

# PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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26<sup>th</sup> July 2015

17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

(9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST)



The Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust. Registered Charity No. 234091

## TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

<b>SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JULY (VIGIL)</b>	6.00pm (Sat.)	Mass – <i>Int. People of the parish.</i>
	8.00am	Low Mass in <i>Extraordinary Form</i>
	10.00am	Mass – <i>Private intention.</i>
Monday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Mass – <i>Int. Connie De Camps RIP, anni.</i>
Wednesday <i>St Martha</i>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday <i>Feria</i>	7.30pm	Mass and Dedication of Our Lady's Church
Friday <i>St Ignatius of Loyola</i>	9.00am	Mass
Saturday <i>St Alphonsus Liguori</i>	<b>NO MASS OR CONFESSIONS THIS MORNING</b>	
<b>SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST – 18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN OT</b>	6.00pm (Sat.)	Mass – <i>Int. People of the parish</i>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>	8.00am	Low Mass in <i>Extraordinary Form</i>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	10.00am	Mass

This Thursday evening we will be welcoming Bishop Peter who will preside at Mass and Dedicate Our Lady's Church for the Worship of God. A very big *Thank You* to all who came along and helped with our 'Spring Clean'. Thanks also to those who have been working so hard to make arrangements for Thursday evening, those working on sprucing up the church and the grounds. If you have not done so yet, please ensure that you fill out a reply to the invitation for the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> July. We want to ensure we offer hospitality to all who plan to join us on that evening!

The July 2015 edition of **The Vine**, the Northampton Diocesan Newspaper is available. Please take a copy home. It is free of charge!

We have a wide selection of **Catholic newspapers and journals available** in the porch, including The Universe (£1.30), Catholic Times (£1.30), The Herald (£2.00), The Table (£3.00) and Mass of Ages (Free).

**Change of Mass times, St Augustine's High Wycombe** From the beginning of August 2015, the Saturday evening Mass will cease and the Sunday evening Mass will be brought forward one hour to 6pm.



*Parish Centenary Candles* – To mark the 100 years of our church building, are available together with candles featuring **our church's stained glass window of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour** priced at £2.50 each.

**Thanks** to those who took photographs of the Corpus Christi Procession we held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June. A selection of these pictures are on display in the Guild Room.

It is said "You are what you eat." You are a product of your environment." Nowhere is this more evident than in the *Rite of Dedication of a Church and an Altar*. Through words, gestures and symbols in this rite, it is abundantly clear that the people of God are the Church that is being dedicated. The introduction to the rite reminds us that the Church is the temple of God built of living stones, where the Father is worshipped in spirit and in truth. In the church every person becomes by baptism a member of Christ and, at the same time, a temple of the Holy Spirit in which the Father and the Son make their dwelling.

Though God can be worshipped anywhere, the local community builds a "house of the Church" (*domus ecclesiae*) for the benefit and use of all the faithful, where sacred celebrations take place, where each one may find a "house of prayer" that this is a place of peace and reflection and where all are commission to go forth and make real God's justice and peace. From earliest times, that building was called a "church" in which the Christian community, assembled by its pastors, met to hear the word of God, to pray together and to celebrate the sacraments, especially the eucharist. A physical place, the house of the Church is a sacred sign of the pilgrim Church on earth. It also points to the Church's dwelling heaven which, in a sacramental way, it shows forth and anticipates. Likewise, from the earliest times, rituals for the dedication of these places have evolved as an act of the local Church. The rite we have today presents a compelling and renewed sense of the pre-eminence of the worshipping community as the primary liturgical symbol. As baptism initiates us into the pilgrimage of a life lived in faith, so the initiation of this place creates a space in which we realise our continuing call to conversion in Christ. As we recognise our being "set apart" (anointed), so we anoint this place and set it apart. As the eucharist sustains and continues our life of conversion, so the celebration of the eucharist ultimately dedicates this place to God. The rite of dedication is many-layered symbol that intends the renewal of the Church as it inaugurates the use of its church.

In ritual celebration we not only seek to express who we are, we press on to become what we are not yet. The celebration of a church is a commitment on the part of the community to follow in the footsteps of Christ. The church building is our house of prayer, but one in which we are never fully at home. Our true and eternal home is yet to come. The church building is a tent, a bridge, a ship, a workshop in which God's people assemble, cross over and connect, begin the journey and are built up. The workshop that is the church, Christ is formed in us, because it is in the church as *the Church* that we do the work of the people, the work of the new creation. Since the eucharist is the work of Christians and the church building is the worksite of the eucharist, the dedication of the church takes place essentially within the celebration of the eucharist.



Tea, coffee and cold drinks are served in The Guild Room after both of our Sunday Masses.  
*All are welcome!*

**Infant Baptism and Marriage.** By appointment with Fr Andy after completing the necessary preparation. **The Church requires** notice of at least six months prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony being celebrated.

## Money Matters

Last week's Offertory Collection - £189.56

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK  
FOR A DAY FOR LIFE**

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK –  
Missionary Appeal by the White Fathers  
(Missionaries of Africa)**

*Many thanks for your generosity.*

**Gift Aid Declarations Forms and Boxes of Offertory Envelopes** are now available. Please contact Philip Seed, Parish Treasurer, or Father Andy.

## Lectionary for Mass

**First Reading:** This incident takes place during a time of famine. When Elisha receives a gift of bread, he immediately gives it to a large crowd. Given the option of hoarding or solidarity, he shows us how to choose that which promises greater life.

**Responsorial Psalm 144:** As we pray "Open wide your hand, O Lord," we need to be aware of how our own hands are often the ones God would use to help others.

**Second Reading:** "Lead a life worthy of your vocation." That might be the one command necessary for a Christian life. It reminds us that we are called by God and that, day by day, we must choose whether or not to accept the grace we are offered for the good of the whole.



**Gospel:** Today's Gospel describes Jesus as Prophet – a title or description not commonly thought of, perhaps. He is one who speaks and acts in the name of God, as the sign of the miraculous feeding of the multitude attests. Several parallels can be found with the First Reading: the barley loaves, the objection by one of the followers, the abundance left over. Note the Eucharistic language: Jesus "took," "gave thanks," and "gave them out" (John 6:11). Do we recognise our Eucharistic celebrations are occasions of being fed by Jesus?

This year **DAY FOR LIFE** focuses on cherishing life and accepting death. It provides an opportunity for people to think about the mysteries of life and death, as well as the Church's teaching on appropriate treatment at the end of life. It also highlights the prayer to St Joseph for a good death. The theme of this year's Day for Life is most appropriate as there is an *Assisted Suicide* or so-called *Assisted Dying Bill* (sponsored by Rob Marris MP) scheduled for debate in the House of Commons on 11<sup>th</sup> September. This will put the most vulnerable people in our society at risk. Please get in touch with your MP, urging them to attend the debate and vote against the Bill. You can send an e-mail to your MP via the Catholic Bishops' Conference website [www.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-dying-bill-2015](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-dying-bill-2015) or send a letter by post, a draft of which can be found in the Church porch. This year's Day for Life provides another opportunity to talk about support, not suicide, at the end of life.