



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

For all things give thanks

This last week has brought to an end the ‘Season of Creation’, and brought us to the CAFOD Harvest family fast day on Friday. Today we have the CAFOD collection, which is an act of thanksgiving for the good things that we enjoy.

The words of the headline above come from the Gospel Acclamation for today, and both the Gospel and the first reading focus on giving thanks for gifts received; in both cases, for healing.

And we urge you, brothers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.

(1 Thessalonians 14-19)

This is one of many occasions where St Paul, in his letters, encourages or commands that people give thanks to God; here ‘in all circumstances’.

We may be feeling somewhat down-hearted as winter approaches and the temperature drops which causes energy bills go up, and most of us are materially poorer than we were. Even in these circumstances, we should be thankful.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4:6-7)

When St Paul is telling the Philippians and us not to be anxious, he contrasts anxiety with ‘prayer and supplication with thanksgiving’, which is another way of saying: ‘with complete trust in God’. However, we know that God works through the co-operation of his creatures; specifically, through us.

Therefore, we are called to be the answer to the prayers of others, just as others may be being called to be the answer to our prayers. Part of our thanksgiving for a plentiful harvest ought not just to be sitting down to an extravagant meal ourselves, but helping those whose harvest has not been plentiful to have something to eat themselves. Hence the importance of the CAFOD harvest collection. If we were simply to say thank-you and pig out ourselves, that would give no real thanks to the giver of all good gifts. It would rather be a sign of our selfishness. Thanksgiving and generosity go hand in hand. Today we have a chance to show how thankful we truly are for the material benefits that we enjoy.

St Bernadette

On Monday Northampton has the blessings of receiving the relics of St Bernadette into the Cathedral. The story of the apparition of our Lady to Bernadette at Lourdes is well known, and how at first she was not believed, but eventually, after four years of disbelief, the reality of her experience was accepted. There is a beautiful passage in the book “Oh yes, I saw her” by Fr Damien Walne and Joan Flory. Bernadette is being examined by the Bishop of Tarbes, and he asks her: “Bernadette, tell us once more what happened when you asked the Lady her name.” The face of the now sixteen and a half year old girl underwent a change. Extending her arms, she crossed them over her chest, lifted her eyes towards the ceiling and breathed: “She said . . . I . . . am . . . the . . . Immaculate . . . Conception.” As the bishop looked at the transformed face, tears welled up and rolled down his cheeks. He afterwards said to his colleagues: “Did you see that child? Did you see her face?” Later he said: “She has been a witness of absolute integrity”. So it was that the shrine at Lourdes was established.

Four years after that, Bernadette moved from Lourdes to join the Sisters of Charity at Nevers; she was never to return to her place of birth; the place which was changed for ever by the appearing of Our Lady to her.

In the convent at Nevers her main work was in the infirmary, caring for the sick. Just as the shrine at Lourdes became a place of healing, so too, the hands and the prayers, the care and the love of Bernadette brought relief and healing in the convent.

In life, Bernadette sought obscurity. She never wanted attention for herself, only to obey the instructions given her by Our Lady. Her convent life was one of prayer, and she particularly devoted herself to prayer for sinners. She would take no pleasure in being praised for her virtue, but as we take the opportunity to venerate her relics, she will still be praying for us sinners in her place in heaven, joining her prayers to those of the Lady of the Grotto at Massabielle, Our Lady of Lourdes. St Bernadette, pray for us.

Notices of Interest

Bible Alive for October & November 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 – Catholic Diaries for 2023 are now available! We also 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*

Thursday Holy Hour and Adoration: A request has been made that there be more opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration. As a trial, Holy Hour will be a Holy Two Hours, from 9am until 11am. However, this can only continue if there are sufficient numbers to sustain it. No one is expected to remain for the entire two hours, come for as long as you can or want to.

November is the Month of the Holy Souls and there will be a Mass of Requiem for all those whose funerals have taken place from St Gregory's at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 2nd November. The names of all those whose funerals have taken place since November 2019 (the last time we were able to commemorate this occasion without restrictions) will be automatically included, but everyone is welcome and is invited to ask for the name of family members who have died to be included. There will be particular mention made of all who have died of COVID. Please book this date, and invite any you know who might find this a help in grief.

