



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

A Really Big “Thank-you”

This last week has been really busy in the parish, and it has been wonderful to see so many people contributing in so many different ways. Listing everyone and everything is dangerous because it is so easy to leave someone out. Many of the tasks that have been undertaken are “behind the scenes” but no less important for that. Bishop Peter commented on how clean and tidy the church was — and not only the church itself but also the sacristy and foyer and the hall. The silver was polished, floor cleaned, flowers arranged: everything was prepared and this involved many people.

The Bishop had lunch with the “Alpha” team: the food was excellent, and Bishop Peter expressed himself happy with his visitation of the parish. On Monday we celebrated the Feast of St Gregory, and again so many people to thank. As was the case on Sunday, the music was excellent; not only was the Feast celebrated beautifully in church, but there was also a magnificent feast afterwards. Our guests from other parishes were well entertained, and there was an enthusiastic team of washers-up at the end. Very many thanks to all who provided food for the feast.

On Tuesday morning the regular congregation were surprised to find that they were joined by about 200 staff members of the St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Academy Trust; teachers, teaching assistants, other staff members, governors and directors. This was the beginning of their start of term training day, and Thomas Becket Secondary School in particular were celebrating excellent results in the exams which had been published over the summer. The Catholic primary schools also had good SATS results, and our schools are looking forward to continued improvement.

Tuesday also saw the beginning of the Bible study courses; Ephesians in the morning and the Bible Timeline in the evening. Anyone who missed the first Timeline course has only missed the introduction. During the Readers’ course last year many people expressed an interest in this course and asked for it to be run in the evening. It is not too late to start this week! Similarly anyone wanting to study Acts or Matthew at Sacred Heart (Acts on Tuesday mornings, Matthew on Wednesday evenings) can still join.

At 7.00 on Thursday morning we began our Forty Hours Adoration; all day and through the night there were a good number of people in prayer. Adoration continued until 11.00 pm on Friday evening, and ended with Mass. Again, thanks to everyone who has given time to spend with The Lord in prayer. We pray in union with all those at the “Adoremus” congress in Liverpool this week-end. We also pray for God’s blessing on the “Alpha” course which starts on Monday. It’s not too late to sign up for this — see Maria Heath.

On Saturday Paul and Clare Sefton celebrated their diamond wedding, and their thanksgiving Mass was well-attended. Congratulations to them: “Ad Multos Annos”

This has been an unusually busy week in the parish, and thanks are due to so many people who have worked together and worked hard to make the events a success. The more people who engage in the work of the parish, the more we can grow as a community of faith and fulfil the plan that God has for us and for the Church in this place.

A Real Indian Meal!

Two weeks ago we had a collection for relief of the flooding in Kerala, and this money has been sent through CAFOD to help displaced families. However our local Kerala community are wanting to do something further to help their own communities in India, and have arranged a curry lunch on Sunday 23rd September, following on after the 11.00 Mass.

Home-cooked food is not the same as that which is served in most of the Indian restaurants in the town — here is a chance to taste the real thing! (It is said that most so-called “Indian” restaurants are actually run by Bangladeshi’s!)

As well as helping the desperate needs of those who have been victims of the flooding, we are invited to share in a delicious meal and get to know our fellow-parishioners better.

Over a million people have had to leave their homes and many thousands of homes have been damaged or destroyed. Over 6,000 miles of roads have been damaged or washed away. There have been the worst floods for nearly a century; Kerala received 41% more rain than is usual in the monsoon season. The effects of climate change are at their most devastating in the developing world, while there remain those with their heads buried in the sand in the allegedly developed world who deny that this is happening.



