



TIMES OF MASS AND LITURGIES THIS WEEK

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| SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER (VIGIL) | 6.00pm (Sat.) | Mass – Int. People of the parish |
| | 8.00am | Sung Mass in Extraordinary Form |
| | 10.00am | Mass – Int. Alejandro Medina-Mora, RIP & Paulina Craviofo RIP, Anni |
| Monday St John of the Cross | 9.30am | Mass |
| Tuesday Advent Feria | 9.30am | Mass |
| Wednesday Advent Feria | NO MASS | |
| Thursday Advent Feria – O Wisdom | 6.00pm | Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament |
| | 7.00pm | Mass |
| Friday Advent Feria – O Sacred Lord | 9.00am | Mass |
| Saturday Advent Feria – O Root of Jesse | 9.30am | Mass |
| | 10.15am – 11.00am | Confessions |
| SUNDAY 20TH DEC. 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 6.00pm (Sat.) | Mass – Int. People of the parish |
| FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 8.00am | Low Mass in Extraordinary Form |
| FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 10.00am | Mass |

Applications are requested for preparations for **First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion** at Our Lady's Church. Please complete the signup sheet in the porch. **Applications will close next Sunday 20th December 2015.**

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Krakow for World Youth Day Friday 22nd July – Monday 1st August 2016 and we welcome those in the diocese aged 16 – 30 years old (16 by the date of travel). For a booking form or further information please contact Fiona at fiona@nymo.org or call 01582 720627 or see www.nymo.org



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.

ABOUT LITURGY

Ministry of the Assembly: We hear much these days about the visible liturgical ministries (welcome ministers, music ministries, altar ministers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers). We also know that these ministries require preparation and formation. Rarely do we hear, however, about the ministry of the assembly itself. All these visible ministers – the presiders and deacons, and all the others who are present at any liturgy – together make up the *assembly*. A most important ministry at any liturgy is the *ministry of the assembly*.

To be sure, there is a *doing* on the part of the assembly: standing, sitting, kneeling, singing, responding, acclaiming, professing, and so forth. Sometimes we might fall into the trap of presuming that this is all the assembly does and this is all there is to participation. The most fruitful role of the assembly *comes out of* the doing. First and foremost the liturgical assembly is the Body of Christ gathered around the Head. The assembly, then, makes visible the church, makes visible Christ. One fundamental role of the assembly is to be present to one another, to relate to each other as the presence of the risen Christ. This relational ministry of the assembly makes concrete and visible how we live our everyday lives: relating to each other as members of the Body of Christ. The ministry of the assembly is to be Body of Christ made visible. While the question, "What should we do?" is an important one with respect to liturgy, it must always lead to the questions, Who shall we be? How self-giving are we?

Lectionary for Mass

First Reading: On this day of rejoicing as the celebration of the Incarnation draws near, Zephaniah announces hope and declares the people must rejoice because God comes not with judgement but with merciful deliverance.

Canticle: God, the source of all that sustains us, is also the fountain of our salvation. Our rejoicing is heightened all the more because God is not a saviour who strikes and then disappears in the night. The refrain reminds us that the God of our salvation is in our midst; here among us is the Holy One of Israel!

Second Reading: Contrary to those who might anticipate the coming of the Lord with trepidation, Philippians exhorts us to abandon fear and worry and surrender instead to joyful prayer. And we are not to shy away from making our needs known to God. Peace should characterise our anticipation of Christ's coming – whether at the end of time, at Christmas, or in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Gospel: John's responses are blunt and sparse to those who come asking advice: "Do this. Don't do that." His confidence is clear and he demonstrates a boldness that's born of his ability to see as God sees. His obvious authority prompts his questioners to ask if he is the Messiah, which he roundly denies by pointing away from himself to one is more powerful. There is no false humility in his words, and we sense his own longing for the one who will be the Good News he proclaims.

MASS TIMES at OUR LADY'S CHURCH – Christmas 2015



Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6.00pm – Vigil Mass of Christmas
10.00pm – Carols & Readings
10.30pm – Mass of Christmas Night

Friday 25th December – Christmas Day

8.00am Mass in Extraordinary Form (Latin Tridentine)
10.00am – Mass of Christmas Day

Saturday 26th December – Feast of St Stephen

9.30am – Mass with enrolment of Altar Servers into the Guild of St Stephen
6.00pm – Vigil Mass for Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sunday 27th December – Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8.00am - Mass in Extraordinary Form (Latin Tridentine)
10.00am – Mass

CAROL SINGING AT CHESHAM MANOR NURSING HOME

A number of people from Our Lady's Parish will be singing carols to the residents of Chesham Manor on Monday the 21st of December at 2:30pm. More singers are more than welcome!

AUCTION OF GOLF ROUNDS

Local golf clubs have kindly donated four-ball golf rounds to be auctioned in aid of the four charities (*Workaid based in Chesham*) Friends of Belarusian Children's Hospice UK, Bega Kwa Bega (Uganda) and Mozambique Missions) supported by Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Great Missenden this Christmas. The rounds are from: **BERKHAMPTON GOLF CLUB, ELLESBOROUGH GOLF CLUB, HAREWOOD DOWNS GOLF CLUB and THE TEMPLE GOLF CLUB (HENLEY)**. These rounds are worth between £100 and £150. Bids should be made to Peter Harper at 01494 726510 before Monday 21 December 2015.

Annual **LUX retreat** weekend in the Kings Park Centre in Northampton on **Friday 29th – Sunday 31st January**. For youth aged between **11-18 yrs**. Cost £90 includes bed, board and food. There are bursary places available if money is a problem for some families. Booking forms are available to download from the www.nymo.org website.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: It is hoped that during the Jubilee Year of Mercy many people will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This offers us an important way of getting closer to God – to be forgiven for our sins. As Pope Francis puts it "it's an encounter with the Lord's mercy which spurs us on to do our best". In addition to Confession at Our Lady's on Saturday mornings, **the Sacrament will be celebrated in St Joseph's Church, Gerrards Cross, this Tuesday 15 December at 8pm with visiting priests.**

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School is now accepting applications for admissions for **September 2016**. There are supplementary application forms available in the Church porch. Closing date for applications is the 15th January 2016.

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School PTA is holding a Hollyberry Fayre **this afternoon** (Sunday), 2-4pm at the School. All are welcome!

Money Matt

Last week's Offertory Collection - £316.57

THIS WEEKEND – SECOND COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR CHURCH

Many thanks for your generosity.

Gift Aid Declarations Forms and Offertory Envelopes are now available.

Are you new to the parish?

If so, you are very welcome!

Do introduce yourself to Father Andy after Mass, and please complete a parish registration form.