

# PARISH OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

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2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015

18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

(10<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 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST (VIGIL)</b>	6.00pm (Sat.)	Mass
	8.00am	Sung Mass in Extraordinary Form
	10.00am	Mass
Monday <i>Feria</i>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Tuesday <i>St John Vianney</i>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Wednesday <i>Dedication of S. Maria Maggiore</i>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Thursday <b>TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Friday <i>Feria</i>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Saturday <i>St Dominic</i>	9.30am	Mass
	10.15am – 11.00am	Confessions
<b>SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AUG. – 19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN OT</b>	6.00pm (Sat.)	Mass – <i>Int. People of the parish</i>
<b>11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>	8.00am	Low Mass in Extraordinary Form
<b>19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	10.00am	Mass



*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 on Thursday evening. Please send them to Father Andy who will arrange for a selection of them to be printed and displayed in the Guild Room.

## Money Matters

**Last week's Offertory Collection** - £260.66

Collection for A DAY FOR LIFE - £199.50

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

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK –  
Appeal for the Aid to the Church in Need**

*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.



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.

Thanks to all who gathered in Our Lady's Church last Thursday evening as we welcomed Bishop Peter preside at Mass and Dedicate Our Lady's Church for the Worship of God. IT was great to see so many parishioners. A very big *Thank You* to those who worked hard to prepared the Church and Guild Room, and grounds for the occasion. To those who cleaned, decorated, arranged flowers and prepared refreshments your efforts are very much appreciated by all who came along on Thursday.

The **August 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.

**Every Sunday (or Saturday evening)** Our Catholic community gathers to hear our story. The book from which that story is read is carried with reverence and with respect. We prepare to hear our story with singing and silence and prayer. We take time to get ready, to put aside the cares that separate us from one another, to empty ourselves of noise and distractions so that we can hear the story; that makes of this gathering of individuals a people fashioned and chosen by God. Over the course of three years, we will hear most of the New Testament and a large portions of the Old Testament. Our Christian story begins with the Jewish people. Their tradition and ours is told in legends, myths, histories, genealogies, laws, customs, wise sayings, prophecy, parables, letters and songs. Whatever form they take, these scriptures tell the story of a God who made and loved a people, a God whose chose a people who could reveal to all who God is. But it is not enough to hear these words; we must recognise that these stories are ours, that the people in them are our people, that the God who called and loved them calls and loves us and is fashioning us into a people who can reveal to all who this God is. Then we will understand that when we gather with the community in faith we have come home.

So when the book is opened – each time it is opened on a Sunday at Mass – we fix our eyes on the reader and we listen. We are supposed to cling to the words, cling to them like life itself, for that is what they are. Any book or booklet that has the readings in it can be read to prepare or to follow up, but when the reading of God's word is taking place in front of us, then it is the spoken words of the reader we want to hear, not printed words on a page. It is common sense and simple respect that tells us to look at the one reading and hang on to every word.

Readers, for their part, are asked to spend a great deal of time with the scripture text to be read. They pour over it again and again. They practice it aloud. They are charged to make every effort in helping the church to hear this scripture. That means that they live with and wrestle with it all week long so that on Sunday they can let our scriptures come to us from one convinced of their worth and truth.

That part is hard. The part of the assembly, of all of us, is even harder. Talk is cheap, we say. Here we are to have the habit of good, hard listening. Listen to hear a word you have not let into your mind and heart before. Listen for an image to guise us baptised people. Listen as you would to the voice and words of one who loves you. Don't try to think of how this word fits your life right now; don't try to find some hidden message. Just listen. Just be the church, here, today, on its journey, carrying its book, hungry for the words that are life to this people.

## Lectionary for Mass

**First Reading:** God provided bread for the complaining people, but they didn't know what it was. Happily, Moses could tell them. How often does God answer our prayers or meet our needs and we fail to recognise the gift being offered? Who has helped us see a gift in what first appeared to us to be strange?

**Responsorial Psalm 78:** The psalm sings of what the elders experienced over and again. While we may personally thank God for many things, so we tell of the hard things in our lives, but how often do we give witness to God's providence? Celebrating God's blessings is a form of evangelisation and a path to better recognising God's action in our lives.

**Second Reading:** Note that Paul says: "You learned Christ," not "You learned about Christ." The knowledge of Paul is talking about here is comparable to the difference between knowing what a bicycle is and knowing how to ride one. To learn Christ means to let Christ so influence our heart and mind that others will know Christ by watching us. That demands a lot of practice!



**Gospel:** The message from John's account of the Gospel complements what Paul said. Jesus, who said, "My food is to do the will of the One who sent me," (John 4:24) says that he himself can be our sustenance. Christ, in his message and in his living Body, is the heavenly bread God continues to send us.

This weekend **we welcome Father Don Anderson**, M. Afr., who will be celebrating the 6pm and 10am Masses. Father Don will be making an Appeal on behalf of the Missionaries of Africa.

The **Missionaries of Africa** (The White Fathers) are an international team of priests, brothers and lay associates from Africa, Britain and many other countries around the world. Any ministry which has a real relationship with Africa, no matter what part of the world it may be, is considered by the Missionaries of Africa to be within the scope of the apostolate. Through parish work, building up small Christian communities, working with the media, involvement in justice and peace, agriculture, seminary training, education and social welfare, the Missionaries of Africa aim to work in partnership with the Church in Africa . . . and above all else, to help build up the leadership of the Churches.