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 9th September 2018

Twenty Third Sunday of the Year

Parish Mass Book - Year B

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Priest:

Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015

E-mail: priest@stgregory.org.uk

Deacons:

Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750

E-mail: mvf@btinternet.com

Rev Rory Stewart (ret) ☎ 408407

Pastoral Assistant:

Maria Heath ☎ 07952 040830

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Sunday <i>23rd Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Edith Eyre's Intentions
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
Monday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Michael Rowback's Intentions
Tuesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Catherine Clarke
Wednesday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Rosa Miller
	11.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion (St Andrew's)	
	11.45 am 7.00 pm	Funeral Mass Mass	Eunice Williams RIP Vianney Mission's Int.
Thursday St. John Chrysostom	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	
	6.45 pm 7.00 pm	Benediction Mass	
			Michael Rowback's Intentions
Friday The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Page 107)	9.00 am	Mass	Helen Keefe
Saturday Our Lady of Sorrows	9.00 am	Mass	Rebecca Parry
Sunday <i>24th Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Brendan Moan
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £648.52. Thank you!

Standing Order gifts to the Parish:

Each week £300 is given through standing orders.

Gift Aid benefits to the parish:

The value of Gift Aid averages £137 per week.

Special Collection Next Week:

Home Missionary Society

Counters This Week:

C.P., L. Allen.

Cleaners This Week:

Aideen & Another.

Readings for This Sunday

Isaiah 35: 4-7.

The ears of the deaf shall be unsealed and the tongues of the dumb shall be loosed.

James 2: 1-5.

God chose the poor to be the heirs to the kingdom.

Mark 7: 31-37.

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Readings for Next Sunday

Isaiah 50: 5-9; James 2: 14-18; Mark 8: 27-35. (Page 71)

During this season of

Teachers & Pupils; The Harvest;

Ordinary Time, Autumn,

The Spread of the Gospel;

we are asked

Prisoners & their Families;

to pray for:

Victims of War; Young People.

Please pray for the sick

Sylvia Marlow	Kelly-Ann
Cecilia Pereira	Robert Fleming
Fr Philip Swingler	Joan McAllister
Michael Spowart	Jean O'Neill
Dominic Nicholls	Clara Korejwo
Alf Shipman	Ziadi Family
Frank Burke	Khanh Phan
Kath Seemark	Robert Moore
Fr Ed Worthy	Sarah Dunster
Liam Murphy	Kim Do
Margaret Farragher	Sr. Margaret
Dulcie Miranda	Chris Butler
Joan Healy	Lily Butler
Irmgard Wraxall	Rachel
Sylvia Clark	Phyllis Albon
Maurice Murphy	Doris Old
Sylvester Dauksta	Rita
Lorraine Wollard	Rita Barry
Dolores Behan	Vera Curly
Richard Redmond	Chau
Teresa Redmond	Damien Darkko
Br Paul Greaves	Michael Graney
Paul Mandel	Fr. John O'Brien
Tony Refoy	Candy Docherty
Leo Bell	Elaine Donnelly
Jennifer Ogbata	May Eamons
Constance Unsworth	Michael Folon
John Bosco Cullen	N. Donegan
Philomena Fraher	Michael Fraher
Maureen Smith	Edward Tylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Nancy Ginnelly	Mary Rumsey
Maire West	Owen
Stephen Aneke	

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Margaret McCarthy	Bridget Hughes
John Ansell	Jean Van Arsdell
Viola Spring	Frederick Darby
Rosina Lombardi	Pantalina Dias
Patricia Flanagan	Michael Dillane
Gertrude Clarke	Walter Barwell
Mary Kelliher	Barbara Latham
Norah Freeman	Molly Cave
Nicholas Bamforth	Ashley Mevlit
Aileen Tulley	Kathleen Loder
Baby Julia Krupa	Edward Somers
Maria Mozhowyi	Josefa Horn
Albert O'Sullivan	Helen Keefe
Carmen Prendiville	Charlotte Noone
Margaret Riordan	Sheila McGill

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

FOR SEPTEMBER

That That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries..

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.

