



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

“Come and eat my bread”

The first reading of today’s Mass is a call to evangelisation. Wisdom has “despatched her maidservants” and invites all to come in. Jesus said: “Go out into the roads and the lanes” (*Luke 14:23*).

One of the frequently quoted sayings in the Church today is “from maintenance to mission” — a saying that speaks of the need to go out and proclaim, not just stay in and praise. It is this that inspires our Alpha initiative.

The choice of this first reading with the Gospel for today encourages us to give a Eucharistic interpretation to the passage, but the context within the Book of Proverbs does not require such an interpretation. The invitation is, quite simply, to come for a meal, and come and find out what wisdom has to offer.

This is, in fact the invitation of Alpha: Come to a meal and find out! The vision is that everyone should have the opportunity to explore faith in the context of the Church community, and all over the world people have come to a new love for Jesus and a new understanding of the Christian Faith through Alpha.

We have now run Alpha twice, and many blessings have come to the parish. We have a new web-site (not fully completed, but do have a look at www.stgregory.org.uk), we have had offers to help in many different areas of church life from people who have either come into the Church or whose faith has been re-awakened through Alpha.

The evenings offer an opportunity for anyone to freely explore their unique questions about life, faith and God. Each session begins with a shared meal, and on a table of about eight people, new friendships are formed. It is a real meal (not just a snack), so don’t eat before you come!

At the end of the meal there is a video presentation, which contains a variety of different styles. Each week a particular question is addressed, beginning with “Is there more to life than this?”

It has been said that there is “God-shaped hole” in each of us, and that life without God is an incomplete life. People seek to fill this hole with all sorts of different things. For some, in throwing themselves into their work they hope to find fulfilment, for others sports or some hobby. Some seek fulfilment in “New Age” philosophy in some form or another. More destructively, some seek meaning in life through drugs, gambling or other such activities.

The Gospel and the Church has a message for everyone, and particularly for those who are actively seeking for meaning in life. However, they need the invitation to find that meaning, or they may continue searching where there is no answer to be found. We are the very people who can deliver that invitation.

After the video, there is conversation on the tables about the questions raised in the film. It is only in the small group on the table. Here anyone is free to say anything they want; there are no “wrong” ideas if people say what they genuinely believe.

Of course, there may be disagreement, but this is not a time for a “teacher” to tell other people the “correct” answer. Rather, through conversation, people are invited to consider other ideas. The results show that the vast majority of Alpha participants come out with a closer relationship with God.

Today’s first reading is an encouragement to us to invite someone to share in the table that has been laid. Invite a friend, and come together. One other result of feedback from Alpha is that nearly everyone who comes on it enjoys it!

St Thomas Becket Catholic School “A” Level results

More than 20 per cent of all grades attained at Thomas Becket Catholic School were A*-A grades, with two thirds of all results secured achieving at least a C or equivalent.

Consequently, a large number of students will now be going on to some of the country’s leading universities to study courses from law to the sciences.

Ciran Stapleton, headteacher, said: “We are so proud of what our students have achieved. They have worked hard to get the top grades they needed in some really difficult qualifications.”

Emily Thomas, for example, completed her A2 qualifications with grades of A, B, C while Patrick Kaminski completed his BTEC qualification with 3 D*, equivalent to 3 A*s. Paulina Luczak and Alina Tudor both attained AAA.

Mr Stapleton added: “What is really pleasing is that so many students haven’t just secured the grades they were aiming for, they have surpassed and exceeded their targets. They really have shown what can be achieved with dedication and belief.”

Mrs Harrison, head of sixth form, added: “While we are deeply proud of the grades that these young people are leaving with, we take just as much satisfaction in knowing that the class on 2018 are going on to the next phase of their lives as responsible and caring individuals.

“They have a strong sense of values and moral purpose. I have no doubt that they will go on to become real assets for their communities.”



22 Park Avenue North
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: www.stgregory.org.uk

Sunday 19th August 2018

Twentieth 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	9.00 am	Mass	The Parish
<i>20th Sunday of the Year</i>	11.00 am	Mass	Catherine Nicholls Thanksgiving
Monday St. Bernard	9.00 am	Mass	Josephine Donegan RIP
Tuesday St. Pius X	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Bridget Scurlfield RIP
Wednesday The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00 am 11.00 am	Mass Celebration of Word & Communion (St Andrew's)	Canon Norman Smith RIP
Thursday Feria	9.00 am 6.45 pm 7.00 pm	Celebration of Word & Communion Benediction Mass	Mary Cannon RIP
Friday St. Bartholomew	9.00 am	Mass	Macintyre Douglas's Health & Prosperity
Saturday Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Sue, Steve & Family
Sunday	9.00 am	Mass	Rev. Robin Cooper RIP
<i>21st Sunday of the Year</i>	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish

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 Seamark	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 Taylan
Fr. Malachy Eleanya	Peter
Nancy Ginnelly	Mary Rumsey
Maire West	

Your Offering To The Parish:

Last Sunday's collection was £826.52. 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.

