



# 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

## Divine Renovation

An influential book was published four years ago by a young priest in Nova Scotia, Fr James Mallon, entitled “Divine Renovation”. It has the subtitle of “Bringing your parish from maintenance to mission. This book has been translated into six languages and has sold over 65,000 copies.

The book is not a work of aspiration — it comes from the solid basis of what has been achieved in his parish of St Benedict, Halifax, Nova Scotia. In the past year Fr Mallon has been lecturing on the subject of his book all over the world, and several times here in England.

In this country there are many parishes that have already taken up the challenge of moving “from Maintenance to Mission” inspired by Fr Mallon’s book, and within our own Diocese we and a few other parishes are amongst them.

“We are a missionary organisation but we function as a club,” Fr Mallon said of the Catholic Church. “A club is something that exists for its members. The Church is the only organisation that exists for those who don’t belong, it’s outward focussed. We talk about moving a parish from maintenance to mission. With maintenance, your primary concern is for the people you’ve got and keeping them happy. A missionary Church is a Church that, without neglecting its members, its primary concern is the people you don’t have.”

It is the same vision that has inspired successive Popes who have spoken about the “New Evangelisation” and “Missionary Disciples”.

Fr Mallon makes the point that this cannot be achieved by a priest alone, however dedicated and hard-working, and this was illustrated by a story told by a layman attending a church for Sunday Mass while on holiday with his family. At the door he was welcomed and given books and a newsletter, and invited to find a seat. Each row, while nearly empty, had a person sat on the end seat, and choosing a pew, the person on the end who had to be passed to get to the empty seats was clearly displeased at being disturbed. Throughout the Mass those nearby made it clear that the presence of children was unwelcome — the children were ignored at the sign of peace and although there was an invitation from the priest to refreshments after Mass, nobody spoke to them. If they had just moved into that parish, they would not have gone there again. Hospitality is the work of the congregation, not just the person at the door.

The most obvious sign of our sharing in the vision of Divine Renovation is the running of the Alpha course. This is the primary way in which we are outward focussed. It is also where we show that we are all missionary disciples, in that we are all able to invite someone to come to an Alpha course here.

Just as we can all be welcoming to those who sit near us for Mass, we can all offer in invitation to someone who is at present outside the Church. Through Alpha, many have come into the Faith, or come back to the Faith. Could you be the person who invites?

## A Bright Future at Thomas Becket Catholic School

Students and staff are celebrating at Thomas Becket Catholic School after securing a set of results that have been described as “game-changing”.

Results across almost every measure have improved with one key government measure, Progress 8, projected to see a significant swing in the right direction.

Ciran Stapleton, head teacher, said: “I am absolutely blown away by what our young people have achieved.

“While there have been some brilliant individual performances, with some students rightly proving they are amongst the very best by securing the new coveted 9 grade, what is particularly pleasing is that our young people are not just meeting their targets – they are exceeding them.

“In maths, for example, our students were on average half a grade up

on what was predicted and of national expectation. There is a similar story in English and a host of other subjects. This is testament to the talent and commitment of everyone in our community”.

Mr Stapleton added: “I really do think that these results are a huge milestone for the school. In fact, they are game changing. When I joined this school just over 12 months ago what was needed more than anything was belief. Moving our Progress 8 score from a negative figure to what, I believe, will be a positive figure shows what has been achieved.

“It has now set the standard for our next cohort of Year 11s. It means that we are able to welcome a record number of students into our Sixth Form. It will act as the platform for our staff to continue to embrace new ideas and challenge themselves and our students.

“I am very proud of our community. The future is very bright indeed.”



22 Park Avenue North  
Northampton. NN3 2HS

Website: [www.stgregory.org.uk](http://www.stgregory.org.uk)

# Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018

## Twenty First Sunday of the Year

### Parish Mass Book - Year B

#### Page 65

**Priest:**

Fr Andrew Behrens ☎ 713015  
E-mail: [priest@stgregory.org.uk](mailto:priest@stgregory.org.uk)

**Deacons:**

Rev Michael Fleming ☎ 647750  
E-mail: [mvf@btinternet.com](mailto:mvf@btinternet.com)  
Rev Rory Stewart (ret) ☎ 408407

**Pastoral Assistant:**

Maria Heath ☎ 07952 040830  
E-mail: [maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maria.heath@yahoo.co.uk)

<b>Sunday</b> <i>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Year</i>	9.00 am	Mass	Rev. Robin Cooper RIP
	11.00 am	Mass	The Parish
<b>Monday</b> St. Monica	9.00 am	Mass	Bartholomew Donegan RIP
<b>Tuesday</b> St. Augustine	9.00 am	Mass (Followed by prayers for the sick)	Bridie Walsh's Intentions
<b>Wednesday</b> The Passion of St. John the Baptist	9.00 am	Mass	Nigel Mills RIP
	11.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion (St Andrew's)	
<b>Thursday</b> Feria	9.00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	Elaine Byrne
	6.45 pm	Benediction	
	7.00 pm	Mass	
<b>Friday</b> Feria	9.00 am	Mass	The Frost Family's Intentions
	2.20 pm	Healing Mass	Andrea Holt
<b>Saturday</b> Feria	9.00 am	Mass	Annie Cloherty
<b>Sunday</b> <i>Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church</i>	9.00 am	Mass (Celebrated by Bishop Peter)	Dante Davighi
	11.00 am	Mass (Celebrated by Bishop Peter)	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	Owen

**Your Offering To The Parish:**

Last Sunday's collection was £687.96. 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 this week:**

Kerala Flood relief (through CAFOD)

**Counters This Week:**

M. Murtagh, L. Allen, Anna Smith.

**Cleaners This Week:**

Pru & Another.