Are you new to the parish? You are welcome! Please introduce yourself to one of the clergy

Live Video streaming from the Cathedral: <https://www.churchservices.tv/northamptoncathedral>

Notices of Interest

The Repository is open in the Foyer after Sunday Masses for the sale of cards & other devotional items. We still welcome offers of help, especially after 11 o'clock Mass. *Kathleen Healey. Tel 629103.*

Bible Alive for September & October is now available in the lobby area. Please give this publication a try - it has daily readings & good articles - all for only £2:50! **Please remember to put money in the box marked 'Books & Papers' in the entrance lobby.**

Communion to those with limited mobility: Holy Communion is brought to those in the FRONT ROW on EITHER SIDE and to wheel-chair users, but not anywhere else in church.

Vianney Mission Prayer Group meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Sacristy, 6pm - 7pm. **Next meeting 12th September.** All welcome. (Followed by Mass at 7.00 pm)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Please remember this important spiritual powerhouse of the parish. Exposition begins after the morning liturgy of Word and Communion on Thursdays and continues until 6.45 pm.

Modern Day Slavery and Trafficking: Northampton Justice and Peace Commission Conference on Saturday 13 October 2018 at St John's Parish Hall, 296 Sundon Park Road Luton LU3 3AL. 10:30am – 1:30pm followed by a shared lunch. Speakers will be Sr Patricia Mulhall csb and Michael Duthie (Deputy Director Santa Marta Group) - both have a wealth of experience in these areas. For more details contact Stephen Forster – 01494 875 485; franforster2@gmail.com If you'd like to share a lift, please contact Frank - 077121 60064 or frank_sudlow@yahoo.co.uk.

Choir Matters: Practices will be after Thurs. evening Mass on Oct 4, Nov 1 (Holy Day: All Saints), Nov 8, 15, 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 20, not Jan 3. New members always welcome as are the old ones! *Alec*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be on Monday 10th September at 7.00 pm. Please meet in the Church.

First Holy Communion – 2019 Registration for preparation for First Holy Communion in 2019 will be after either Sunday Mass on 16th September and 23rd September. Full programme available soon.

Confirmation Preparation: Information about next year's Confirmation preparation will be published soon. Keep looking!

Becoming a Catholic: For adults interested in becoming Catholic the parish runs Journey in Faith process (RCIA). This is also offered for adults who are Catholic but have not received all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist. Please speak to Alex Heath who leads the Journey (07963032175), Fr Andrew or Maria Heath.

The Prayer Group meets every Thursday in the Sacristy from 2pm until 3.30pm for Praise, reading of Scripture and Intercession. We are a small group, and would warmly welcome newcomers!

Blessed Cyprian Tansi Prayer Group continues monthly on 1st Saturday of each month in the Sacristy at 10am. **(Next is October 6th)** All welcome.

Tots @St Gregory's: Tots @ St. Gregory's: Tuesdays during school term-time from 9.30 - 11.30. Refreshments provided. 50p per family. All welcome!

Alpha Course: Come and bring a friend!

On Monday evenings at St Gregory's, starting on September 10th, and continuing on 17th and 24th September, 1st, 8th, 15th and 29th October (22nd is in school holiday-time), 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th November with an overnight stay on 2nd to 3rd November.

5th N'pton St Mary's RC Scout Group: Did you or your family ever belong to the 5th Northampton St Mary's RC Scout Group? If so, the group wants to contact you about its 100th anniversary celebrations starting with Mass & a reunion, which takes place at 2pm Sat, Oct. 20 @ Scout Camping Ground, Overstone. Although the 5th St Mary's is attached to the Cathedral, most of the time it was the only Catholic Scout group in town & attracted members from all over Northampton. Please email former leader Pat Percival on patpercivalnn@aol.com or message her on 07526 661228.

Ceili Dancing: Wednesday evenings, starts 8pm. Learn Ceili Dancing in a friendly atmosphere at St Gregory's Hall from 8pm – 9.15pm. All ages welcome! Ceád Mile Failte.