Counters This Week:

Paul & Clare Sefton, C. Stratten.

Cleaners This Week:

Big Clean.

Readings for This Sunday

Proverbs 9: 1-6.

Eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared for you.

Ephesians 5: 15-20.

Recognise what is the will of God.

John 6: 51-58.

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Readings for Next Sunday

Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18; Ephesians 5: 21-32; John 6: 60-69. (Page 65)

During this season of

Human Life; Seafarers;

Ordinary Time, Summer,

Victims of Persecution;

we are asked

Europe;

to pray for:

Christian/Jewish Relations.

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.

An important message for any who sometimes attend Mass at the Cathedral:

The Cathedral 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)

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>

Anniversaries:

May they Rest in Peace

Philomena Mayle	James Brennan
Patrick Harrington	Mary Bradley
Mary Smith	Dorothy Clifford
Margaret Hobbs	Florence Percival
Margaret O'Shea	Doris Bayliss
Christopher Leech	Jenny King
Judith Atkinson	John Mulholland
Ronald Savage	John Birney
Bridget Scurlfield	Audrey Kifer
Michael Mythen	Mairead Pontin
Michael Milloy	Mary Clifford
Edith Perkins	Marjorie Mallon
Frederick Kitchener	Charles Osborn
Arthur McGill	Carla Fenlon
Canon Norman Smith	

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

FOR AUGUST

That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.

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.*



We welcome into the family of the Church
Zachary James Bull
who received Christian Baptism last week.
Please pray for him and his family.

Bible Alive for August & September 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.**

Office News: Just to let you know that I'm off on holiday for two weeks – back on Wednesday 29th August. Please be gentle with Fr Andrew & leave anything that *can* be left until I return. Thank you! Caryll

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.



Rosary Rally and Open Air Mass at Mt. St. Bernard Abbey Leics, LE67 5UL, Sunday 26th August 2pm. See poster for full details. Bring a folding chair/seat & picnic lunch. All welcome. Coach leaves St. Gregory 12.30pm – for details contact Maureen (01604) 315112.

Adoramus Eucharistic Congress: Friday 7th Sept. to Sun. 9th Sept; The ACC Convention Centre, Liverpool & Liverpool Met. Cathedral. Local contact: Cath Worthington (07817 320934)

Choir Matters: Practices will be after Thurs. evening Mass on Aug 30 (to prepare for the Feast of St Gregory), 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! **Forty Hours Exposition**, Sep 6 & 7. The choir would like to take part in this act of devotion, though they don't know it yet! We aim to have a "Songs of Praise" type service from after Thurs. Mass (Sep 6th) till 9pm. Choir who attend will be asked to select their favourite hymns based on, (1) the Eucharist, (2) Our Lady (whose birthday is on Sep 8th), (3) other by Sunday 2nd Sept. Any parishioner who wishes to attend is more than welcome & can let me know, in writing, which hymns they would like included, or just be there (singing). *Alec*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation: The next Baptism Preparation will be listed here shortly.

First Holy Communion – 2019 Registration for preparation for First Holy Communion for Primary School children (years 3 – 6) in 2019 will be after either Sunday Mass on 16th September and 23rd September. Full programme available soon. Older people, please see Fr Andrew or Maria Heath.

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

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



Annual Bl. Tansi Pilgrimage, Mt. St. Bernard Abbey, Coleville, LE67 5UL, Saturday 25th August, 10.30am. Rosary Procession, Holy Mass, Benediction and Blessing of the Sick. Please see fliers at the back of the Church for full details, and contacts for Northampton.

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!

Bishop Peter: We look forward to Bishop Peter's visitation on Sunday 2nd September. He will celebrate both Masses, and during the 11.00 Mass Baptise and Confirm Craig Perry, who was on our Alpha course. From 2.30 in the afternoon he will be in the Hall or the Sacristy willing to meet with any parishioner who would like to speak to him. No appointment is necessary, but please arrive before 3.00 pm.