Save the Date: Saturday 18th March 2023 Encounter Northampton, a day hosted by Mission Northampton in St Gregory's Hall from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. More details later!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next session will be on Monday 7th November at 7.00 pm in the Sacristy. Please note you will need to phone Deacon Michael on 07999808997 before you attend, to book your place.

First Holy Communion 2023: Important Date for First

Communion Families: This Sunday, after 11am Mass, there will be an introduction to this year's programme & the opportunity to register children. It is important that at least one parent accompany the children but we welcome whole families! If this day is inconvenient there will be a session at Sacred Heart on the following Sunday (16th) after 10:30 Mass which will be the same. We look forward to meeting you.

Confirmation in 2023: Please watch this space for information.

Little Way Healing Ministries, St Joseph's, Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bedford, Saturday 15th Oct. Day begins with 10.45am Mass & continues until 4pm. Please join us for all or part of the day of prayer, praise & healing led by Fr Laurence Brassill, Mrs Pauline Edwards and team. Lunch 1pm (bring packed lunch), refreshments will be served. See poster for details.

The Relics of St. Bernadette: The relics will arrive at the Cathedral on Monday 10th October at 3pm and will remain until 13th October after the 7am Mass. Since there are fewer week-day Masses at St Gregory's this week, it is worth noting the times of Mass in the Cathedral during the time when the relics of St Bernadette are there: Monday at 6.00 pm (as which some of our choir and singers are involved), Tuesday at 12 noon, Wednesday at 7.00 am and 12 noon and Thursday at 7.00 am. There is also an opportunity for anointing the sick on Tuesday at 6.00 pm. Please see posters for full details.

Choir Matters: I expect choir members to be at October Sunday Masses by 10:45 to check the hymns etc. as planned: Oct 9: 408 & 206. Oct 16: 527 & 568. Oct 23: ICA & 560. Oct 30: 641, 522 & 283. *Alec*

The Missio newsletter is in envelopes in a red box by the confessional booths. Please collect your envelope & its contents; they are in alphabetical order. Spares available for those who would like to become supporters of this missionary work of the church. Missio is the official medium supported by the Pope to extend the influence of the Church. Financially, times are hard for us all; this gives us greater opportunity to share what we do have with others less fortunate than ourselves. *Alec*

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

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

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

A Course on the Psalms: The dates for this have had to be modified, those who started last week have been notified, but anyone else who would like to join is asked to email Fr Andrew. After Christmas there will be a new course starting: "What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith". This is from the Ascension Press.

August Hope Ministries: In partnership with World Mandate Ministries, we invite the women of your congregation to join us for a Healing Day on 15th of Oct, to coincide with International Pregnancy & Infant Loss (PAIL) Awareness Day, St. Giles Centre Northampton, from 10am-3pm. On this Healing Day, we will break down barriers and misconceptions that women may have about the loss of their baby to set a solid foundation of hope & promise. For more information or to register for the event, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pregnancy-and-infant-loss-healing-day-tickets-391194893457>

The Gathering 2022: Bearing Fruit in Plenty. Saturday 22nd October 1-5pm. Northampton Diocese Women's Ministry Group warmly invite you to an afternoon of sharing, reflection, synodal conversation, worship and prayer at Thornton College MK17 0HJ. Tea time refreshments provided. There is no charge for this event, but please book on: www.Eventbrite.co.uk/e/416930188417

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)**
If you pay income tax, please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Church Heating: God is good! The past week has not been unduly cold, and we will keep going without heating the church for as long as is possible. The church heating has to be on for two hours before it even begins to warm up, so not running it for weekday Mass is a way of making a considerable saving. Please come in warm clothing! We will heat the church and hall on Sundays, but the extra cost of this will be more than the saving on weekdays.

Refreshment Donations: Below is the schedule for refreshment donations through the year:

From the first Sunday in Advent to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:	The Hope Centre
From the Second Sunday in ordinary time to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday:	Gregory Care
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

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 9th October 2022, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Naaman, a leper, commanded an Aramaean army which was victorious over Israel. An Israeli girl, the servant of Naaman's wife, said the prophet in Samaria could cure Naaman's leprosy. Elisha told Naaman to bathe seven times in the Jordan. Initially Naaman refuses to do something so humble, but he is persuaded by his servant and he is cured. When Elisha refuses reward, Naaman takes soil home so that he may continue worshipping the God of Israel.