CAFOD: Opportunity to inspire our students: CAFOD invites you to be part of our education programme inspiring students to act on their sense of justice. Background in education not necessary. We're looking for people with good interpersonal skills, passion for CAFOD's work & who connect well with children & young people. The volunteer will go into local Catholic schools to deliver prepared assemblies and workshops once a term. All training, travel expenses & resources provided with the ongoing support of a local team. Contact northampton@cafod.org.uk for more details. We look forward to welcoming you to our team.

Fundraising Event for Northampton Cathedral Centre: Fri. 21st Sept, Monks Park WMC, Wellingborough Road, 7.30pm-11.30pm. Entertainment/dancing by The Geripatricks (local Irish folk duo). Admission by ticket only at £10. Raffle prize donations would be welcome. Tickets from Cathedral Shop. Please support this worthy cause. Tenders for the Cathedral Centre have now been received. Our hope is that we will start building the Centre in the near future, so let us support these great fundraising initiatives.

An important message for any who sometimes attend Mass at the Cathedral: The Cathedral will no longer send envelopes from other Parishes back, so if you occasionally attend Sunday Mass there, please do not put St. Gregory's Envelopes into the collection, but save them until you are next here, or consider setting up a standing order (see Fr. Andrew)

Pilgrimage to Walsingham – Reparation and prayer for the sanctity of life. Sunday 7th October 2018; coach leaves from the Cathedral at 7.30 am, Sacred Heart, Weston Favell at 7.40 am. To book, ring Caroline (07753105918). Cost £15.00

SPUC 2018 Campaign: A SPUC 2018 Campaign Tour meeting will take place on 15 September 2018, 2 pm - 4 pm at St. Gregory's Church, 22 Park Avenue North, Northampton, NN3 2HS. A great opportunity to get up to speed with the current threat of abortion decriminalisation. Find out about effective campaigns to protect women and their unborn babies from abortion and how you can make a difference. For more information please contact Edward Gibbons at SPUC on 020 7820 3140 or email edwardgibbons@spuc.org.uk

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Facebook page: St Gregory's has a page on Facebook, and frequently carries news before it gets into the newsletter as well as reminders for events. Address:

<https://www.facebook.com/StGregsNorthampton>

Scripture Readings 9th September 2018, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

First Isaiah preached in Jerusalem before the exile in 587 BC. In God's presence in the Temple, Isaiah became aware that the great sin is pride: we think we can "do it my way". The nation's disasters were their own fault. They must trust in God, especially in face of the constant threats from Assyria. After dire descriptions of the calamities to come, Isaiah paints this encouraging eschatological picture of the kingdom in the end time.

The psalm praises and thanks God for his generosity and kindness, especially to those who put their trust in him.

James continues his theme that faith must be shown in what we do. His mentioning "synagogue" reminds us how Jewish was the Christian community this "brother of the Lord" was writing for. He insists that faith in Jesus is not compatible with treating people

differently depending how we see them. We are in no position to judge the worth of others.

In Mark's Gospel we see God's kingdom breaking into creation, as Jesus heals first the Syro-phoenician woman's daughter and then a deaf-mute. Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled. Naturally the disciples cannot help spreading this good news far and wide. But Jesus cautions them not to do so yet, because his work will not be understood until after the Crucifixion.

Psalm Response: **My soul, give praise to the Lord.**

(Isaiah 35: 4-7; Psalm 145(146):7-10; James 2: 1-5; Mark 8: 27-35)

Chris Oliver

More offers for you this Autumn

The Psalms: Monday afternoons at St Gregory's	
Date	Session subject
17 th September 2018	Introduction
24 th September 2018	Getting the Big Picture
1 st October 2018	Seeing and Hearing the Psalms
8 th October 2018	Learning to Pray with the Psalms
15 th October 2018	The Responsorial Psalms
22 nd October	Royal and Messianic Psalms
29 th October	Royal and Messianic Psalms
5 th November	Thirsting for God (51:06)
12 th November	Psalms of Pilgrimage and Ascents

Matthew NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN: Study in more detail the Gospel of Matthew and see how the Old Testament is fulfilled in the new. On Wednesday evenings at Sacred Heart, at 7.00 pm — There is a course book which costs £27

Bible for Beginners Please join us for a series of short meetings to discover and read the Bible: What is the Bible? Who wrote it? How do I read it? What does it mean? Friday evenings during Autumn and Spring terms, starting 8.00 pm, finishing promptly at 9.30. First meeting Friday 7th September. Meetings will be in a private house less than a mile from St Gregory's Church. Everyone welcome!! For details please call or text Chris Oliver on 07481 476 333 or Marcelle Brown on 07941 915 255.