The Feast of St Gregory – 3rd September There is a list in the narthex asking for contributions of food for the party after the Mass. Food may be brought to the hall any time after 4.30 pm. To celebrate the many nationalities and cultures of our parish, national dishes are most welcome, and any who wish are invited to wear national costumes.

Young Catholic Adults Weekend: Young Catholic Adults will be running a retreat at Douai Abbey, 7-9th September. Weekend will be full board. YCA will be running the weekend with the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge and will be holding Gregorian Chant workshops. All Masses will be celebrated in the Extraordinary form. Please note; to guarantee your place this year Douai Abbey have requested that everyone books 3 weeks before the start of the weekend i.e. 17th Aug 2018.

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!

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 Fáilte.

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.

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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>

Forty Hours Exposition [PLEASE NOTE CORRECTION OF DATE]

To coincide with the "Adoremus" congress in Liverpool, there will be continuous exposition from 7.00 am on Thursday 6th September until 11.00 pm on Friday 7th September. Any groups who would like to take responsibility for part of this time, especially through Thursday night, please talk to Fr Andrew.

Scripture Readings 19th August 2018, 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

The Book of Proverbs gives pithy maxims for right living, applying the Law to real life. God's word is here seen personified as Wisdom, urging us: "Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared".

The psalm urges us to glorify the Lord, grateful that he has rescued us from danger. Therefore we should fear the Lord, "keeping our tongue from evil".

Paul tells the Ephesians to enjoy food and wine, but they should "not drug" themselves with wine. And after singing psalms and hymns in community they should "go on singing and chanting to the Lord in their hearts", so giving thanks to God.

Chapter six of John's Gospel reaches the climax of Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist. The Gospel's prologue tells us that "the Word

became flesh": the Wisdom of God took our human flesh to share the trials of this world with us. Jesus gives us his flesh and blood to sustain us on our journey, as he fed Elijah. Jesus insists that physically eating and drinking must be part of the Eucharist so that we take his "Word become flesh" into our very beings. Not surprisingly, some Jews – like us – find it difficult to link together the spiritual and material worlds, as did the Samaritan woman, and Nicodemus.

Psalm Response: **Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

(Proverbs 9: 1-6; Psalm 33(34); Eph 5: 15-20; John 6: 51-58)

Chris Oliver

Courses relevant to these readings in the Autumn

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.

Bible Timeline The Bible contains many different types of writings; there is history and story; there is poetry and song; there is prophesy and there are letters; there is a style called "Apocalyptic" and a type of writing which we call "Wisdom Literature". The Bible Timeline course mainly concentrates on the history – the sequence of events; but this is the frame within which we are able to locate the other forms of writing in the Bible. The Book of Proverbs is one of the books of "Wisdom Literature"; do come on the Bible Timeline course and find out where it fits in the overall story — on Tuesday evenings at St Gregory's, starting on September 4th at 7.00 pm. All are welcome — the course is pastoral, not academic, and is designed to help us see the relevance of the Bible in our life today.

Psalms The rest of the Bible tells of God's saving plan, revealed in stories and history, and prophesy. The Psalms are the response of mankind, raised in prayer and praise. In this course we learn of the prayer of Jesus and of a real school of prayer for ourselves. On Monday afternoons at St Gregory's from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm. — There is a course book, priced at £21.

The course on Ephesians is shorter; only 8 sessions, and will, run on Tuesday mornings in school term time from September to Advent. St Paul's letter to the Ephesians reveals many remarkable gifts that we, as Christians, are given in the Church. This letter tells us about the nature of the Church — as a body, as a household, as a mystery, as a communion, as a bride, and as an army. It shows us the great inheritance that awaits us as adopted sons and daughters in the family of God, and it reveals how God's great love for us can transform our lives. This course will enrich your faith and show you how to live it out. The study book is priced at £20

John The fourth Gospel tells us of the Word of God, made flesh for us and now given to us as the "bread of life". On Tuesday mornings at St Gregory's after Christmas, starting on 8th January at 10.00 am.

Like many of our Opening Prayers, this one dates back into the 7th century. .

We are reminded of St Paul saying: "What no eye has seen and no ear has heard, what the mind of man cannot visualise, all that God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire.

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.

Just as what God has prepared for us is beyond our wildest imagining, so we pray that our love for God may be beyond all our earthly loves and desires.

Loving God "in all things" takes us back to St Paul: "One God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." (*Ephesians 4:6*). Loving God implies a demand for respect for all God's creation.

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.

Alpha Course: Come and bring a friend!

Please remember — food for St Gregory's Feast

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.