### Readings for This Sunday

**Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18.**

*We will serve the Lord, for he is our God.*

**Ephesians 5: 21-32.**

*This mystery has many implications for Christ and his Church.*

**John 6: 60-69.**

*Whom shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.*

### Readings for Next Sunday

**Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3: 9-11, 16-17; John 2: 13-22. (Page 119)**

**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**

Edwin Stenson	Ellen Jackson
Florence Percival	Michael Spittals
Thomas McKinney	Alfred Lack
Mary Lawrie	Daphne Wimbome
Edmund Barrett	John Barry
Leonard Rush	Evelyn Osborn
Rev. Robin Cooper	José Pallett
Harold McLoughlin	Joan Phelan
William Marsden	John Lynch
Norah Coughlan	Roger Green
Joseph Lynskey	Marita Nash
Cecil Bailham	Grace Horsley
Patrick Loughran	

### **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER**

**That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice.**

# 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 **Kacper Jurgen Domanski** who received Christian Baptism last week. Please pray for him and his family.

**Bible Alive** for 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 back from holiday on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August. Caryll

**CAFOD Collection:** The CAFOD collection for the five weeks to the 20th August amounted to £508.60. Thank you for your generosity.

**Thank-you:** Kathleen Healey and her family wish to express their gratitude for the overwhelming support, prayers, sympathy and Mass cards following Anthony's death as well as for the massive attendance at his funeral. It is great comfort to know how much he was appreciated and loved. *Kathleen*

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Adoremus 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 6<sup>th</sup>) 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 8<sup>th</sup>), (3) other by Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> September and 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Full programme available soon.

**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 1<sup>st</sup>) All welcome.**

**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!

**Young Catholic Adults Weekend:** Young Catholic Adults will be running a retreat at Douai Abbey, 7-9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Safe Haven Garden Party:** Very many thanks for the support we received from all who were able to come and those who unable to attend and sent donations. A grand total of £2,075.66 was raised. This is a wonderful start for the project to bring to Northampton a Vulnerable Syrian refugee family under the Government's Scheme. The afternoon was very enjoyable thanks to all who attended and helped to make the afternoon such a success. *Kevin and Aideen*

**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](mailto:edwardgibbons@spuc.org.uk)

**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. 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Pilgrimage to Walsingham — Reparation and prayer for the sanctity of life.** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 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

**259 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 6<sup>th</sup> September until 11.00 pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 26th August 2018, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

The Book of Joshua summarises Israel's history from the death of Moses until they settle in the Promised Land. Before he dies Joshua invites the tribes of Israel to promise to obey the Lord and to put aside all other gods. In solemn assembly the people rehearse all the Lord did for them when Moses led them through the desert. Three times they solemnly renew the covenant by the stone at Shechem, in Samaria.

Last week the psalm urged us to fear the Lord; now it assures us that the Lord rescues the just man from all misfortune.

Our last reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians: we must imitate Christ, whatever our role in society. We should "be subject to one another". "Wives, be subject to your husbands" and "children, obey your parents"; balanced by "fathers, do not provoke your children" and "husbands, love your wives".

In chapter six of John's Gospel we hear more reactions to Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist. Like Nicodemus not understanding how he could be "born from above", many disciples could not accept this teaching. Why is eating his flesh more difficult to accept than his Ascension? These things are "real" – part of the heavenly realm, which we are invited to share, but life given only by the Spirit.

Psalm Response:

**Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

(Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18; Psalm 33(34); Eph 5: 21-32; John 6: 60-69)

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 first five books of the Old Testament are regarded by the Jewish people as the *Torah* (The Books of the Law). Joshua is the first book after these first five, and is normally classed as one of the books of history, but it should be remembered that the historian is writing from a strong religious standpoint. The Bible Timeline course helps us to understand how these book relate together, and is at St Gregory's on Tuesday evenings through the autumn and winter. It would be impossible to over-emphasise just how valuable this opportunity is. The study books have arrived; they are priced at £32. The course offers an overview of the whole of the Bible, helping to put each book into context and understand God's plan of salvation. On Tuesday evenings at St Gregory's, starting on September 4<sup>th</sup> 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** "You have the message of eternal life" said Peter in today's Gospel. The fourth Gospel tells us of the Word of God, made flesh for us and now given to us as the "bread of life". In the course of John we are helped better to grasp this message. On Tuesday mornings at St Gregory's after Christmas, starting on 8<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00 am.

This prayer is a poetic interpretation of the great prayer of Deuteronomy, the "*Shema Yisra'el*", quoted by Our Lord: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (*Mark 12:30 and Deuteronomy 6:5*)

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.

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.

We can also see an echo of Jesus' teaching: "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . for where your treasure is there your heart will be also" (*Matthew 6:20, 21*)

It is not only moths, rust and thieving that cause uncertainties in this world; but the certainty of the eternal love of God is what should unite us in a single purpose: to fulfil His commands.

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

## Alpha Course: Come and bring a friend!

**Bishop Peter will be with us next week-end! We look forward to his visit**

# 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 10<sup>th</sup>, and continuing on 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October (22<sup>nd</sup> is in school holiday-time), 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November with an overnight away-time on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>. — 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 8<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00 am.