Acts of the Apostles NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN See how the Gospel was spread in the early years of the Church, bringing the centre of Christianity to Rome. On Tuesday mornings at Sacred Heart starting at 10.15. — There is a course book which costs £27

This prayer goes back at least to the seventh century, and was used in Eastertide. In its original form, it prayed that those "reborn in Christ", and linked the Baptismal rebirth with the words heard at the Baptism of Jesus: "You are my son, the beloved" (*Mark 1:11*).

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reign with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The present missal has placed the prayer for today, and changed "reborn" to believe".

However, both redemption and adoption are related to Baptism. "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. (*Galatians 4:4-5*)

British Social Attitudes Survey

Last week a new survey has been published, and the media have drawn attention to a general continuing decline among those who identify themselves as belonging to any religion or faith-group. We may take some comfort in that the numbers who self-identify as Roman Catholic has in fact remained fairly stable.

However this only covers those who self-identify with any particular religion or none. The survey also points out the discrepancy between those who call themselves Catholic and those who actually practice their faith. Only 42% of those who call themselves Catholic actually practice their faith. [For the purposes of this survey, practicing means attending Mass at least once a month.]

There is an interesting paragraph quoting Roger Harding, Head of Public Attitudes at the National Centre for Social Research: "We now from the British Social Attitudes Survey that people's

attitudes are becoming more socially liberal on issues like same-sex relationships and abortion. With growing numbers belonging to no religion, faith leaders will no doubt be considering how to better connect to a changing society".

This statement seems to indicate a particular attitude; that the Church should adapt its teaching to suit current social attitudes. This is what Pope Benedict XVI spoke of as "relativism". This is absolutely not the understanding of the Catholic Church — our teaching is given to us by God and is not adaptable following public opinion. The publisher's notice in Roy Hattersley's book, "The Catholics" says: "Catholicism survives because it does not compromise. It is a characteristic that excites admiration I even a hardened atheist."

The point about a leader is that he/she leads. The person who follows public opinion is not a leader but a follower!

Autumn Courses

Alpha An excellent introduction to Christianity — this is an opportunity to come and bring a friend

On Monday evenings at St Gregory's, starting on September 10th, and continuing on 17th and 24th September, 1st, 8th, 15th and 29th October (22nd is in school holiday-time), 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th November with an overnight away-time on 2nd to 3rd November.

Matthew Study in more detail the Gospel of Matthew and see how the Old Testament is fulfilled in the new.

On Wednesday evenings at Sacred Heart, starting on September 5th at 7.00 pm — There is a course book which costs £27

Acts of the Apostles See how the Gospel was spread in the early years of the Church, bringing the centre of Christianity to Rome.

On Tuesday mornings at Sacred Heart starting at 10.15 on September 4th. — There is a course book which costs £27

Ephesians Study one of the beautiful letters of St Paul and discover the life of the early Church in Ephesus

On Tuesday mornings until Christmas at St Gregory's starting at 10.00 am — There is a course book, exact price uncertain, probably about £20

Psalms We read from the psalms at every Mass — it was the hymn-book that Jesus used. Let them come to life for you.

On Monday afternoons at St Gregory's from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm. — There is a course book, exact price uncertain, but probably about £20

John The fourth Gospel gives a unique insight into the nature of Jesus, of God Himself; of the Holy Trinity and our salvation

On Tuesday mornings at St Gregory's after Christmas, starting on 8th January at 10.00 am.