws attention away from earthly marks of religion: their focus should be on the life to come when they "will appear with Christ in glory". The alternative reading is an early Easter homily. In the

Jewish calendar Passover was followed by the feast of Unleavened Bread.

In the three synoptic gospels three women discover the tomb empty and run to tell the apostles. But in John's gospel Mary of Magdala is alone. She finds the stone removed from the tomb. Without going inside she runs to tell Peter. Peter goes in first and sees the empty burial cloths. When the other disciple goes in, he believes.

Psalm Response:

This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.

(Acts 10:34,37-43 Psalm 117(118) Romans 6:3-11/Colossians 3:1-4/1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Matthew 28:1-10/John 20:1-9)

Chris Oliver

Alpha resumes on April 18th 2023

The last Alpha before Holy Week asked 'Why did Jesus die', and through Holy Week we have been seeing the outpouring of the love of God reaching its climax on the Cross. But that was far from the end; and Easter brings with it a whole new life; the risen life of Jesus, in which we are invited to share through our Baptism and Sacramental life, and through faith in him.

So the next Alpha asks 'How can I have faith'. The Resurrection seems to be impossible. How can we believe this. The first disciples of Jesus did not find it easy either, so if it is sometimes hard for us, we should not be discouraged! What convinced them was meeting Jesus, and we meet the risen Jesus in prayer, in Communion and in each other, particularly those in need.

First session:	March 14th 2023:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	March 21st 2023:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	March 28th 2023	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	April 18th 2023:	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session:	April 25th 2023:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	May 2nd 2023:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session:	May 9th 2023:	How does God guide us?
Away-Day:	May 12th/13th 2023	Who is the Holy Spirit?
Eighth Session:	May 16th 2023:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	May 23rd 2023:	Why and how should I tell others?
Tenth Session:	June 6th 2023:	Does God heal today?
Eleventh Session:	June 13th 2023:	What about the Church?

Easter Flowers in Memory of / Thanksgiving for:

Watts & Mansi Family	Louie	Italia and Ben Jacobs	John & Julia Cat
The Cahalane Family	Mary Cashman	Derek Rumsey	Brendan Moen
Angela McCrarran	Michael Moore	Anne & Arthur Eyles	Kitty Traynor
Rebecca Holt	Cathy Bicknall	Louise Whalley	Seamus Kenneally
Brigid Kenneally	Lily Swift	Derek Hodgkinson	Nancy & Tommy Daly
Gerald O'Rourke	Louie Short	Clare O'Rourke	Barbara Murray
Julie Moriarty	John Eyre	Catrina Bradshaw	Leann Hannelly
Mary Wall	Marion Cave	Antoinetta Riseley	Malcolm Allen
Fred Jones	Thanksgiving	The Houghton Family	The de Verteuil Family
Stephen Goddard			

Thank you to all who have contributed or the flowers for Easter, and to those who have arranged them and prepared the Church

Gregory Care

UPDATE FOR CORONATION BIG LUNCH
Bank Holiday Monday 8th May 12 noon.

We hope everyone is getting on board with their crown making! Don't forget adults are included and we can't wait to see how creative you are! We are expecting some outrageous designs. Our aim for this event is to bring people together as a community for a fun afternoon at little or no cost to individuals or the environment, with this in mind we would like to have a parade of 'crowns' made from only recycled materials (for both adults and children).



eden project COMMUNITY LINK



Thanks for your generosity

The giving of this parish to Missio is yet again magnificent, last year we were the second highest in the Diocese, with £4,010.80. We were only beaten by a mere £50 from the top position in the diocese.

In the previous year we were the top parish for the Diocese, and between the two years, we have given over £8,000 for the work of overseas Mission.

We are also among the most generous givers to CAFOD, and giving to the parish is also magnificent. We shall shortly know our full economic position at the end of the financial year (31st March). The biggest unknown remains the cost of gas and electricity as the various government schemes seem still to be confused in relation to the charities.

Full accounts will be published, and a resumé in the Newsletter, please watch out for this.