The Psalm praises the Lord for he has given salvation to all peoples and all creation.

Paul urges Timothy to pass on the gospel he has received, summed up in only six Greek words: Jesus, the Christ, anointed by God; descended from David, risen from the dead. Thus pointing to our bodily resurrection. In what sounds like a hymn from a very early baptismal liturgy we are told that "if we persevere we shall reign

with him". Not just be with Christ, but joining him in his work of caring for the renewed creation.

In Luke's Gospel Jesus is coming closer to Jerusalem and his death, while revealing more about his kingdom. Last week Jesus told his disciples to serve without expecting thanks. Now ten lepers are healed, like Naaman, through simple actions. Only the non-Jew returns to thank him.

Psalm Response: **The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.**

(2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 97(98); 2 Tim 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19)

Chris Oliver

Remember the Good News

'News' is information. We all receive news, whether it be national or international news, local news or family news, some welcome and good news, but also distressing, sad or bad news. We receive this news through a variety of media; traditionally through newspapers, radio or television, more recently through social media, but always through personal contact. Anciently the Town Cryer gave the news; today we tell each other or sent messages on mobile 'phones.

Literally, the word 'News' means the telling of new things, and when Paul was writing to Timothy, the story of Jesus and his death and resurrection was indeed new. Today the Good News is not new, but the reality is that many people have heard the story but not really understood the significance.

The word used in the Greek for 'News' is 'angellion', which means 'message'. This message is never 'old' in the sense of 'out of date'. It is Good News for every age and generation. Alpha is an effective way of passing on the Good News.

First session:	September 20th 2022:	Is there more to life than this?
Second Session:	September 27th 2022:	Who is Jesus?
Third Session:	October 4th 2022:	Why did Jesus die?
Fourth Session:	October 11th 2022:	How can I have faith?
Fifth Session:	October 18th 2022:	Why and how do I pray?
Sixth Session:	October 25th 2022:	Why and how should I read the Bible?
Seventh Session:	November 8th 2022:	How does God guide us?
Away-Day:	November 11th - 12th:	Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can I make the most if the rest of my life?
Eighth Session:	November 15th 2022:	How can I resist evil?
Ninth Session:	November 22nd 2022:	Why and how should I tell others?
Tenth Session:	November 29th 2022:	Does God heal today?
Eleventh Session:	December 6th 2022:	What about the Church?

First Holy Communion Preparation

Preparation for first Holy Communion will start soon, with enrolling at St Gregory's this Sunday, 9th October after the 11.00 Mass. If you cannot manage then, there is a second opportunity at Sacred Heart on 16th October, after Mass at 10.30 am. The preparation for the two parishes is run together, and takes place in the hall at Sacred Heart, Weston Favell on twelve Saturday afternoons, spread over eight months.

If you have a child in school years 3 to 6, please come to the enrolment session on this week or next to find out more and to enrol your child. Once the sessions start, we may not be able to take any new enrolments. It is **really important** to get in at the beginning. The form of the preparation involves at least one parent/carer, and ideally, the whole family.

CAFOD fighting famine

You might think famines are a thing of the past. They should be. But famine still exists and as you read this, **50 million people are facing emergency levels of hunger**. Tragically, by the time a famine is declared, it's already too late. Thousands of people are already dying of hunger.

In a world where food production keeps increasing, there is no reason that humans should still be suffering this fate.

Conflict is the biggest driver of famine. Hunger levels worsen when conflict drives large numbers of people from their homes, their land and their jobs. Famines tend to occur in areas where access is restricted, a common factor in conflict zones.

Climate change and more regular droughts are increasing food shortages. Drought means fewer crops, and climate-induced migration is driving farmers from their land.

The fallout of the **COVID-19** pandemic is contributing to sharply increasing hunger numbers. Measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 have hit economies worldwide, pushing millions into unemployment and poverty, and leaving governments and donors with fewer resources to address the food and nutritional needs of the most vulnerable people.

Inequality is also critical factor, with low incomes putting affordable food beyond the reach of millions.

In many areas, more than one of these factors is at play; places of particular concern at present include Somalia, Ethiopia, Yemen, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Pakistan.

Globally, 50 million people are currently on the very edge of famine and risk starvation, up from 27 million people in 2019. CAFOD, working in partnership with other aid agencies, both global and local are working to relieve famine.